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I can help you

- create new test teams
- introduce new testing tools and techniques to established teams
- create context specific automation frameworks
- plan and execute quality process improvement initiatives
- test various types of products throughout different parts of their lifecycle

By using the technical knowledge in

- browser automation using Selenium
- ATDD tools like Cucumber and Robot Framework
- on either Unix, Mac or Windows operating systems
- in a variety of programming languages like Python, Ruby, Javascript, PHP, C# or Java
- that run in Continuous Integration servers such as Jenkins and Bamboo
- through build systems like Rake, Maven, Ant and Make

How I am helping companies now

Element 34, Principal Consultant

October 2009 to present

Element 34 is a Selenium-centric consultancy that provides Selenium, Agile and Continuous Delivery coaching and training. In this role I have worked with clients in the following areas.

Product and Customer Strategy

- Envisioning customer experience and helping drive product direction
- Produce Proof of Concepts for future products and features

Evangelism

- Identifying key members of the user community and assist them in using clients' solutions

Development and Documentation

- Assist in the architecture and development of products
- Provide internal testing services for new products
- Create end-user documentation for products and services
- Produce 'turn key' automation frameworks in Python, Ruby and PHP

Training and Consulting

- Trained new testers/scripters
- Provide ad-hoc assistance during automation

Continuous Delivery

- Integration of Selenium into delivery pipelines
- Automated Configuration Management using Puppet
- Automated deployments using Capistrano

Automation

- Create sophisticated Selenium scripts in a variety of languages for functional automation runs and performance/load ones

How I have helped companies in the past

Toronto College of Technology, Instructor

2005 to 2010

I have taught three courses in the SQA certificate program; *Introduction to SQA* introduces key concepts that testers will need to start their in a QA career, *Scripting for Test Engineers* introduces students to the Python scripting language and shows them how to do common testing tasks and *Testing Project* takes students through a complete testing cycle on a real application or an actual customer. In conducting these courses I have had to

- Review curriculum for relevance
- Create course materials
- Present course material

Zerofootprint Software, Manager of Quality

May 2008 to December 2009

Zerofootprint's primary business is the calculation of carbon usage, whether it be by an individual or enterprise. I joined just after the company shifted from an outsourced development model to one where they produce products in-house. Having such a broad mandate as 'Quality' I was involved in many different aspects of product development, maintenance, support and process improvement.

Quality Activities

- Functional automation using Selenium
- Exploratory testing utilizing a number of techniques on both existing and new products
- Improved administration interface to prevent common data-entry errors
- Implemented continuous integration and deployment using Hudson
- Administer the bug/issue tracking system (FogBugz)
- Acceptance testing automation using Cucumber

Development Activities

- Fix moderate complexity bugs in a legacy Ruby on Rails application
- Added skinning functionality to externally developed Javascript widget
- Extensive client customization to externally developed Javascript widget
- Created data migration scripts from internal format to WordPress' WXR format
- Conceived and built a deployment system for java applications using Maven and Capistrano

IT Activities

- Administer Amazon EC2 Linux instances
- Product deployment using Capistrano and Vlad the Deployer
- Integrated FogBugz and Subversion

Client Activities

- Triage client inquiries to appropriate team
- Respond to customer inquiries

Process Activities

- Assisted in the transition to a customized version of Scrum

Three Wise Men, Tester

Nov 2007 to March 2008

Three Wise Men is a local Agile software development company which needed an experienced tester and scripter to assist them a couple hours a week on a current project. The project was a web front-end to their customer's legacy client-server application. In that role I

- Integrated static analysis checks into the build
- Produced testing documentation to assist in transition of testing to client
- Conducted exploratory testing
- Added Selenium automation support to the continuous integration system
- Wrote an application which tests the web services interface

The Jonah Group, QA Specialist

Jan 2007 to May 2008

The Jonah Group is a custom software shop whose philosophy is that Quality is largely the responsibility of the development team and consequently has formal procedures in place to ensure this. On larger projects however, dedicated professional testers are employed. I was brought in to work on a car dealership application which is a joint venture between three large auto manufacturers. I was also involved in doing initial quality assessments on new projects which the company has won and coached other teams how they might improve their testing.

