RailsConf 2018
📅 Apr 17 - 19, 2018

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CFP OPEN

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CFP closes: **Jan 19, 2018**

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Speaker: Blind   **Format:**   **Track:** General

Abstract

Stop trying to be a computer; you're a human! You know what humans are good at? *Storytelling*. Stop trying to write tests just to get a green test suite, and start telling rich, descriptive stories. Once you have a good story, *then* you can worry about the implementation details (wait, is testing a form of abstraction and encapsulation?!). In this talk, we look at writing tests as simply telling stories to the test suite. By telling stories about the application (methods, controllers, features, &c.) the suite holds the storyteller accountable for making those stories become, and stay, true.

For Review Committee

Details

I've gone through two iterations of this talk so far at local MeetUps (once for ten minutes, and the other for thirty). The talk follows this general flow:

- Short intro/bio (1 min)
- Background on testing, TDD, BDD (5 min)
- Testing as storytelling (20 min)
- Review (4 min)
- Q/A (10 min)

The intended audience for this talk is (a) the beginner-to-intermediate crowd who are looking to improve their testing technique and skills, and (b) anyone who is interested in the general philosophy of testing.

Pitch

In my experience, bringing a broad perspective to any task often yields higher motivation, engagement, and quality in the process and product of a craft. Developing a strong appreciation for and commitment to testing can engender much higher levels of understanding of the code, the application, and more. Having been designated the "battery" of many teams, I would bring an infectious energy to this topic and get people excited about leveling up their skills through testing. I love finding and sharing mental frameworks and perspectives that enable people to do their best work; I believe cultivating a perspective around testing that brings developers closer to the perspective of an end-user (via storytelling) does just that.

RailsConf 2018

Contact: ✉ railsconf@rubycentral.org (mailto:railsconf@rubycentral.org)

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