# *Welcome to IV&V Australia Testing Newsletter*

This e-newsletter provides a practitioner's view of how to manage and perform SOFTWARE TESTING in today's world.

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## *Establishing a Strong Test Team*

Whilst every project understands the value of testing, we often see testing being conducted by 'super users' or other staff selected from a pool to perform testing. Whilst this can often be effective, often other daily tasks will interfere with this approach which will reduce the overall capacity of testing and as a result, the overall quality of testing.

When creating a dedicated integrated test team, the testers' roles should be adequately defined with testers having training or experience on any applications or tools that will be central to the project. This should be the case whether the testers are hired or sourced internally. Additionally, the testers should be seen to compliment the development team and work closely with the developers and Project Managers to ensure a strong understanding of both the functional and technical requirements of any project.

A dedicated Test Manager should be responsible for the overall Test Plan and managing the team. These tasks should include overseeing the creation of test cases and test execution. The Test Manager should also have responsibility for the infrastructure surrounding the test environment and sign off any changes/releases to the test environment. Budgeting, scheduling and resource allocation should also be managed where possible by the Test Manager.

Ensuring your test team is an independent but integrated team in all projects, and are focused on testing 100% will increase the effectiveness of testing and result in on time, on budget and successful project releases.

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## *IV&V Australia presents to the Australian Computer Society (ACS) Sydney Project Management Special Interest Group*

Mark Feldman, a senior manager at IV&V Australia, recently presented a session titled: "**How do you know that testing has done a good job? Some insights to avoid being bamboozled: what a project manager should know**"

The presentation was well received, and should be available on the ACS website http://www.acs.org.au/index.cfm?action=list&groID=eventssig.

If you'd like to receive a set of slides, you can also contact Mark directly at mark.feldman@ivvaust.com.au

## *Upcoming Courses @ IV&V*

### Introduction to Scripting Course

Our next Introduction to Scripting course will be held in Canberra on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August and in Sydney on the 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Who should attend? Anyone who needs to access, modify and create scripts – for creating utilities and general task and test automation, or manage the process.  It is suitable for beginner to intermediate levels.

What is included? All catering (arrival tea/coffee, lunch, morning/afternoon tea), course notes and interactive examples.

## *Alice's Adventures*

### Chapter 4 – Dealing with Change

When we last heard from them, tester Alice and developer Max had gathered a baseline set of requirements. Things were humming!

Alice's test team were beavering away, designing tests to the build plan that they'd devised with the development team. Alice continued to keep the team fuelled by her home-made cookies.

Max's team were busy designing the software modules.  As they worked, they started to realise that there was a need for some requirements to shift builds, and maybe even change! Max and Alice met to discuss the issue. They realised that it would have an impact on the project schedule, which would be frowned upon by Ursula the Project Manager. However, what they also knew was that if they didn't make some of the changes, the product wouldn't likely be as good as it could be, and delivery might even be threatened!

They stared at the build plan to try and figure out a way to minimise the impact on the test team, while shifting and modifying the requirements as needed. Clink! Alice was sure she had just heard a penny drop. She just realised that if her team wrote shorter tests with fewer requirements per test, the dev changes would have less impact on test development and re-work. They had a plan!

Max and Alice looked at the schedule and made the necessary changes. Now it was time to consult with Ursula. She won't be happy with a delay in the development schedule (better take some cookies to the meeting!), but the good news was they could show her how they could still produce a good product within

the initial timeframe, but that if they extended the schedule marginally they could include some of the changes and new requirements! It would surely be worth their while!

Ursula quizzed them extensively, as she had to take this change to her bosses for approval. She wanted to be certain that she could sell the benefits of the changes – she needed "buy-in" from the rest of the management team. Fortunately for Max and Alice, their solid working relationship, mutual understanding of the changes, and a healthy sugar hit in the cookies helped convince Ursula that the changes needed to happen!

Alice smiled happily to herself as they left Ursula's office. Wasn't life so much easier when everyone on the project cooperates to work towards a common goal?

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## *Thought of the day*

Why go into something to test the waters? Go into it to make waves!

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## *FEEDBACK*

Have you found this issue useful? We want to hear your comments and suggestions. Email us at info@ivvaust.com.au.
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