Testing Activities

- Tested external deliverables produced for clients

Scripting

- Using Selenium RC and Jython, created a metaframework for test automation

Process Maturation

- Introduced static analysis tools into current development infrastructure
- Moved testing from traditional scripted tests to more modern exploratory techniques

Staffing

- Conducted interviews for testers on other projects
- Made hiring recommendations

Points International, QA Lead

May 2006 to Dec 2006

After an internal reorganization, Points tapped me to lead the newly formed central QA team and to improve the overall quality of the partner deliverables in a way more in line with a traditional SDLC.

Team Leadership

- 3 testers reported to me

Staffing

- Identified skill gaps
- Filtered resumes
- Conducted interviews for my team as well as for other roles in the company
- Made hiring recommendations

Strategy

- Created a Test Plan template for use with all projects to ensure that all aspects of the release are covered
- Created a Test Case policy which outlines the level of detail that Test Cases should be written at
- Developed Sanity Run checklists for consistent production release verification
- Identified gaps in existing software products used by QA and made recommendations for replacements

Process Improvements

- Migrated testing from completely ad hoc to a more structured approach that is more in lines with what is required by various regulations (SOX)
- Instilled documentation discipline by consolidating information in a wiki or version control

- Successfully had the development team start using CruiseControl for build verification
- Championed the use of Unit Tests as a means of reducing regression risk

Scripting

- Created a Loyalty Program account number generator web application in Python
- Created a framework for testing a Partner accessible web service in Jython
- Reverse engineered an existing Perl web application that a former employee had written but never documented
- Introduced Selenium IDE to other, less technical members of the testing staff

Testing Activities

- Tested internal deliverables such as the Points.com consumer website
- Tested external deliverables such as American Airlines' Luggage Tags site and Northwest Asia Airlines' Sharing Account
- Managed the technical component of partner UAT
- Managed releases to production
- Managed the bug system

Build Management

- Was Build Manager after a departure from the company left the position empty temporarily
- Reverse engineered the change and build system to include other products

Hewlett-Packard (nee Baltimore Tech., nee Nevex) Senior Software Tester
Feb 2000 to May 2006

As the first non-founding member of the Select Access team (which became part of the HP Open View Identity Management group), and first QA hire, I played a key part in the foundation and growth of the test group, its policies and procedures, including test automation.

Leadership

- 2 - 3 persons, 20 - 30% of role
- Release coordination (Release of No Release)
- Interacted with other QA groups within the organization to spread testing ideas
- and strategies

Testing

- Provide testing estimates for project requirements
- Provide design review input with an eye for security, supportability and maintainability
- Test Strategy planning

- Test Case creation and execution

Selenium Automation Framework

- Python based
- Seamless integration with LDAP for impersonation of the Select Access administration server
- Interfaced with Web Servers, Web Services, Direct Sockets
- GUI configuration

Other Automation

- Standalone Java automation using WinRunner
- Java Applet automation using WinRunner
- JDBC proxy testing through custom JSP

Client Activities

- On site customer implementation assistance

IT Activities

- Configured and maintained numerous server components in the product test lab

CMMi Self Assessment

- Using CMMi as a guide, assessed the maturity of our internal processes with a target maturity of Level 3
- Developed targeted questions based upon the process areas to be used in process assessment interviews
- Developed and maintained a Process Mapping portal in Sharepoint to track assessment progress and share documents
- Conducted assessment interviews
- Developed process improvement recommendations

Publications

- Page Objects in Python - Pragmatic Magazine, August 2010
- Beautiful Testing - Published October 2009 by O'Reilly Media
- Contributed a number of technical book reviews to Dr. Dobbs Journal (<http://www.ddj.com>)

Recent Speaking

- STPCON 2011 - Tutorial Speaker, Continuous Delivery
- STPCON 2010 - Track Speaker, Selenium IDE Hands-on workshop
- STPCON 2010 - Track Speaker, From Start to Success with Web Automation
- Agile 2010 - Track Speaker, Agile Test Case Management
- STAR East 2010 - Track Speaker, The Many Hats of a Tester

Professional Affiliations

- Agile Alliance

Training

Satisfice Inc.

- Rapid Software Testing (Heuristics, Session-based and Risk-based testing)

NCCP

- Introduction to Competition -A

Other

- Technical reviewer for Pragmatic Data Crunching (Pragmatic Press 2005) by Dr. Gregory V. Wilson
- *Major Contributor* for Software Carpentry (<http://software-carpentry.org/>)