

The Design Behind the Plan – Test Strategy Workshop

A test strategy is the set of big-picture ideas embodying the overarching direction or design of a test effort. It's the significant values that will inspire, influence and ultimately drive your testing, and the overall decisions you have made about ways and means of delivering on those values. It's the design behind the plan.

But in the standardized test strategy documents we're all familiar with, the actual strategy is often missing or buried in tedious and repetitious boilerplate that's copied and pasted across multiple projects.

In this hands-on workshop we're going to ignore the standard big document and focus on the important aspects of a test strategy:

- thinking strategically, and
- communicating the strategy effectively

Working together on real testing problems, we'll explore what's essential in a strategy and how to develop it. Who are your stakeholders? What does product quality mean to them in practical terms? How do they characterize the value they expect to get from the product? Not all stakeholders are equal—in most organizations, the concerns of some are more important than those of others. Organizations and individuals differ in their appetite for risk and their perception of what constitutes risk. There may also be overarching facts, principles, and beliefs that will drive test priorities or severely constrain the test. These are critical considerations in determining what your test will cover and how.

Throughout the day, we'll also practice using simple, flexible media for working through our ideas and communicating clearly to project stakeholders.