

Managing Session-Based Exploratory Testing

Session-based test management (SBTM) is a technique for managing exploratory testing. Two of the major criticisms of exploratory testing are that it's hard to make progress visible, and it's hard to know what kind of coverage you might have after exploratory testing has been completed. Session-based test management is one answer to those problems, since it provides a metric for measuring progress (sessions) and takes coverage into account. In this one-day class, we look at the basics of SBTM, we work through examples of the various work products and we simulate running projects using this methodology.

During the course students will work on a mock testing project. This will allow them to experience each step of the testing process under SBTM. After each exercise, students will have the opportunity to share their experiences, ask questions, and focus in on specific aspects of SBTM that might be more important for their specific circumstances. **NOTE: Laptops are required for the course.**

The course covers the following topics:

- An introduction to exploratory testing
- An introduction to Session-Based Test Management (SBTM)
- An in-depth look at SBTM work products:
 - charters
 - charter backlogs
 - session notes
 - test automation
- An in-depth look at SBTM practices:
 - team prioritization
 - session debriefs
 - ad-hoc test documentation
 - ad- hoc test automation
 - dynamic metrics and reporting
- Creating and using a testing dashboard
- Tips and tricks for more effective:
 - modeling as a primer for test design
 - test chartering
 - managing focus while testing
 - debriefing to gain insight as a test manager
- Introducing SBTM into your organization

About Mike Kelly

Mike is a Partner at Developer Town - a venture development firm. His focus is software testing, he leads projects for Developer Town, provides consulting services, and regularly provides training publicly and for companies. When he consults, his longer engagements include some level of project management and/or test management. He is most passionate about exploratory testing, performance testing, and testing in an agile environment. He writes and speaks about topics in software testing and is a past director and president for the Association for Software Testing and a co-founder of the Indianapolis Workshops on Software Testing, a series of ongoing meetings on topics in software testing.

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