

Weekend Testing Europe:

A behind-the-scenes guide to
facilitating effective learning



weekend

Testing

Nordic
Testing
Days
2015

About Weekend Testing

- Peer-to-peer, online lean learning network
- Try new tools/techniques
- Skype (text) chat
- Worldwide chapters, one session per month

About Weekend Testing Europe

- **Time/Date:** 3rd Sunday of month, 3.30pm BST / 4.30pm CET
- **Previous facilitators:** Anna Baik, Markus Gartner
- **Current facilitators:** Neil Studd, Amy Phillips, Dan Billing



Not *just* about Weekend Testing!

- Applicable to any learning or content creation activity
- Think about opportunities you're trying to create
- What's worked (or not worked) for you?
- Ask questions at the end

The story so far...



Timeline

Aug 2009
Bangalore Weekend Testers

Jan 2010
Weekend Testing Europe

Apr 2010
Weekend Testing Aus/NZ

Nov 2010
Weekend Testing Americas

Feb 2011
Hiatus of WTANZ

Jun 2011
Hiatus of WTEU

Jun 2013
Return of WTANZ

May 2014
The WTEU story continues...

May 2014 – *Let's Test*



Neil Studd

@neilstudd

I'd like to get a Weekend Testing group going, either UK or Europe. Surprised we don't have a chapter already. #LetsTest #RaiseTheBarDIY

11:02 AM - 27 May 2014



Alessandra Moreira

@testchick

By what I've been reading there seems to be a demand and now's your time @neilstudd! @TesterAB @mgaertne @tonybruce77 @mpkhosla @MikeAScott

2:09 AM - 30 May 2014



Taking the plunge

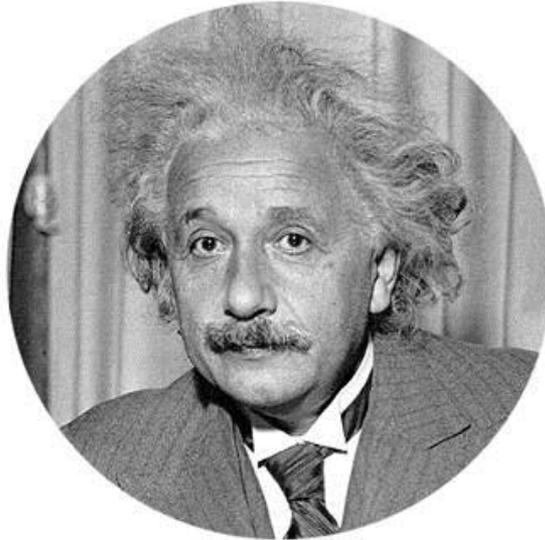


Me? Really?

- Feelings of inadequacy – impostor syndrome
- *Am I the best person to deliver this content?*
- *What if nobody shows up?*
- *What if somebody disagrees with what I say?*

Impostor syndrome is common

“The exaggerated esteem in which my lifework is held makes me very ill at ease. I feel compelled to think of myself as an involuntary swindler.”



Overcoming impostor syndrome

- Find confidence
- Knowing what you don't know (Dunning-Kruger effect)
- Focus on the benefits of succeeding

Doing the homework: Part 1

- Chatted to existing Weekend Testing facilitators
- Experiences of running a session, structure, challenges
- What didn't work before?
- Why would it be better now?
- Attended sessions from each chapter

