



# A Practitioner's Guide to Contemporary Exploratory Testing

Maaret Pyhäjärvi



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ideas leading into this,  
changes enabling this, and  
results we are seeing

*with contemporary  
exploratory testing*

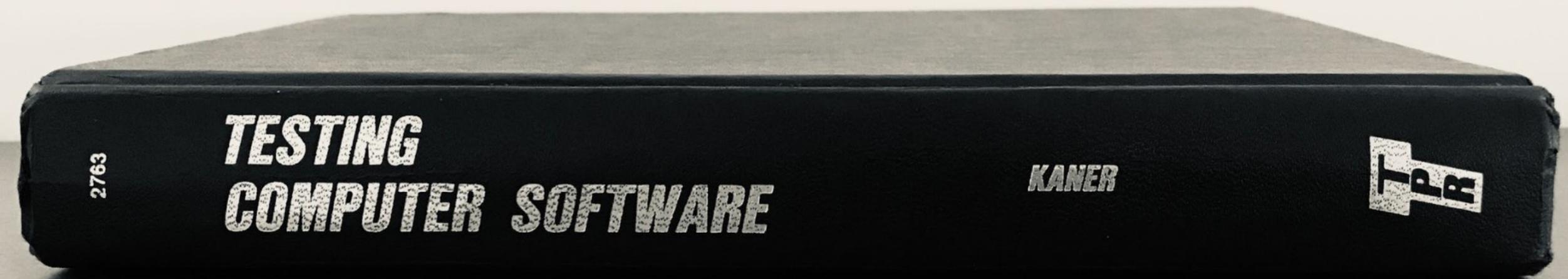


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# 1988



style of skilled multidisciplinary testing **common** in Silicon Valley

\* Spotted live in Finland 1973 (Kela, the Social Insurance Institution in Finland)

