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I always thought flying an airplane was a lot more interesting than flying lessons. I quickly discovered that as an instructor, long hours of boredom were the norm. I have found, over the course of my career, that there is a parity between the perceptions of those who do it have a very different understanding of what it is to merely observe it.

Interested in this topic, I asked them to share their common misperceptions about software testing, and they debated. Here are some of the results by AST members.

I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to those who participated in this debate.

Andriy Ruzhchak: Testing is Easy

As to me, the most common myth is that software testing is easy. A lot of people think you have to know nothing to become a tester. They think to test software is just to push buttons and observe whether software really "as it should be" - and there is nothing really hard or knowledge-based in pushing buttons, isn't it?

One major reason - at least here in Ukraine - is that there is no information about software testing as a profession. Another reason (and it is connected with the previous one) is the absence of professional events (conferences, meetings, etc.), at which people inside and outside of the software industry would have a possibility to get more information of what it is to be a Tester or QA Engineer.

Geordie Kaitz: Test Management + Test Scripts

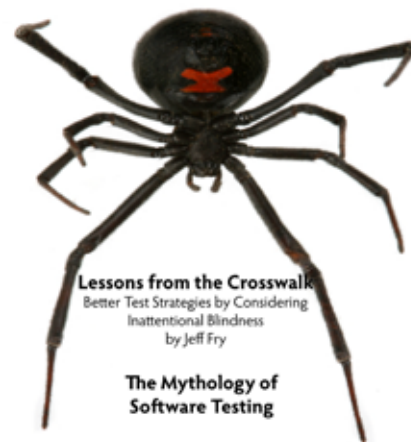
I'm not sure the myth I'd like to address has even been articulated, but it is very deeply ingrained in most testing cultures I've encountered. Here it is: test management requires a library of test scripts for talking and status

Volume 2 Issue 1

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AST UPDATE

Smart Stuff for Career Software Testers



Testing Toolbox: Five Bugs in Five Minutes

scripts written ahead of delivery was the best way to test. Instead they argued that without scripts, they could neither manage "down" nor manage "up" their teams would not know what to do, and that they would lose "traceability" and the ability to "accurately report testing status." When we talked one on one about the ways that they wrote and used the scripts, we usually agreed that the status that they were reporting, as percentages of tests run vs. passed vs. failed, etc., were all bogus. And we usually agreed that the testers were neither helped nor motivated by the scripts they ran. But they had never encountered another way to manage, so they made a virtue of necessity and convinced themselves that executing pre-scripted tests was the best and only legitimate testing method.

Just presenting the SBTM alternative freed them up and let them see, "I'm going to find a way to make this better idea work for us." "What was so great was to see