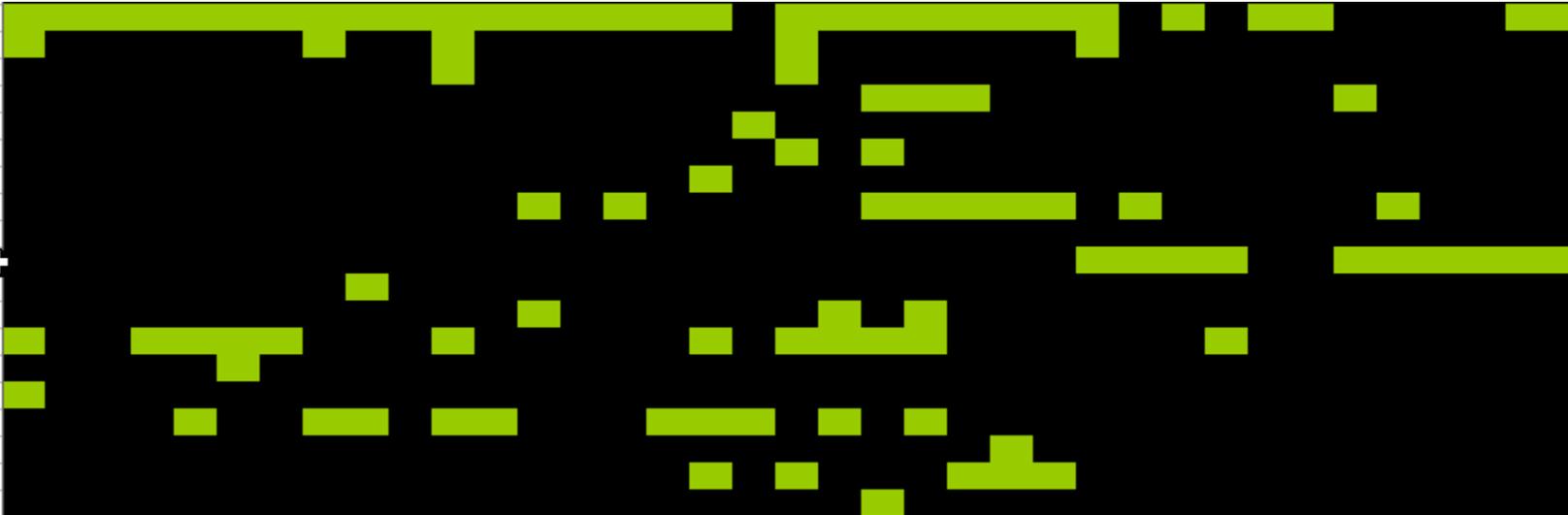
Doing the homework: Part 2

- Reviewed WT website archives
- Reading session transcripts
- Analysed impact of varying session time/date/frequency
- Statistical plotting (e.g. blink map) to spot trends

Blink map

EWT 15	The magnificent testers ride again	24/04/2010	15:30	17:30	02:00	http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1046	CycleStreets		
EWT 16	So how much are YOU worth?	01/05/2010	15:30	17:30	02:00	http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1064	Barcode Yourself		
EWT 17	The Rocket	08/05/2010	15:00	17:30	02:30	http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1084	Rocket plugin		
EWT 18	Zoom me in	15/05/2010	15:30	17:30	02:00	http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1096	ZoomIt		
EWT 19	Domo Arigato, Mr Roboto	22/05/2010	14:30	17:30	03:00	http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1131	ParkCalc (Using Robot Framework)		
EWT 20	Triage	29/05/2010	14:30	17:30	03:00	http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1185	OpenOffice Impress		
EWT 21	Talk to me!	05/06/2010	15:30	17:30	02:00	http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1200	Research and communication		
EWT 22	How to think about science	12/06/2010	15:30	17:30	02:00	http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1159	Listen/discuss a recording		

Anna Baik	31
Anne-Marie Charrett	5
Anuradha	2
Artyom Silivonchik	4
Ashik Elahl	1
Dhanasekar S.	2
Dominique Comte	1
Dr Meeta Prakash	9
Erkan Yilmaz	1
Eusebiu Blindu	18
Gunjan Sethi	1
Ian McDonald	3
Jaswinder Kaur Nagi	14
Jayant Sahasrabudhe	1
Jeroen De Cock	1
Jeroen Rosink	11
Jon Bach	1
Katya Kemeneva	5
Kavitha Deepak	1



Result = increased confidence!