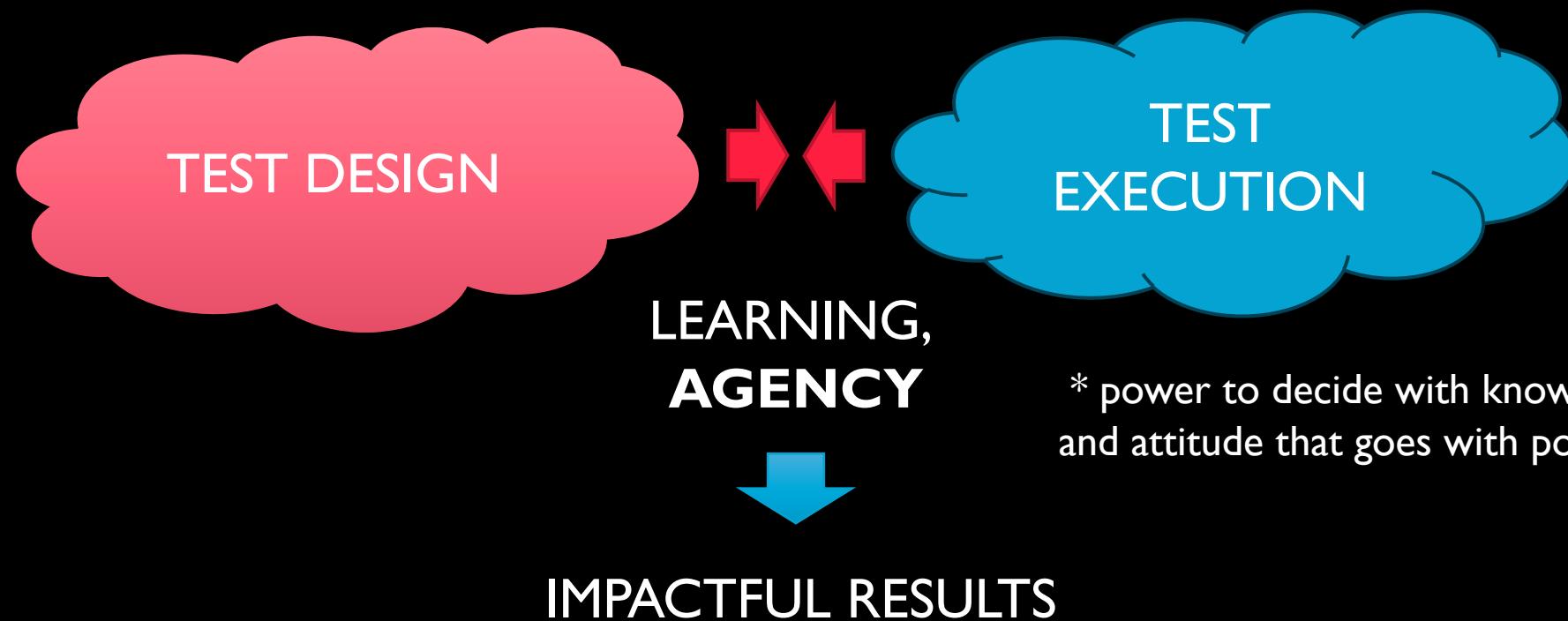


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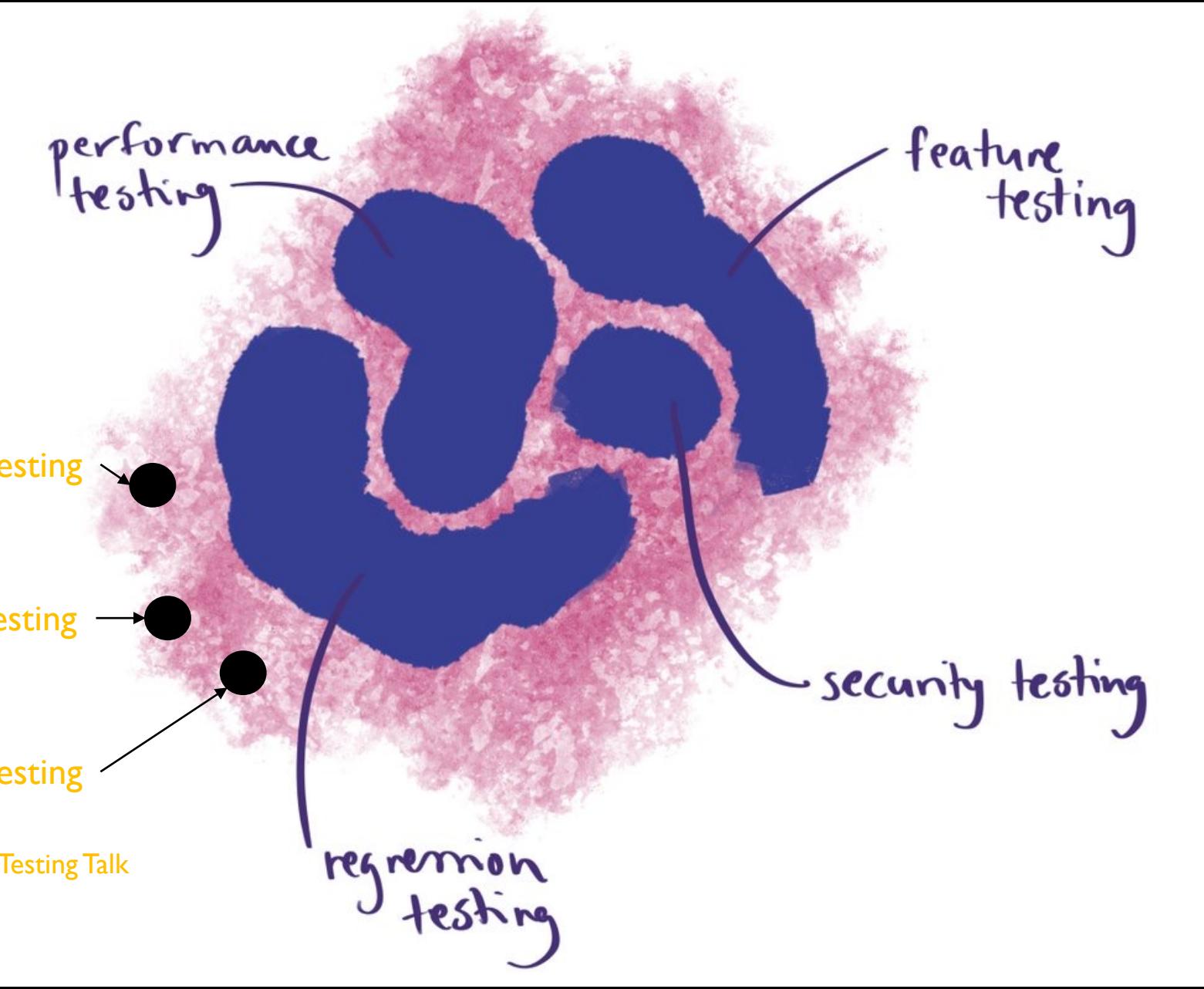
# Exploratory Testing



