QA – Positive Communication Messages & Productive Cooperative Mindset

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Abstract



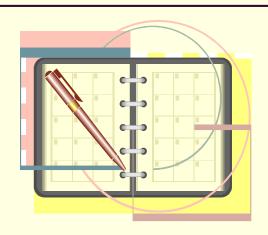
- To do well as a QA Tester, having excellent technical skills and aptitude to learn are important elements. But if one aspires to become very successful in QA Testing, one needs not only to be a skilled <u>technician</u>, but be a <u>politician</u> at times as well. As one rises up the QA ladder or look for new opportunities in the QA field, there are many people that he/she needs to interact with ranging from CEO, Marketing VPs, project managers, to developers, testing peers, support staff, external auditors.
- "How should I interact with the different departments? What kind of image should I project? What kind of mindset should I have as I deal with the people whom I have to work with?" These are some of the questions that a QA tester will ask as he/she progresses through the corporate ranks along the 'QA' journey.
- This seminar aims at providing insights, through the presenter's experience, to help a QA tester improve his/her communication with different staff and 'swim smoothly' in high-tech environment. The presenter will highlight different 'key messages' that the audience will find helpful to convey to various staff in their future interactions with them.

About the Presenter



- Jackson Lee has been involved in high-tech industries for more than two decades. He has broad experience with startups and large companies (Alcatel, Hewlett-Packard, TELUS, MPR Teltech). He has played different roles in the entire product development and operations lifecycle (software designer, technical support specialist, project manager, process improvement specialist, QA testing engineer, manager, director).
- Jackson's diverse career also included 15+ years' experience leading global QA testing teams and successfully verifying integration of networks and applications. He was Director of Testing and Quality Control at SmarTire Systems and held numerous QA Testing Manager/Director positions in various organizations. Jackson has strong expertise in QA testing, project management and process implementation. He is a certified ISO9001:2000 / TS16949 Quality Auditor.
- As an enthusiastic quality practitioner, Jackson is **passionate** about working with team members and ensuring timely releases of high-quality products to customers. He holds **Bachelors (UNB) and Masters (UBC) degrees in Electrical Engineering**, an **MBA** from UBC, and **PMP**. He is planning to obtain CMQ/OE designation as his next 'quality' target. Jackson speaks 5 languages and is an avid badminton player.

Agenda



1. INTRODUCTION

- 2. How to talk to:
 - Sales and Marketing
 - Project Manager
 - Engineering (Developer, Manager)
 - QA Testing members (QA Tester, Manager/Team Lead)
 - Production Support Staff
 - Auditor
 - ◆ CEO

1. Introduction

** A QA Testing practitioner has to interact with different people on a daily basis.

Remember the two PCMs.....

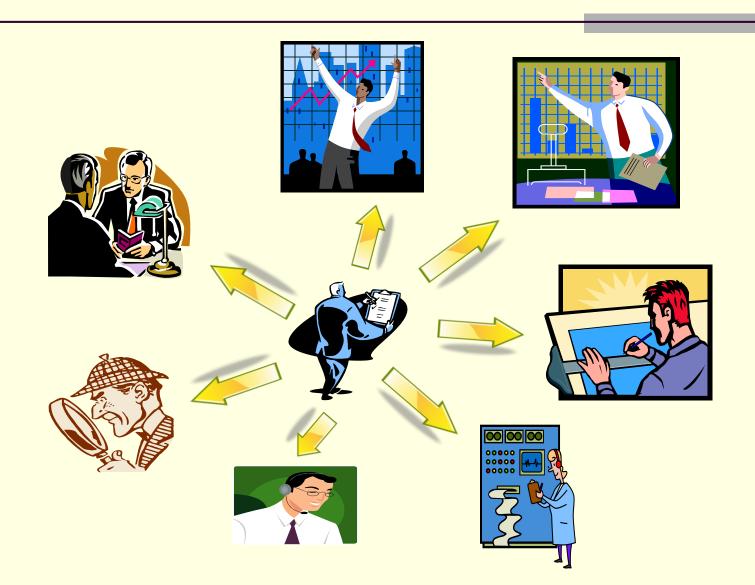
Q: "What kind of **message** should I be conveying to them?"

A: Positive Communication Message / Information

Q: "What kind of mindset should I have as I deal with them?"

A: Productive, Cooperative Mindset

2. QA Interacts with Different Depts



Sales and Marketing





Positive Communication Message:

✓ "We will meet your requirements as per our discussion... "

Productive, Cooperative Mindset:

- Ensure that the project sponsor and team do not overpromise our customers
- Set realistic delivery expectations

Project Manager





Positive Communication Message:

- ✓ Project Status, Concerns
- ✓ Clarify delivery expectations Scope, Time, Quality, Cost

Productive, Cooperative Mindset:

How can I help the project?



