

How to promote Testing in Your Organization



Testing Circus Regular Feature

- Rob van Steenbergen

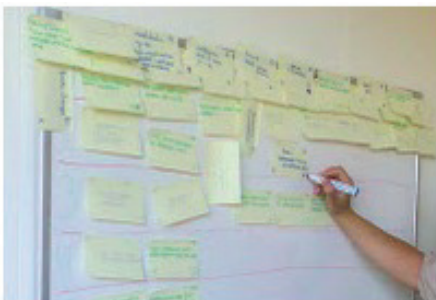


How to promote Testing in Your Organization

Test promotion: Do regular product risk analysis - Part 3

In the previous article I explained more about doing a product risk analysis. In this part some more tips to guide you.

In the session start with an explanation why you are doing a product risk analysis and that the session is one of the phases of risk analysis.



The phases of a product risk analysis are:

- Preparation
- Session or interviews
- Create test strategy

Important points to tell the people:

- We are here to analyze the product under test with the purpose to arrive at a shared image and prioritization of the risk areas of the product
- The Product risks are then used for thoroughness of testing, prioritizing the tests in time, making decisions what to test and what not to test

Preparation phase: discussion of context / scope

- If context / scope is not prepared (the mind map or other visual picture), create the scope during the session
- If the context is prepared before the session, show the scope and discuss the content if something is missing

Appointing the risks

- Project risks: related to the progress or the success of the project
- Product risks: related to the chance that the product will fail in relation to the expected damage when a risk becomes true

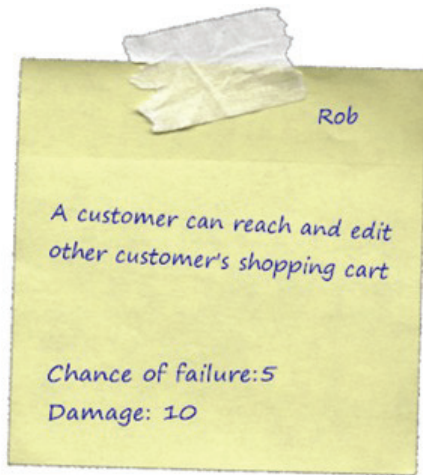
Both kind of risk are identified in a PRA-session

- Product risk will be input for the test strategy
- Project risk will be handed out to the project manager

Sticky notes

The most efficient way is to ask the participants in the session to write down the risks they identify on a sticky note and place them on a wall / whiteboard

or window. Then you can discuss the risks together after everybody has placed his or her notes on the walls.



Attention points in a risk session:

- Session is not to solve risks, but to define them
- Start with the areas that probably will have a lot of discussion
- Separate

the project risks from the product risks

- Write down the risk as concise as possible, but also as concrete and measurable as possible
- An idea is to use the next structure: "Because of... <situation> <something could happen>"

Pitfalls

- Make a clear separation in project and product risks
- Accept that a high damage could be a mediocre risk.

Classification of risks

- Risk = Failure Probability X Damage / $R = F \times D$
 - Risk: The chance that the product will fail in relation to the expected damage
 - Failure probability: The chance that a system or component will fail within specified circumstances or within a specific time period
 - Damage: Prejudice, loss, damage, injury, money lost

This is continued in part 4 in the next Testing Circus, thank you for reading!



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://better.com/vansteenbergen>

E-mail: rob@chickenwings.nl