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performance testing

feature testing

Tier boundary testing

Cross-tenant impact testing

API throttling testing

security testing

regression testing

\* From Jyothi Mishra's Cloud Testing Talk  
at Axiom Summit

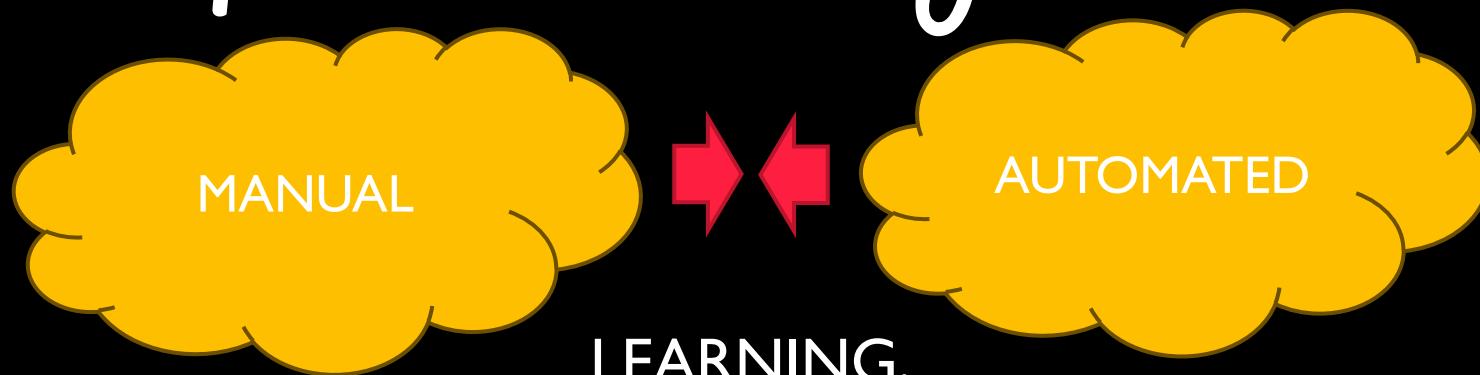


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# Contemporary Exploratory Testing