Engineering





Positive Communication Message:

- Process: Proper development, defect management protocol
- ✓ Testing: Test Coverage and Scope

Productive, Cooperative Mindset:

- Win/Win
- Clarify what we will/can test, and what we will not/cannot test

QA Testing





Positive Communication Message:

✓ "We need to achieve the QA testing objectives as per agreement from discussions with other departments.."

Productive, Cooperative Mindset:

Complete the Requirement Traceability Matrix



Requirement Traceability Matrix (RTM)

REQUIREMENT TRACEABILITY MATRIX (RTM)									SOFTWARE Release x; Revision y
Customer Requirement / User Story ID	Title	Priority	Technical Requirement / Specification	QA Release Notes Section	Test Case ID in Test Grid	Testable (Y/N)	Overall Result	Acceptable for Current Release ?	Remarks
						Υ	PASS		
							FAIL	Yes	Failed in-house test Bug Log: Bug # 314 Bug Type: Functional Issue Bug Category: Cosmetic Action Recommendation:
						Y	FAIL	No	To fix in next release Passed in-house tests, but failed in beta field test. SHOWSTOPPER! Bug Log: Bug # 436 Bug Type: Performance Issue Bug Category: Critical Action Recommendation: Engineering to fix before release
						Υ	PASS		
						Y	FAIL	No	Re-run of acceptance tests (using typical customer configuration) shows consistent failure. Bug Log: Bug # 258 Bug Type: Functional Issue Bug Category: Major Action Recommendation: Engineering to fix before release

Test Tracking Spreadsheet

Test Case ID	Active Test? (Yes /Obs)	Test Selected (Yes / No)	Priority	Est. Test Duration	Reqm	Test Category	Test Area	Test Title	Build	Tester	Date Tested	Results	Remarks
SW_S1_SAN_0001.0	Yes	Yes	1	1 hours		Sanity	Hotswap		5.0.0.42	Kelly	11/12/08	Pass *	
SW_S1_SAN_0002.0	Yes	Yes	3	2 hours		Sanity	Display		5.0.0.42	Kelly	11/15/08	Fail	
SW_S1_SAN_0003.1	Yes	Yes	2			Sanity	Transmission		5.0.0.42	Kelly	11/12/08	Pass	
SW_S1_SAN_0004.0	Obs	No											
SW_S1_SAN_0005.1	Yes	No											
SW_S1_FCN_0001.0	Yes	Yes	1	2 hours		Functional	Logging		5.0.0.43	Kelly	11/05/08	Pass	
SW_S1_FCN_0002.0	Yes	Yes	2	4 hours		Functional	Configuration		5.0.0.45			Not Tested	
SW_S1_FCN_0003.0	Yes	No				Functional	Transmission						
SW_S1_FCN_0004.0	Yes	Yes	1	3 hours		Functional	Reception						
SW_S1_SYS_0001.0		Yes	3	2 hours		System	Load Balance		5.0.0.42	Jim	11/05/08	Pass	
SW_S1_SYS_0004.0	Yes	Yes	2	3 hours		System	Fault Tolerance		5.0.0.42	Jim	11/05/08	Pass	
SW_S1_SYS_0004.0	Yes	No				System	Transmission						

Production Support







Positive Communication Message:

- "What do you need?"
- "What can we do to help you reduce production issues?"

Productive, Cooperative Mindset:

▶ Put myself in their shoes. How I can help this group?





Positive Communication Message:

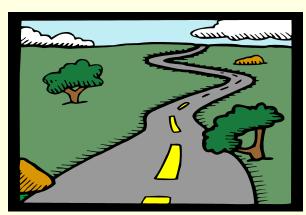
- ✓ "We comply..."
- ✓ "Here is the proof."

Productive, Cooperative Mindset:

► No more, no less







Positive Communication Message:

- Direction
- ✓ "I will help your company save costs..."

Productive, Cooperative Mindset:

What do I want to do for the company?







Person / Department	Positive Communication Message / Infomation (What do they need?)	Productive Cooperative Mindset					
Sales and Marketing	" We will meet your requirements as per our discussion "	 Ensure that the project sponsor and team do not overpromise our customers Set realistic delivery expectations 					
Project Manager	Project Status, ConcernsClarify delivery expectations -Scope, Time, Quality, Cost	How can I help the project?					
Engineering	 Process: Proper development, defect management protocol Testing: Test Coverage and Scope 	Win/WinClarify what we will/can test, and what we will not/cannot test					
QA Testing	"We need to achieve the QA testing objectives as per agreement from discussion with other departments"	Complete the Requirement Traceability Matrix					
Production Support	"What do you need?""What can we do to help you reduce production issues?"	• Put myself in their shoes. How I can help this group?					
Auditor	"We comply""Here is the proof."	No more, no less					
CEO	Direction"I will help your company save costs."	What do I want to do for the company?					

The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step...



I hope you enjoy the journey of QA Testing Management as much as I do!

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