TAILORING TEST AUTOMATION

TESTING FOR THE FUTURE

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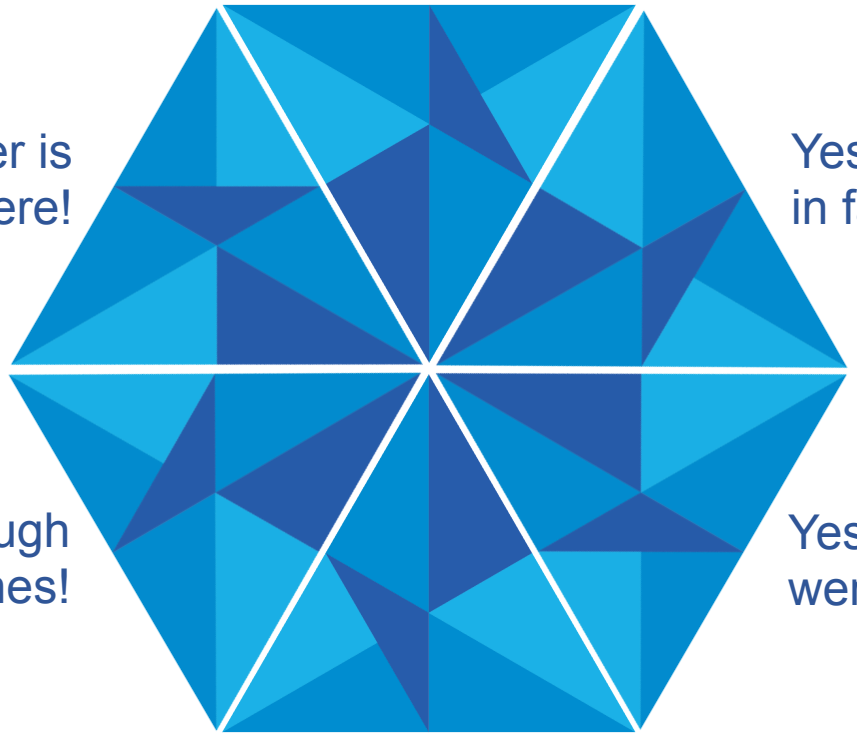
INTRODUCTION

ME



Yes, the weather is fine up here!

Yes, I'm tall. 6'10", in fact!

Yes, it is tough buying clothes!

Yes, my parents were tall!

Yes, I did play basketball!

COVERAGE

Is Automation Right for Your Project or Business?

Having a Tailored Conversation

Tailoring Expectations

Tailoring Choice of Tools

Skills & Resources

Value & Return on Investment (ROI)

Today’s Takeaway

PMs, STAKEHOLDERS & AUTOMATION

"We don't have any automation testing but I want it and it's vital to the success of this project."

What's your first reaction?

IS AUTOMATION RIGHT FOR YOUR PROJECT OR BUSINESS?

If your customers include…

amazon

McDonald's

coles

NETFLIX

Woolworths
the fresh food people

IS AUTOMATION RIGHT FOR YOUR PROJECT OR BUSINESS?

If your customers include…

ACT Government

Access Canberra.

ANZ

Westpac

TOWER Insurance

Telstra

vodafone

IS AUTOMATION RIGHT FOR YOUR PROJECT OR BUSINESS?

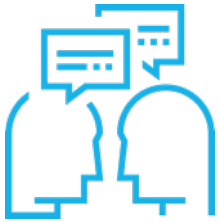
If your customers include…

medicare

CANBERRA HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

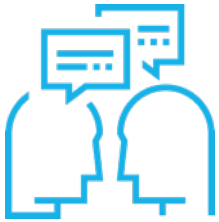
Southern Cross Hospitals

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga



TAILORING THE CONVERSATION

- Avoid ‘Chinese Whispers’
- Be clear and open about Test Automation
- Get people on your side
- Needs to be about more than just the tool:
  - Environments
  - Maintenance
  - Tool + No Skills = Failure
- Test or behaviour-driven development
- Become an automation champion



TAILORING THE CONVERSATION

Automation Strategy & Framework:

- **Exists and is followed?** Awesome
- **Exists and is not being followed?**
  - > Originator no longer works for your company
  - > New employees aren't inducted on the approach within organisation
  - > Does not cater for Agile or DevOps methodologies or Open Source
  - > Is inflexible
  - > Not being enforced: if testers don't believe in it why should anyone else?
- **Doesn't exist? Build one, just don't make it rigid**

TAILORING THE CONVERSATION

OIL TANKERS

> Core legacy functionality

> Slow to implement change

> Lifeline of funding future projects

> High risk

SPEEDBOATS

> Small agile projects

> Lower risk

> Accept that failure is an option

TAILORING EXPECTATIONS

Overselling expectations leads to:

> Wrong tools being implemented

> Over reliance on third parties

> Loss of IP

> Failed implementation of Automation

Make sure any third party sales representatives do the following:

> Can you demonstrate this on our project?

> How does your system handle failures and errors?

> How easy is it to maintain our automation suite?