LEARNING,  
**AGENCY**



IMPACTFUL RESULTS

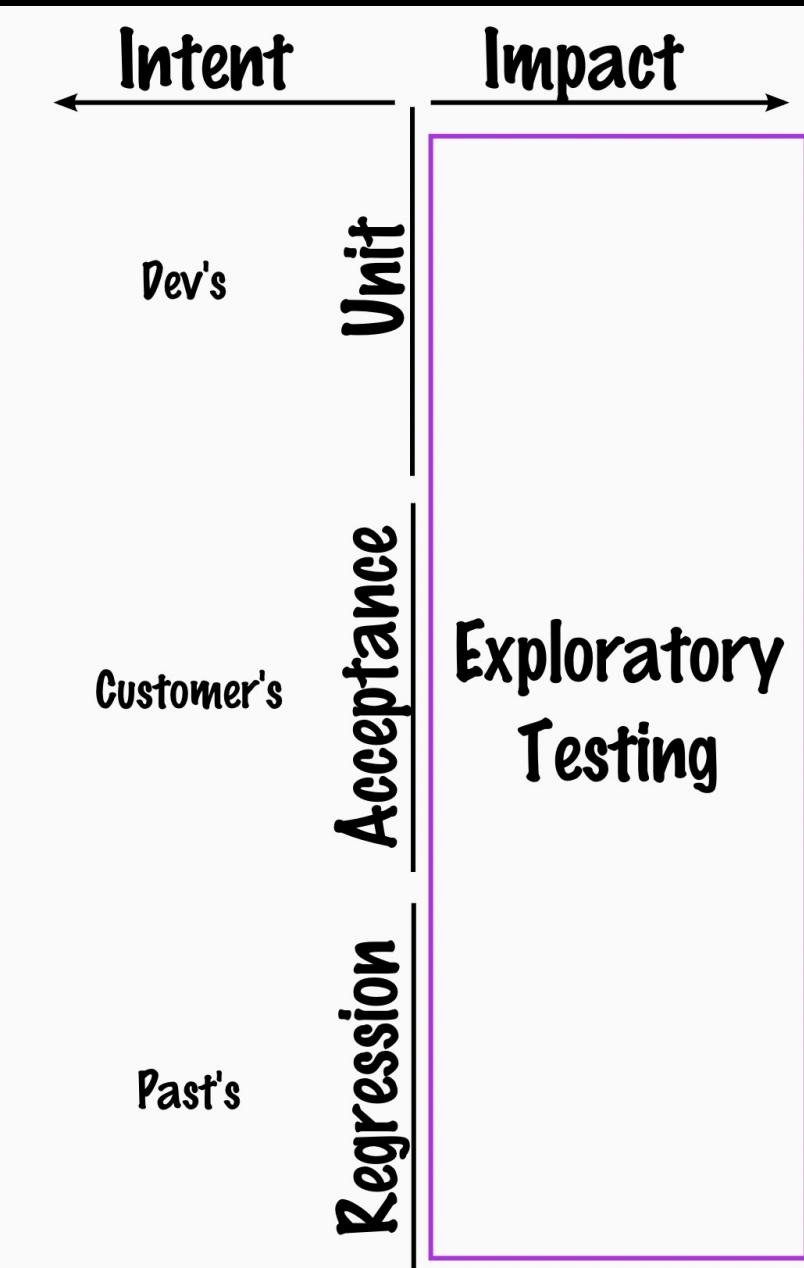
