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Yatra of the Enlightened Tester

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Agenda

- *Evolution of software testing*
- *Common test lifecycle*
- *Business context*
- *Product, Method and Tools*
- *Process and People*
- *Communication and Attitude*
- *Summary*



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Motivation

- *“I wish we had a little more respect and importance in the project”*
- *How to go about testing career ?”*



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Testing - Wikipedia

- *A Process to check Correctness, Completeness, and Quality of the product*
- *Technical investigation to reveal quality related information*
- *Investigation on behalf of the stakeholders*
- *Activity to find errors (but not limited to errors)*
- *Comparison of the state and behaviour of the product against a specification*



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The Evolution of Software Testing

- *Mainframe and research labs – Programmers used to test as well as fix the bugs*
- *Personal Computers (1980s) – Arrival of Structured Testing*
- *Year 2000 - Y2K Testing*
- *Internet – Security and Load Testing*
- *Large scale projects and Component Model – distributed centers*
- *Cost/Schedule - Arrival of Outsourcing model*
- *Key outsourcing destinations – Emergence of India*



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Testing Community

- *Interestingly many are “placed” in testing position!*
- *Anybody is a tester*
- *Testing has become strategic importance*
- *Testing community in India*
 - *Young, techy*
- *Huge potential*



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Common Testing Lifecycle

- *Read FRS*
- *Write test spec*
- *Execute test spec*
- *Submit bugs and test reports*
- *And start all over again for the new project!*



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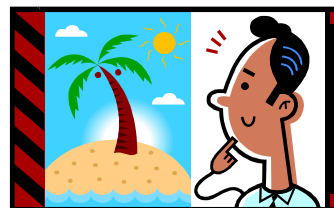
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Wish list of the enlightened tester

- *I had a little more respect in the team*
- *My opinion is counted seriously*
- *People don't make unreasonable requests*



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Can the Yatra be different!



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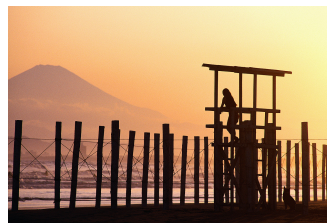
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Clarity of Business Context

- *World view and its importance*
- *End user, quality and cost*
- *Business context – Scale, complexity, target*
- *Players in the Market*
- *Language - ROI, COQ, CONQ, TQM etc*



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Product Competency

- *Product is not only software*
- *Integration*
- *Global User & behaviour*
- *Domain*
- *Architecture*
- *Technology*



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Process Mature

- *Leverage point for sustained improvements*
- *Global stakeholders confidence*
- *Mindsets: Definition vs deployment*
- *Popular models – CMM, CMMI, etc*
- *Why Testing models – TPI, TMM etc*
- *Test Metric and patterns*



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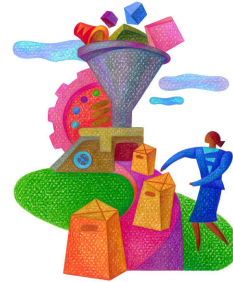
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Method Guru

- *Test basis establishment*
- *Test Objectives derivation*
- *Systematic approach – Software Test Design*
- *Modeling - Divide and Conquer*
- *Strategy - Risk based vs Spec based*
- *Quality dimensions – ISO 9126*
- *Principles - well established in literature*
- *Needs - awareness and education*



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Tools Proficient & Productivity

- *A good workman is known by his tools*
- *How to protect key features – automation*
- *World is full of test automation failure stories!*
- *Advantage of the testing community*
- *Tool expertise – usage, design, internals, interfaces, limitations*



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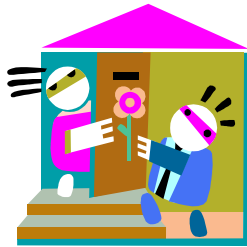
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People Everywhere

- *People skills are key component for effective test function*
- *You are surrounded by people playing various roles*
- *Everyone has some (a different) expectation from you*
- *Need and level of abstraction of each group is different*
- *And hence your supply method as well!*
- *Collaboration vs Confrontation*



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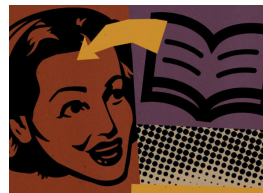
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Need of Continuous Learning

- *Learning is not mandatory, so is survival!*
- *New complexity and challenge is sooner than later*
- *What do we usually read – emails and FRS!*
- *How relevant is my knowledge today*
- *Knowledge industry - Lifelong learning*
- *Ways – workshop, journal, writing, peer interaction, etc*



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Master Communication

- *Nobody sees the invisible!*
- *Everyone understands differently!*
- *Key methods – write, speak*
- *Assertion – key to test effectiveness*
- *Unique position of the test professional*
- *Make value contribution visible*



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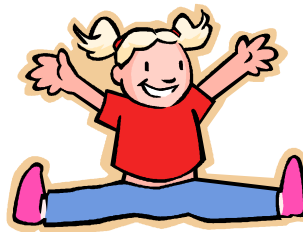
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Positive Attitude

- *Testing without appreciation can have negative impact*
- *Agree to disagree – cultural dimension*
- *In the crazy rush for time and schedule – positive is refreshing*
- *Being positive opens many a doors*
- *Self esteem is the enabler to test effectiveness*
- *Be proud of your contribution to quality*



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Summary

- *Testing yatra has possibilities*
- *Understand the Business*
- *Get the basics correct - Product, Method and Tools*
- *Manage - Process and People*
- *Develop – Good communication and positive attitude*
- *Be responsible and make your contribution visible*
- *Build peer network to sustain learning*

- ***Visibility will follow competency via knowledge***
- ***Knowledge will come with skill in action***
- ***And skills can be acquired***



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sense **and** simplicity