**ANTON PODOVALOV**

Chicago, IL 60103 | [podovant@gmail.com](mailto:podovant@gmail.com) | (773) 664-8797 | [www.linkedin.com/in/quality-pas](http://www.linkedin.com/in/quality-pas)

**SENIOR LEAD QE AUTOMATION ENGINEER | AUTOMATION DELIVERY LEAD**

**AI QA AUTOMATION ENGINEER**

Seasoned Senior Lead QE Automation Engineer with 8+ years of progressive experience leading automation strategy, performance testing, and data-driven quality initiatives across enterprise applications. Skilled at designing scalable test automation frameworks using Selenium, Playwright, and RESTful APIs, while integrating robust CI/CD pipelines for enhanced release efficiency. Proven success in leveraging AI and cloud-native technologies to boost system performance, reduce defects, and drive continuous delivery. Recognized for cross-functional leadership, vendor strategy execution, talent development initiatives, and a proactive approach to quality governance. Adept in bridging business objectives with technical excellence to ensure reliable, scalable, and high-performing software solutions. **Experienced in supervising** up to eight technical colleagues, consisting of contractors and exempt employees.

**CORE COMPETENCIES**

Web Application Testing | Test Automation Strategy | Performance Testing | Data Quality Management

Digital Transformation | CI/CD Pipelines | ETL Validation | Cross-Department Collaboration | Business Intelligence

Vendor & Tool Management | AI-Driven Testing | Disaster Recovery Planning | System Scalability | Risk Mitigation

Mentorship | Sprint Reporting | Tool Evaluation | Cloud Technologies | Continuous Improvement | Leadership

Strategic Planning | Test Plan Execution | Defect Management | Selenium | Test Framework Development

SQL & NoSQL Data Validation | Agile & Scrum | Cross-Team Collaboration | Data Governance & Quality

API Testing | DevOps Integration | Copilot

**TECHNICAL SKILLS**

**Languages:** Java | Python | SQL | Cypher | HTML | JavaScript | C#

**Automation** **Tools:** Selenium | Playwright | REST Assured | Postman | Tosca | TestNG | JUnit | Cucumber | Pytest | Robot Framework | Appium | Copilot

**Performance Testing:** LoadRunner | Neoload | Locust | JMeter

**CI/CD & DevOps:** Jenkins | GitHub | GitLab | Azure DevOps | Git Action

**Databases & Visualization:** MySQL | MSSQL | Oracle | Snowflake | Azure DB | Neo4j | Power BI | Tableau

**Project & Test Management:** Jira | Confluence | TestRail | Monday.com | Miro | Azure DevOps | TOSCA | Worksoft

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**KRAFT HEINZ COMPANY**, Chicago, IL **2023 - 2025**

**Senior Lead QE Automation Engineer**

* CI/CD Automation: Reduced manual testing by 76% and improved defect detection by 43% through continuous integration of automated suites.
* **Collaborated with sales teams** to resolve vendor data discrepancies, improving data reliability by 41%.
* Improved data accuracy by 27% for $16M Perfect Store POD, integrated with $74M Insights-to-Action initiative, boosting efficiency by 14%.
* **Designed and executed comprehensive test plans and frameworks(Selenium and Playwright)**, reducing test cycle times by 18% and post-release issues by 32%.
* **Enhanced automation development by integrating GitHub Copilot** into daily workflows, leveraging AI-assisted code completion to accelerate test script creation, minimize syntax errors, and improve code readability across Playwright and Cypress frameworks.
* Led performance testing for AI KHAI chatbot (14,000 users) in partnership with ML teams and vendors, improving responsiveness and reliability.
* Improved data quality by 21% across enterprise platforms **(Neo4j, Snowflake, Azure DB, Colibra**) through advanced data validation techniques.
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* **Led end-to-end testing of Ask Nucleus, Kraft Heinz’s AI-powered chatbot with voice input**, by developing and executing test strategies for conversational flows, NLU accuracy, voice-to-text reliability, and performance across platforms—ensuring seamless, accessible, and high-quality user experience.
* **Directed testing tool evaluation and procurement for Kraft Heinz QE team**, a vendor strategy that optimized enterprise testing operations.
* **Led cross-functional initiatives** in collaboration with HR and leadership to enhance workforce analytics, identify skill gaps, and drive career path development, resulting in improved talent growth and organizational capability alignment.
* Spearheaded employee engagement and workforce development initiatives using data-driven insights from organization-wide surveys, leading to actionable onboarding and operational improvements and launching the "Shadow Your Kraft" program to upskill talent and support career progression.
* Engineered reusable React components and deployed scalable API endpoints for the Perfect Store VSW app, achieving 80%-unit test code coverage and enhancing UI functionality, system stability, and software delivery efficiency.
* **Directed cross-functional quality engineering efforts** to optimize automated testing processes, increase test coverage, and reduce defect rates by 15%, accelerating release cycles and reinforcing a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.

**MAGNUM INSURANCE AGENCY**, Chicago, IL **2021 - 2023**

**QA Automation Engineer**

* **Improved backend data accuracy** by 29% through database testing using MySQL, DataGrip, and JDBC.
* **Testing Efficiency:** Enhanced system performance by 28% and accuracy by 17% via custom automation frameworks using Java with Selenium and Playwright with PyTest.
* **Reduced API-related defects** by 32% via automated testing using REST Assured and Postman.
* Executed UI, regression, smoke, and database testing via Selenium, Playwright, and Cucumber (BDD), aligned with SMART-based requirements via TOSCA
* **Enhanced Tableau reporting** accuracy by resolving key data inconsistencies in collaboration with analysts and developers.

REPUBLIC BANK OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL**2018 - 2021**

**QA Automation Tester**

* **Developed automated testing frameworks** using Selenium, TestNG, and Maven in Agile settings, reducing testing time by 21%.
* Reduced regression cycle time by 28% through RESTful API test automation using REST Assured.
* Verified data operations through complex SQL/NoSQL queries across MySQL and Oracle databases.

FIVE STAR DEVELOPMENT INC., Pittsburgh, PA**2017 - 2018**

**QA Manual Tester**

* Conducted manual testing, logged defects, and collaborated with developers on bug resolution to support release readiness.

**EDUCATION**

**Master of Science (M.S.) in Data Engineering**

National Research University Higher School of Economics,Moscow, Russia

**Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Engineering**

Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service, Vladivostok, Russia

**CERTIFICATIONS**

ISTQB Certified: Fundamentals & Performance Testing

Scale Agile: SAFe Product Owner / Product Manager (6.0), SAFe Scrum Master (6.0)

Microsoft Azure: AZ-900, AI-900, DP-900, AZ-204

LinkedIn : Agentic AI Fundamentals: Architectures, Frameworks, and Applications