



More Agile Testing: Learning Journeys for the Whole Team

Janet Gregory , Lisa Crispin

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Janet Gregory and Lisa Crispin pioneered the agile testing discipline with their previous work, "Agile Testing." Now, in "More Agile Testing," they reflect on all they've learned since. They address crucial emerging issues, share evolved agile practices, and cover key issues agile testers have asked to learn more about. Packed with new examples from real teams, this insightful guide offers detailed information about adapting agile testing for your environment; learning from experience and continually improving your test processes; scaling agile testing across teams; and overcoming the pitfalls of automated testing. You'll find brand-new coverage of agile testing for the enterprise, distributed teams, mobile/embedded systems, regulated environments, data warehouse/Bi systems, and DevOps practices. You'll come away understanding

How to clarify testing activities within the team
Ways to collaborate with business experts to identify valuable features and deliver the right capabilities
How to design automated tests for superior reliability and easier maintenance
How agile team members can improve and expand their testing skills
How to plan just enough, balancing small increments with larger feature sets and the entire system
How to use testing to identify and mitigate risks associated with your current agile processes and to prevent defects
How to address challenges within your product or organizational context
How to perform exploratory testing using personas and tours
Exploratory testing approaches that engage the whole team, using test charters with session- and thread-based techniques
How to bring new agile testers up to speed quickly without overwhelming them

The eBook edition of "More Agile Testing" also is available as part of a two-eBook collection, "The Agile Testing Collection" (9780134190624)."

More Agile Testing: Learning Journeys for the Whole Team Details

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From Reader Review More Agile Testing: Learning Journeys for the Whole Team for online ebook

Kristjan says

I had high expectations for this book.

Yes, this book has a lot of great info and examples.

Yes, there are many relevant short stories from the "field" were interesting to read.

However, I was disappointed. Word "more" is misleading in the title and one would not find any tangible practical advice how to adopt testing practices in real life agile context.

Len says

Highly recommended for Agile teams, not just for QAs, but especially for QAs.

Michael Larsen says

First, let's set some context. This is the sequel to the "Agile Testing" book that Lisa Crispin and Janet Gregory wrote back in 2008, and that I did a review of in the early days of the TESTHEAD blog back in 2010. In that review, I said that I didn't have the time in an Agile team to give the book justice, so I reviewed it on how I thought that Agile seemed to me and the advice given. This time, with More Agile Testing, I have four and a half years of experience with Agile teams, and I can categorically say yes, this book addresses many of the challenges Agilists go through, especially Agile Testers.

Agile has grown and matured over the past several years. Some may say it has a clearer picture of itself, others may say its become fragmented and just another marketing gimmick. Some may complain that Agile programming is a thing, but Agile Testing? All of this points to the fact that there are questions, dilemmas and issues in the world of Agile, and nowhere is that more clear (or more muddled) than for the Agile Tester. Are we an appendage? Are we an integrated member of the team? Are we an anachronism? What about DevOps? Continuous Delivery? Testing in Production? Lisa and Janet take on all of these issues, and more.

More Agile Testing is not a "how" book. It's not filled with recipes of how to be an Agile tester... at least not on the surface. Don't get me wrong, there is a ton of actionable stuff in this book, and anyone working with Agile teams will learn a lot and develop some new appreciation and approaches. What I mean about it not being a "how" book is that it doesn't tell you specifically what to do. Instead, it is a "what" book, and there's a whole lot of "what" in its pages. Like its predecessor, More Agile Testing does not need to be read cover to cover (though that's a perfectly good way to read it, and the first time through, i'd highly recommend doing just that). Instead, each section can stand on its own, and each chapter is formatted to address specific challenges Agile teams face.

The book is broken up into eight sections. The first is an overview of where Agile has evolved, and the new aspects that are in play that were not so prevalent in 2008 when Agile Testing came out. In addition, it takes a look at the ways that organization have changed, and the new landscape of software development for applications that span the gamut from desktop to web to mobile to embedded to the Internet of Things.

Section Two is all about Learning for Better Testing. From determining roles and adapting to new needs, to developing T-shaped team members to make box shaped teams, and helping testers (and those interested in testing) develop more in depth thinking skills and work habits to be more effective.

Section Three focuses on planning. No, not the massive up front planning of traditional envelopment, but the fact that even the just in time and just enough process crowd does more planning than they give themselves credit for, and that the ways we do it can be pretty hit an miss. This section also goes back to the Agile testing quadrants and reviews how each has its own planning challenges.

Section Four focuses on Testing Business Value. In short, are we building the right thing? Are we getting the right people involved? Do we have a clear vision of what our customer wants, and are we engaging and provoking the conversations necessary to help deliver on that promise? This section focuses on developing examples and using methodologies like ATDD and BDD, and identifying what we do know and what we don't know.

Section Five places an emphasis on Exploratory testing. What it is, what it's not, developing testing charters, working with personas and tours, and working with the other varieties of testing needs and helping make sure our explorations also include territory not typically considered the realm of the explorer (such as concurrency, Localization, Accessibility, UX, etc.)

Section Six focuses on Test Automation. Note, this talks about the concepts of test automation, not a prepackaged approach to doing test automation or a specific framework to use and modify based on examples, though it gives plenty of links to help the interested party find what they are looking for and lots more.

Section Seven is all about context, specifically, what happens when we address testing in different organizations and with different levels of maturity and tooling? Version control, CI, and working with other teams and customers are addressed here, as are questions of Agile in a distributed environment.

Section Eight is Agile Testing in Practice, and focusing on giving testing the visibility it needs to be successful.

Appendix A shows examples of Page Object based automation using Selenium/Web Driver, and Appendix B is a list of "provocation starters". In other words, if you are not sure what questions you want to ask your product or your programmers as you are testing, here's some open ended options to play with.

In addition to the aggregate of Lisa and Janet's experience, there are dozens of sidebars throughout the book with multiple guest contributors explaining how they implement Agile in their organizations, and the tapestry of similarities and differences they have seen trying to make Agile work in organizations as diverse and different as each of the contributors.

Bottom Line: If you are brand new to Agile software development and Agile testing, this may not be the best place to start, as it expects that you already know about Agile practices. Having said that, I didn't see

anything in this book that would be too hard for the beginner with team guidance to do well to consider, implement and experiment with. However, if they have already read Agile Testing, and are hankering for more ideas to consider, then More Agile Testing will definitely help scratch that itch. Again, this is not a “how” book. This is a “what” and “why” book, but it has lots of great jumping off points for the interested Agile tester to go and find the “what” that they are looking for. As a follow on and sequel to an already solid first book, this is a welcome update, and IMO worth the time to read and reread.

Brad says

The book contains a lot of great information and examples from past experiences! I used this book to form a study group with my coworkers, and we had a good time discussing the principles taught in this book. I only wish there was better advice on how to get buy in from the whole team, or how to convince your team that this is how testing should be done in an agile environment.