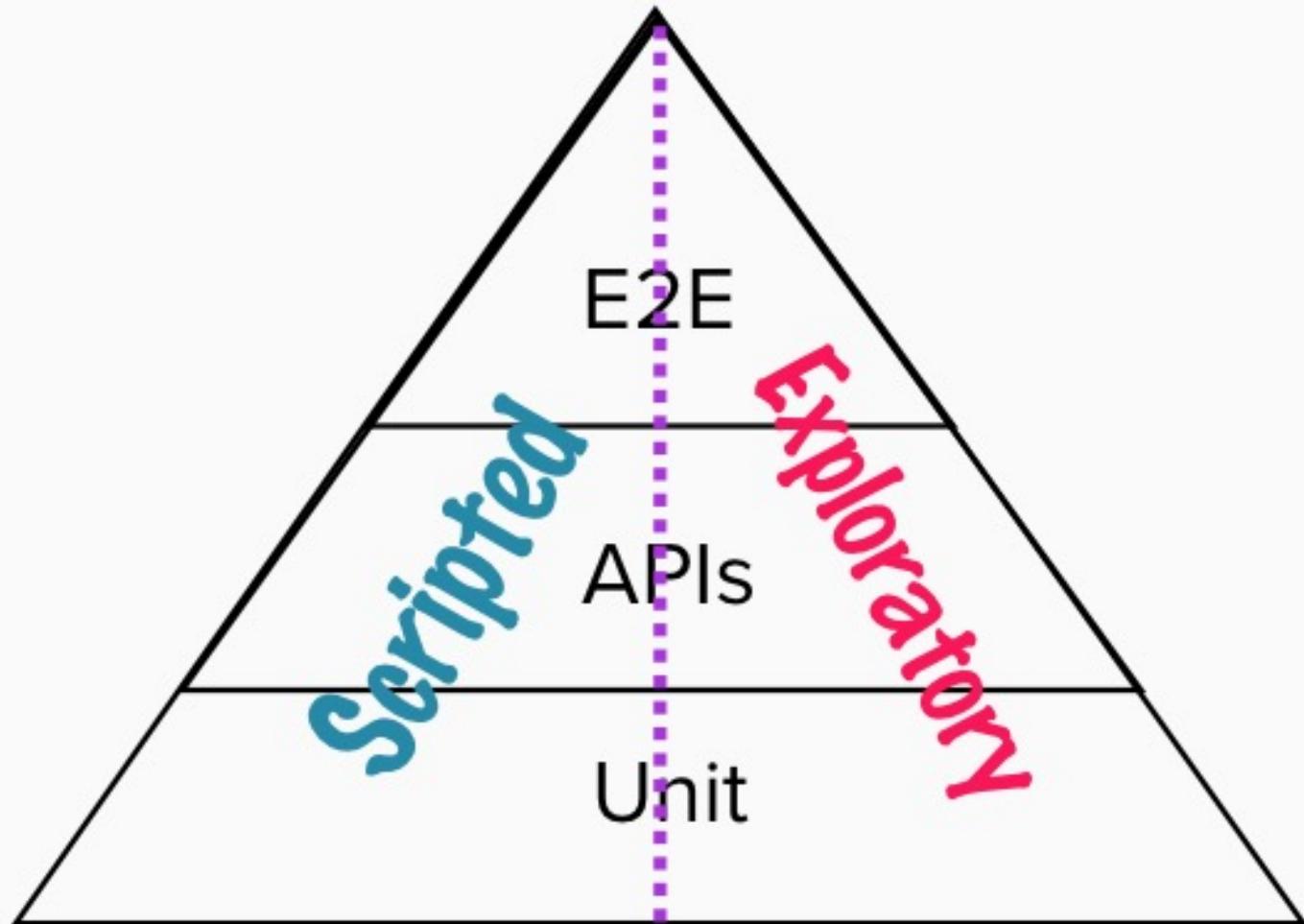
\* power to decide with knowledge  
and attitude that goes with power