TAILORING EXPECTATIONS

- Automation Framework
- Realistic Goals
- Quick Wins
- Communicate

- Share The Pain
- Involve Developers
- Include BAU Maintenance in Estimates
- Automated Regression

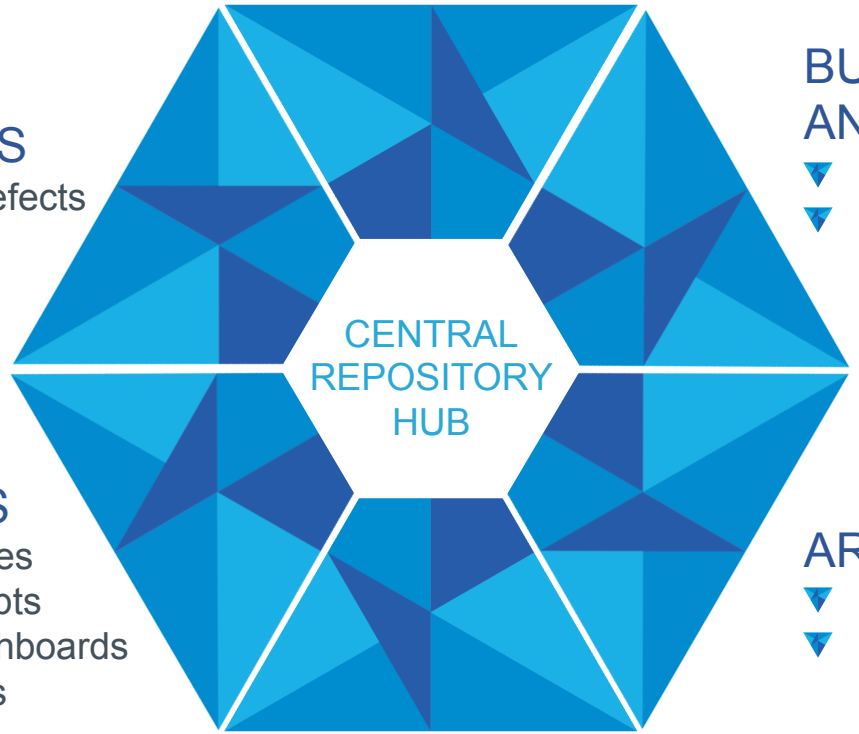
- Test Driven Design
- Continuous Integration
- Continuous Deployment
- Automated System Testing

FAILURE IS ALWAYS AN OPTION > BE PREPARED.

TAILORING CHOICE OF TOOLS

- No one tool can do everything
- Be tool agnostic
- Embrace open sourced tools
- A strong foundation in a central hub is the key
- Environments – access & control
- Configuration and Flexibility is key

TAILORING CHOICE OF TOOLS



PROJECT MANAGERS
- Faults & Defects

BUSINESS ANALYST
- Requirements
- Use Cases

TESTERS
- Test Cases
- Test Scripts
- Test Dashboards & Results

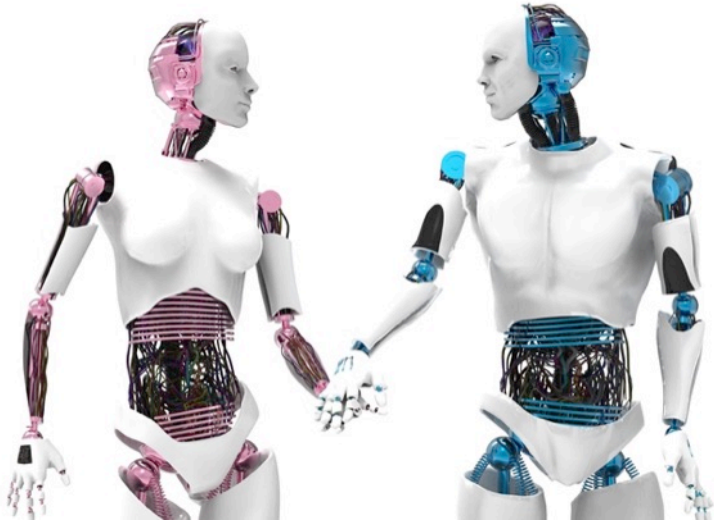
ARCHITECTS
- Solution Designs
- Technical Designs

DEVELOPERS
- Code Versioning
- Unit Tests

SKILLS & RESOURCES

- A tool is only as good as those using it
- No one's able to make the best use of new tools
- Knowledge with a small group of individuals:
  - > Single point-of-failure
  - > Split between the "haves" and the "have nots"
- Over-reliance on specialist Automation contractors
- Over-reliance on tool vendors

SKILLS & RESOURCES



Demotivated Resources

> Where's their career development?
> How do you keep them involved?
> Deal with a do-more-with-less attitude
> Automation and AI will take over their roles

Successful Automation

> Better career paths
> Retention of best staff
> Less staff turnover

VALUE & ROI

"We've purchased an automation tool,
so we need fewer testers."

Manage message to executives and senior management:

- Don't speak geek – learn their language
- Balance Testing priorities with business priorities
- Be realistic and transparent
- Automation takes time but, done correctly, provides value

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

- End-to-End Automation is a marathon, not a sprint
- It's like building a house in an area prone to Earthquakes:
  - > **Strong and flexible foundations are the key!**
- Involve everyone on the journey
- Automation doesn't mean less testers & less cost
- Be strong enough to say no if the risks are wrong

CONTACT

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