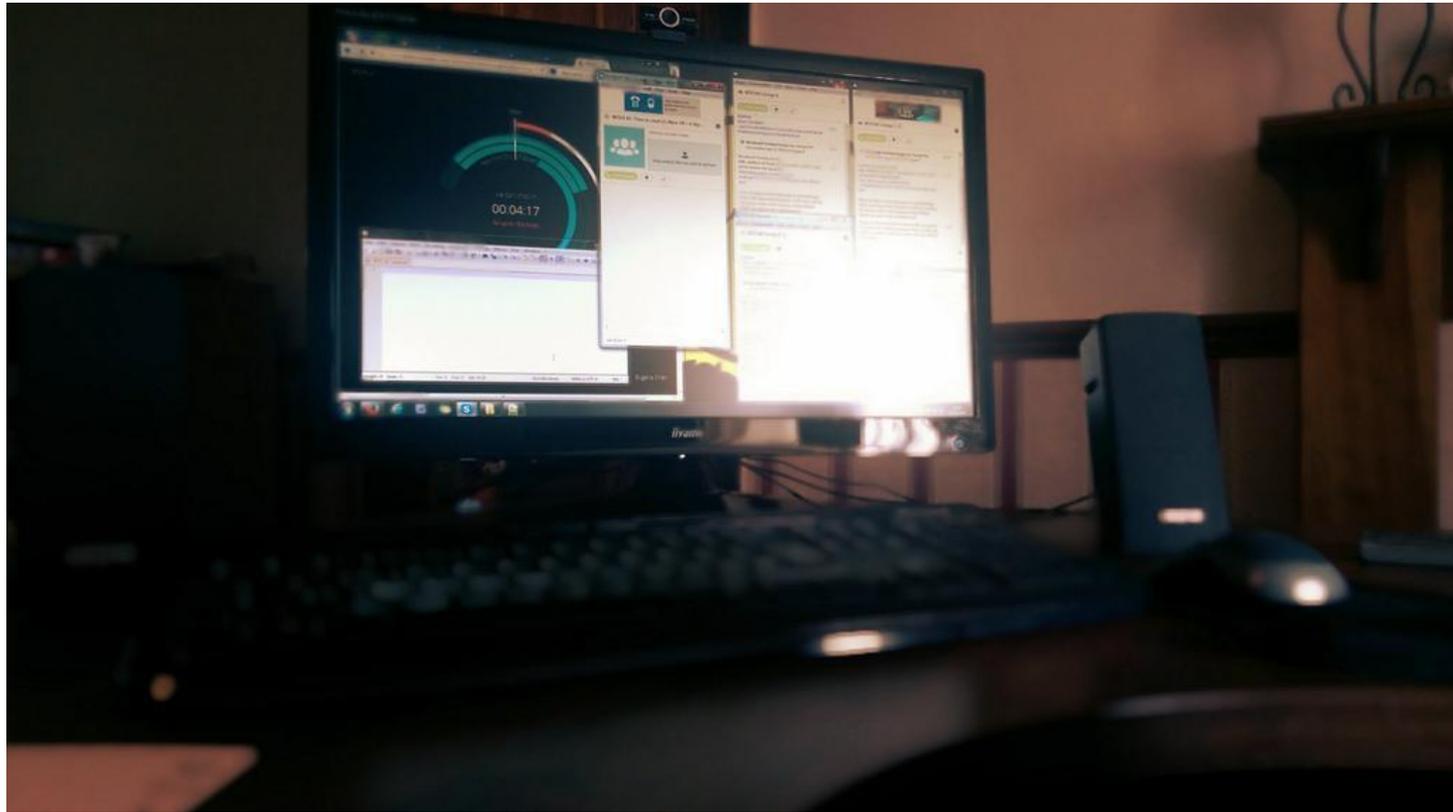
But: choice is overwhelming!



Overcoming the blank canvas

- Start with a topic you know well
- Let the attendees guide the session
- Follow the energy
- Each attendee will have their own “lightbulb moment”
- Prepare cues/questions to keep conversation flowing

