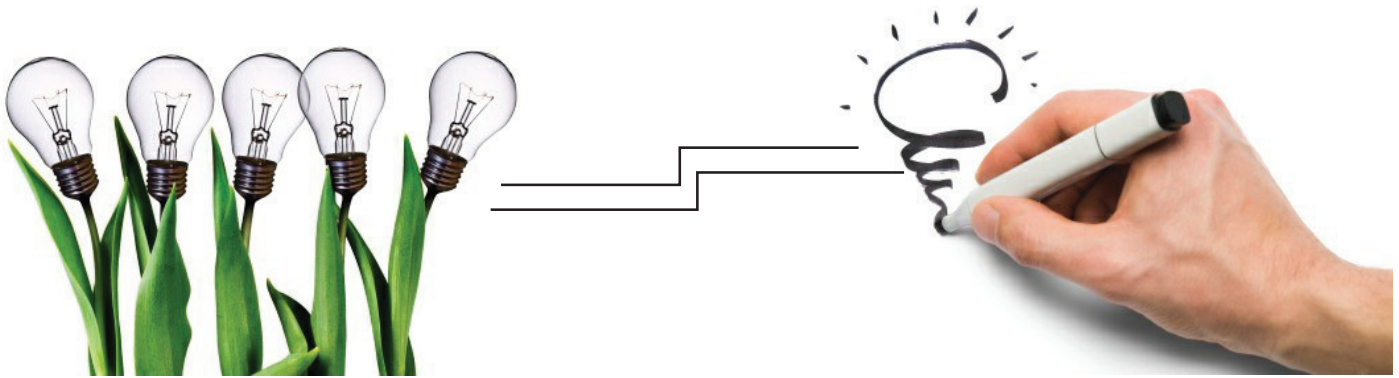


How to promote Testing in Your Organization



Testing Circus Regular Feature

- Rob van Steenbergen



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Do a Risk Analysis - Part 2

In the previous article I started telling about the necessity of doing a product risk analysis. It is a very good starting point to get ideas for your test strategy. And in the line of this promotion article series it is also a good way to promote testing and let people know what you are doing.

I ended part 1 of this article series in last Testing Circus Magazine with an assignment to you to recognize the appropriate people that you should include in your product risk analysis. So if you've done this you would have a list of stakeholders having the roles (although it can depend on situation): users, managers, investors, designers and architects, developers, testers, support engineers, system administrators, etc.

Doing a session or an interview

If you made your list, you should decide to do a more formal or informal session. Or even more sessions or a combination of a session and some interviews.

If it is the first time in your organization that you are doing a product risk analysis session, then it is a good idea to think about some risks yourself in advance and put them on paper.

These risks you can use as an example to start your session. During the discussion known risks you identified, the ideas

will come up for other associated risks.

I did something similar myself: After I sent the invitation for a session I got a mail with some thoughts on risk from a colleague of mine. They were not in the format as I expected, but I did rewrite the risks that he informed and used them as example.

Format of risks

About the format: I would expect a risk to have a cause and something happening because of that.

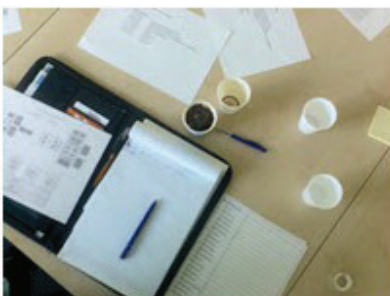
Examples:

- Because the user doesn't know how to select the right product, he will order something he doesn't want
- If more than 1000 users will try to order something, the website will be too slow to use.

The test promotion about this

For promoting testing, be professional and prepare the session with care:

- Create a presentation about the risk session and what you want with it
- Send this presentation with the invitations to the stakeholders.
- Create a mind map of areas the project is focusing on

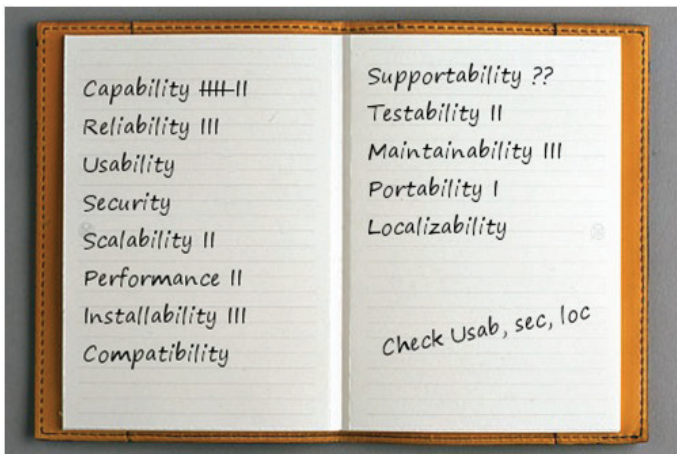


- o The mind map could also be a list or Visio drawing or some other visual drawing.
- This will be the scope you will discuss in your meeting or interviews.

During the session

During the session or interviews, keep a list of quality attributes on your desk and when the risks are mentioned, just check if all quality attributes have at least one risk mentioned. If, for example, the quality attribute 'usability' has no risk mentioned, you should ask the group if usability is something where risk would occur.

A good quality attribute list I've learned from the Rapid Software Testing course I went to: CRUSSPIC STMP L – Capability, Reliability, Usability, Security, Scalability, Performance, Installability, Compatibility, Supportability, Testability, Maintainability, Portability, and Localizability



Risks have a chance of failure and height of damage

At the highest level a risk has a chance of failure and a height of damage as I explained in the previous part.

The technical people (developers, designers, testers) often can estimate the chance of failure. The damage for the business is better estimated by the business people (sales, support, and management etc).



Rob van Steenbergen is an independent software test consultant from The Netherlands.

In the last 5 years he has been involved in infrastructure projects and is now working at Leaseweb. He is working in agile projects, infrastructural and software products, coaching new testers and helping with setting up and improving the testprocesses for this company.

*For more information visit – www.chickenwings.nl
Rob can be reached at*

<http://twitter.com/roansteenbergen>

E-mail: rob@chickenwings.nl