

PROFESSIONAL TESTER

Essential for software testers

Contributing guidelines

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Professional Tester is the ideal forum for sharing information and opinions with people worldwide working in software quality and related disciplines. So if you have something to contribute or say, please submit it. Please send us a photograph of yourself too, in the highest resolution you can. We will respond to all contributions and try to offer helpful advice even if we do not wish to publish. If you have an idea but not yet much material, it's a good idea to let us know what you have in mind before doing too much work. The format is flexible: we'll consider material of any type, in any form and of any length. We'll judge it only on whether we believe it likely to be of interest to a sufficient proportion of our readers. Published articles often, but not always, consist of:

- Sharing of experience and insight
- Explanation and/or discussion of methods and techniques
- Reporting of industry developments
- Comment or opinion – serious or lighthearted
- Reviews of products and resources such as software, books, conferences and websites.

Your submission should be original and must credit and reference any work by others on which it draws. We do consider work that has been published before or submitted to other publications, but please tell us about this. If you are employed by or working on behalf of an organization that provides products or services related to software development and testing, we may ask that some advertising is purchased to offset the costs of publishing your submission. However other than your submission nothing will be published on your or the organization's behalf without prior arrangement.

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Editorial calendar 2010

Issue	Copy date	Publication date	Theme
1	15 December 2009	15 January 2010	Very early lifecycle testing
2	15 February 2010	15 March 2010	Testing new technologies
3	15 April 2010	17 May 2010	Where next for testing standards?
4	15 June 2010	15 July 2010	Testing across boundaries
5	16 August 2010	15 September 2010	Making testing more systematic
6	15 October 2010	15 November 2010	Best-of-breed tools



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Themes explained

🕒 **Number 1:** Copy date 15th December 2009,
publication 15th January 2010

Theme: [Very early lifecycle testing](#)

Defects introduced in requirements and design documents can doom a project before it's started but remain undetected until very late. The importance of static testing and early dynamic test design is well understood by testers, so it seems likely doing them even earlier would yield even more benefit; the "moment of involvement" of testing is considered a key indicator of maturity by many process improvement models. But how can they be done when there is little or no material on which to base them? Can you test what doesn't yet exist?

The relaunch issue of Professional Tester will argue that you can and must if danger and waste are to be minimized. Very early lifecycle testing (VELT) is challenging, but is the very essence of skilled test analysis.

🕒 **Number 2:** Copy date 15th February 2010,
publication 15th March 2010

Theme: [Testing new technologies](#)

In 2009 a revolution began in business IT. Very rapid adoption of cloud computing, virtualization, everything-as-a-service and other newly-enabled concepts might well change the ways testing is done – or might make large parts of it obsolete. In the past testers have suffered by failing to keep up with development trends. That can't be allowed to happen again: testers must understand the technologies they will soon be asked to assure. In this issue, we examine the new challenges and share experience of both testing them, and using them to test.

🕒 **Number 3:** Copy date 15th April 2010,
publication 17th May 2010

Theme: [Where next for testing standards?](#)

To many testers, standards are something they learn about on training courses and then forget. Some have been influential, but now look dated. And there's no obvious way of profiting from them, so they tend to be developed very slowly by busy, expert testers working voluntarily. Others believe trying to impose standards on what they believe to be a creative activity is a waste of time. There certainly appear to be large gaps between standards and their practical application. But closing them might lead to the promise of truly systematic, measurable testing that crosses boundaries.

We survey the standards currently in use, examine the work so far on some emerging ones, and consider what might be needed to make them truly and universally useful.

🕒 **Number 4:** Copy date 15th June 2010,
publication 15th July 2010

Theme: [Testing across boundaries](#)

Software is global but testing seems strangely geographically divided. There are clear leading and following countries, but also entire continents where it seems finding a single tester would be hard. Testing in the US appears fundamentally and conceptually different to testing in Europe.

Professional Tester believes good testing is above all objective, and that should mean testing principles and skills are applicable across any boundary, real or perceived. In this issue we look at the quest for new ways testers can work together, with others, and for others.

🕒 **Number 5:** Copy date 16th August 2010,
publication 15th September 2010

Theme: [Making testing more systematic](#)

Two testers with the same training and experience, given the same test basis, will create different tests. That means testing is not truly comparable across organizations or even projects. And that means measurements and assertions are only statistical, and not as meaningful as they should be.

Solving this problem is software testing's holy grail. One day, vague standards and partial techniques will be transformed into actual systems. At that time there will be no more need for manual test analysis development, execution or management. Testing's mission will have been achieved.

It's a long journey and we've hardly started. So, in what direction(s) must we go? And how can we derive benefit from getting gradually closer to, but not reaching, our goal?

🕒 **Number 6:** Copy date 15th October 2010,
publication 15th November 2010

Theme: [Best-of-breed tools special](#)

Objective assessment of test tools is rare because most people have actually used only a few. Most testers have to use whatever is current in their organization and this might change rarely if at all. Evaluation exercises are essential for procurement but no substitute for technical understanding and practical experience and can be skewed by vendors' sales techniques.

This special issue of Professional Tester will feature expert opinion on the most respected products in the most popular categories, challenging contributors not only to advocate their recommended tool, but to explain with justification why they believe it's better than its competitors.

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