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# ATTENDED UNATTENDED

\* You can't automate well without exploring. You can't explore well without automating.



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Time used on warning about  
test automation is away from  
succeeding with it.

\* opportunity cost



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Resultful  
Testing

a *category* of bugs  
before implementing  
before releasing  
after releasing



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# Grow as Testers

Finding and Sharing New Information Matters

Investment Awareness

Time Dimensions: Now vs. Future

From Reactive to Just-in-Time Reactive

Learn to Learn \*really well\*



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# Good Neighbor -principle



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# Protect Agency

Continuous Releases: Shorter Increments over Session  
Based Test Management  
Co-Design Workshops over Status Meetings  
Pair Testing over Reviewing Test Ideas  
Regular Review of Investment and Results



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# Evidence

## as Automation

\* You know it is a small part but sufficient for evidence

Automation over  
Mindmaps over  
Title test cases over  
Test cases with steps

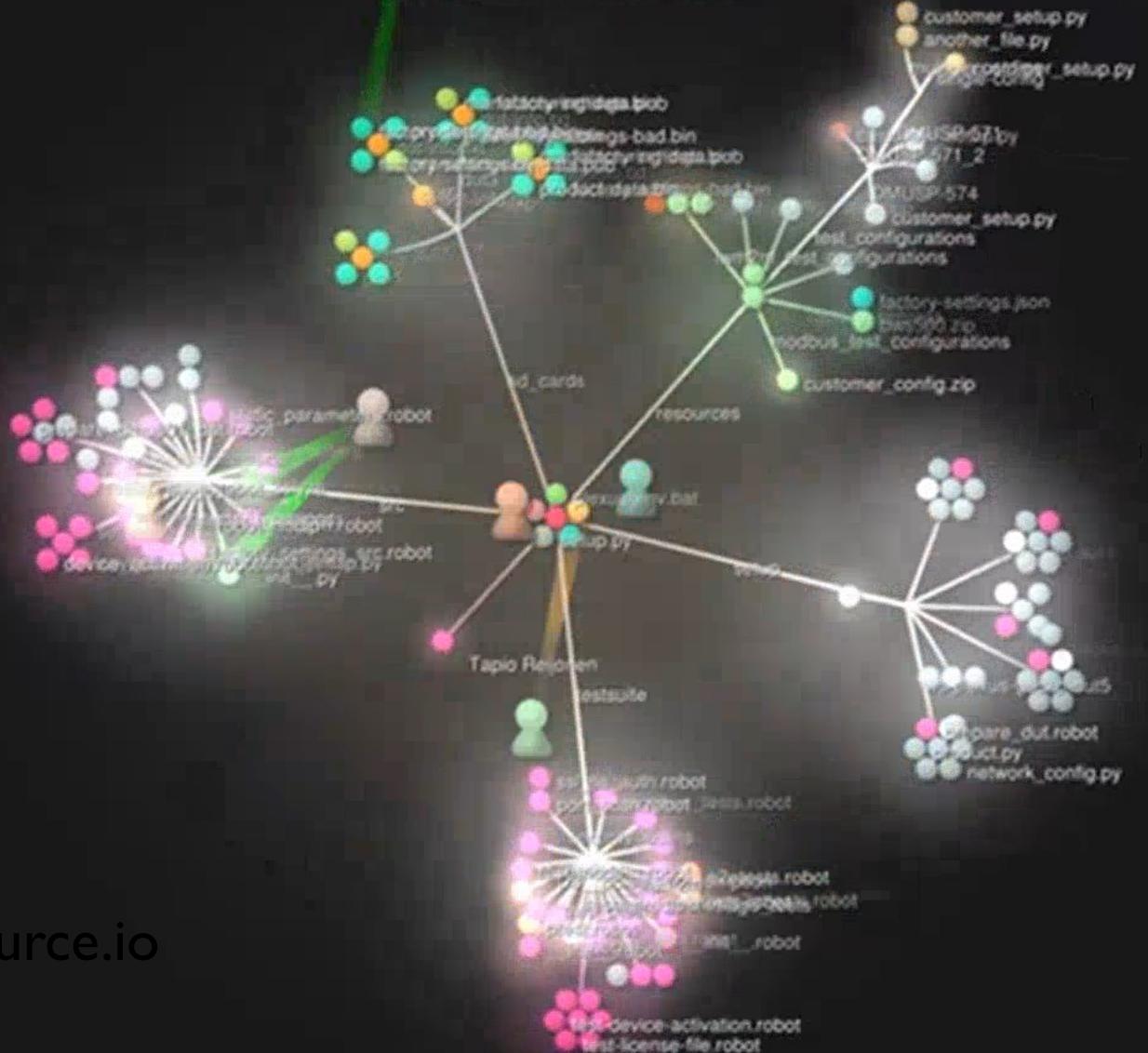


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Monday, 28 December, 2020 14:36:07



DMUSP TA



Pyhajarvi Maaret

# Perceived Success Factors

Dimension	Factor	
Human	Whole team effort	★
	Expert team members	★
	Self-motivated team members	★
Organizing	Allow time for learning curve	★
	Internal open-source community mindset	★
Technical	Test tool choice and architecture	★
	Testlab infrastructure	★
	Product testability	★
	Telemetry	
Process	Incremental approach	★
	Process observation and optimization	★



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# Conflict with previous research!