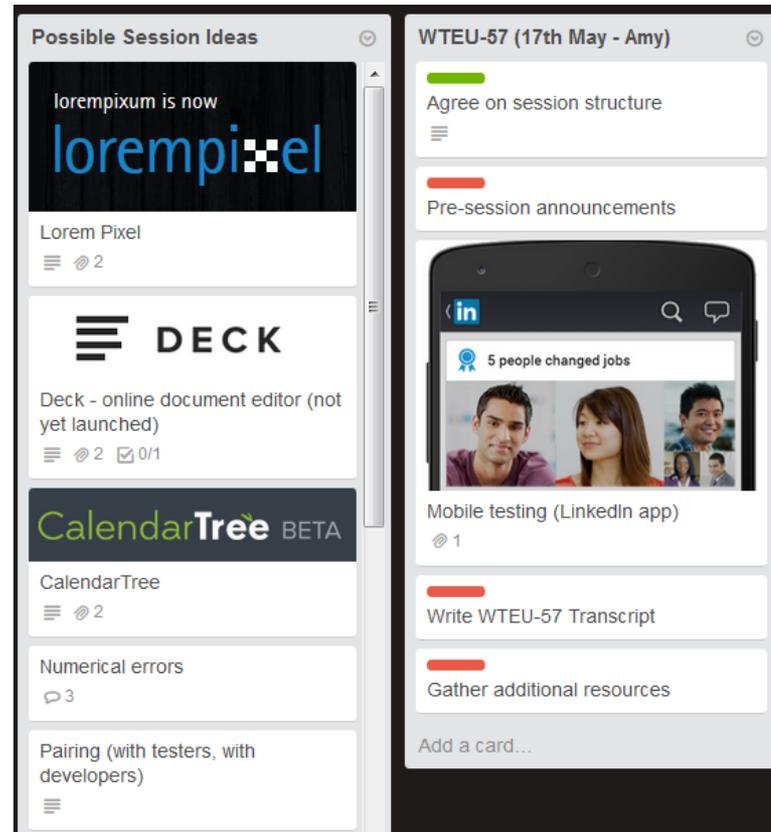
Our first session: July 2014



Preparing and running sessions



A month in the life of a session...



	Session Date	Could Facilitate	Could attend	Topic
Jan	25th - Confirmed	Amy		API Testing
Feb	22nd - Confirmed	Neil	Amy, Dan	Exploratory testing in agile projects (using Matt Archer's demo app)
Mar	22nd - Confirmed	Dan	Neil	Your favourite testing tools (show and tell)
Apr	19th - Confirmed	Dan	Neil	API Security
May	17th - Confirmed	Amy	Neil	Mobile Testing

A month in the life of a session...

- Checklist for each session (tweets, previews)
- Experimenting with signup options
- Preparing a session transcript
- Running the session
- Post-session write-up

Prepping the session

- Standard format: Intro-activity-debrief
- Run the activities ourselves first
- Not knowing the group in advance, or what they know
- Newbies can ask questions, experts can share/help
- Google Doc with checkpoints and key messages

Snippet of prepared transcript

In the session announcement, we explained that Dan would be guiding us through some tips on security testing. Dan, can you start by telling us a bit about how you got into testing, and how you came to have a particular interest in security testing?

(A brief bit of general Q&A with Dan)

Right, well now that we are all introduced, let's discuss the outline of today's session!

3:45pm:

/topic WTEU-50: MISSION STATEMENT

Shortly I'm going to hand over to Dan, who will introduce us to a demo website where we can look for security problems.

Before we get too in-depth, let's have a quick brainstorm exercise: How many different types of security issues can we think of?

(wait to see what other suggestions people come up with. Things like:

SQL injection

Cross-site scripting

Escalation of privileges

Repudiation

Remote execution

URL manipulation

The session itself

- One facilitator working from the transcript
- One facilitator watching for technical issues
- Main chat room for session, sometimes smaller groups
- Private facilitator's chat for adjusting schedule
- Save transcript as PDF, extract quotes/resources

Monitoring progress



Measuring success

- Record number of attendees
- Newcomers and referrals
- Someone joined after 19 days of being a tester!
- Feedback/posts from attendees
- Having the energy/enthusiasm to “go again”

Lessons learned

- Facing my fears: confidence and support from peers
- Embracing my fears: acknowledging what I don't know
- Don't go too fast or take on too much (build a team)
- Preparation pays off
- Reflection/introspection to continuously improve

Questions?

(About Weekend Testing, or similar challenges)

Web: weekendtesting.com

Twitter: @europetesters

Skype: europetesters



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