



Becoming
A Kick-Ass Tester
in today's changing environment

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Today's economy is pushing the world towards technological automation. These are trends that are affecting every profession, and is entering the Testing world as well...



Changes in Testing



Development practices are changing rapidly! One important example of this is the fact that with more environments needing testing, alongside the increasing demand to release faster and automation becoming a commodity, We see more uses of Big Data and AI in Testing.

Some of the ways this may affect testing are



Automation tools with better recognition and correction.



Risk analysis and test planning tools.



Analytics to recognize bug patterns.



Automatic defect analysis and prioritization.

IS TESTING DYING?



So, we need to ask ourselves if Testing as a profession is dying?

I believe the answer is

Not yet...



But it is morphing as we see from the different tasks we are being asked to do as part of our teams:

- 👤 Training and coaching Devs to test;
- 📄 Defining testing frameworks and processes;
- 🔍 Analyzing results and production data;
- 👥 Working closer to Customers, Executives and Other Teams on the definition of Quality for our products, etc



Becoming A Kick-Ass Tester

*You cannot keep up, you need instead of keep ahead of the curve!
You can do it by following a number of suggestions*



1 Be part of the change in the testing role

Instead of being rooted in the past, look at the needs for the future. Read, listen, ask, participate. Write, try, fail and then succeed.

2 Become a π (pi) shape tester

Specialist in testing with a number of other tasks that you can still perform at professional levels: A great empirical tester, and a specialist in 2 or more specific fields



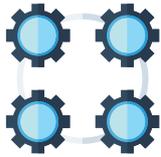
What specialising fields?

- | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| ⚙️ Automation | 🔧 Embedded Testing | 👤 Localization | ⚙️ AI | ❤️ Healthcare |
| 🛡️ Security | ⚙️ Functional Automation | 🔑 Accessibility | 📄 API testing | 🏥 Pharma |
| 📺 Usability | 📺 Monitoring | 💰 Finance | 📊 Metrics | 🧬 Genetics |
| 🌐 IoT | 📱 Mobile | 👥 Compliance | 🛒 e-commerce | |

For more resources visit our [QA learning center](#)



3 Lead and train your team in Testing



Define and maintain processes that make sense



Train your programmers on how to test: TDD, ET, Cross Testing, etc



Make sure the tools are in place to support your testing

4 Drive the development and investments in your testing infrastructure



Testing environments



Deployment processes (to testing environments)



Continuous Testing on Integration



Share your development with Dev and other teams

5 Be the voice of the User or Product Owner



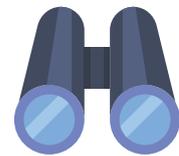
Always look at the Need behind the User Story



Define Personas for your team to work with



“Translate” to your developers things that might be missing



Keep an eye on non-functional requirements that might not have been defined properly (response time, UX, integration with other features, etc).

6 Look for Quality outside of Testing



Look at usage patterns:
• Visual patterns
• Analytics patterns



Review real live stats and logs for metrics



Define acceptable thresholds to raise alerts when needed



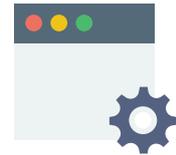
7 Become a bridge to other teams



Testers are used to seeing and seeking the broader picture



Create formal and informal bridges to other teams in the org



It is not uncommon for testers to take on the role of Scrum Masters and/or Product owners

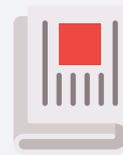
8 Shift Left, Right, Up, and Deep



Left - User Stories and Product Definition



Right - Deployments and Production Envs



Up - providing the correct information to stakeholders and management



Deep - Ensuring correct work of all team members and between teams

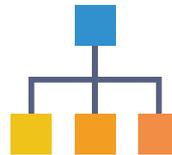
9 Keep your eyes open and adapt



Breath! This is taking place over time



Understand that you cannot fight change



Understand how your organization is changing, look where the value resides



Work on your social skills and not only on your technical ones

Summing up

The world is and will be in a technological revolution, including testing. Change is (also) an opportunity to rise and excel.

So be proactive:

be part of change, π shaped, lead and train, look for quality outside of testing, represent the product, shift, and constantly adapt.