[https://www.academia.edu/49495368/Test\\_Automation\\_Process\\_Improvement\\_in\\_a\\_DevOps\\_Team\\_Experience\\_Report](https://www.academia.edu/49495368/Test_Automation_Process_Improvement_in_a_DevOps_Team_Experience_Report)

- No explicit test automation strategy
- No careful tool selection
- No measuring quality and performance of TA
- No explicit guidelines



“...relaxed, verbally communicated strategy without strict rules and processes relying on developers' voluntary participation. We consider this an unusual success with TAPI ...”



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*Success /  
Failure is a  
Snapshot*

*Since then...*

ENTROPY  
INERTIA

WB  
(fail)

DMU  
(success)

AMS  
(success)

AVMT  
(inconclusive)

VSP  
(success)

SND  
(fail)

EPT  
(inconclusive)

PSU  
(fail)

NM  
(inconclusive)

FIR  
(fail)



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Programming  
for Tests



Holding  
Space



Strategizing



Business  
Risk



Specifying



Packager



Drive-by  
Fixer



Testware  
architecture



Insight  
Generator



Coverage



Asking



Network  
Impact



Design  
Knowledge



Visual Work



Programming  
for Apps



OSS  
Liasoning



Presenting



Mentoring



Demoing



Domain  
Knowledge



Facilitating



OSS  
Liasoning



Release  
Done



Continuous  
Testing



Coaching



Cloud



Hardware



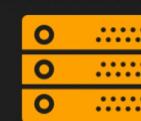
Documenting



Sponsoring



Programming  
for Tests



Servers

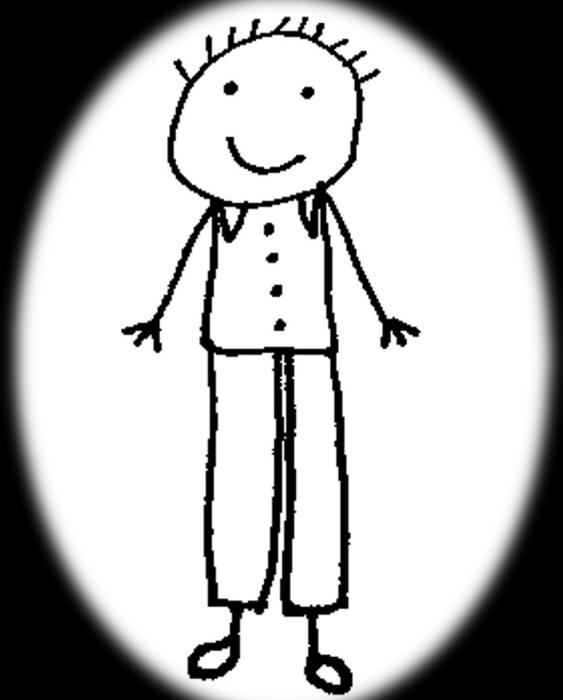


Resultful  
Testing



Omission  
Spotter

Testing is too important to be left for only testers!



(Exploratory)  
Tester



Test Automator  
/ Programmer



(Application)  
Programmer



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# Everyone can test



Resultful  
Testing



Resultful  
Testing



Even a broken clock is right twice a day.

# Testing



Resultful  
Testing

Find (some of) what  
others may have **missed!**

... and never be bored.



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# Maaret Pyhäjärvi (from Finland)



2020



Most Influential Agile Testing Professional Person

2016



2019 - 2022

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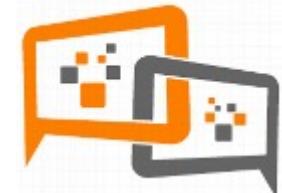
(please connect with me through  
Mastodon or LinkedIn)

#PayToSpeak #TechVoices  
#EnsembleTesting #EnsembleProgramming #StrongStylePairing  
#ExploratoryTesting #TestAutomation  
#ModernAgile  
#ContemporaryExploratoryTesting

*Legacy*  
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