Manual Testers Vs. Automation Testers – How QA Organizations can bridge the gap?

Introduction:

Organizations around the world and technology landscape are rapidly changing in recent times. QA is no more a different entity not to be affected by this technology storm. With the emergence of new platforms such as Agile, DevOps, Mobile, Cloud and Internet of Things (IoT), Companies tend to see new trends in each every testing aspect. Manual testing and test automation procedures are constantly going through transformational changes with the evolution of open source tools and different engagement models.

Enterprises often envision QA organization as an important factor towards business growth and are setting up agile testing teams and Testing Centers of Excellence (TCoE) in order to cope up with the continuous pressure of quick delivery of software and reduced CoQ (Cost of Quality). New technologies like SOA, cloud and mobile testing are on the rise however, QA organizations always struggle to answer certain important questions – Do I need to eradicate Manual Testing team at the cost of test automation implementation? How can I transform manual testers into programming oriented Automation testers? What is the right balance in terms of skilled manual testers vs. newly buoyant automation testers?

Manual Testers vs. Automation Testers

It makes a little sense if there is question like – why test automation? Everyone understands the need for automation testing as it offers better & faster regression coverage. On the other side, Manual Testers

focus more on functional testing and defect leakage ratios. Couple of years back, QA organization was a combination of manual and automation testers with manual testers greatly outnumbering the automation testers. There was also a clear demarcation between these two different clans with proper focus on tasks related to manual & automation testing respectively.

With the evolution of Agile and its variances, Test automation is considered as a highly skilled programming activity and they fall into the category of "Test Automation Developers" rather than "QA Automation Testers". Manual testers are more focused towards the functional side of the AUT (Application under test) and it has been treated as less skillful aspect of technology that may result in a soon to be phased out division within the organization. There are certain common perceptions in and around the QA community about Manual Testing and Test Automation.

Perceptions on Manual Tester:

- Manual testers will find it difficult to understand automation frameworks, tools and processes as automation development can be carried out only by Test Automation specialists
- Manual testers are "prohibited" in test automation zone because it falls under the category of "of the developer, by the developer and for the developer"

Perceptions on Automation Testers:

- Automated testing requires different skills than manual testing. Though the tools have matured tremendously over the past decade, it is more or less the same - automated testing requires programming skills.
- Capture/playback in automation can reduce the programming skills but it cannot completely remove the element of programming. It has been widely recognized in the software testing community as well.
- While the automation process cuts down on the effort, it is still a time intensive process. A considerable amount of time goes into developing the test scripts and letting them run.

Perceptions on Manual + Automation testers:

- There is a lack of logical task distribution between manual testers and automation developers to make them complement each other. Also it will be a cost and time consuming affair if manual testers get cross trained in basics of automation.
- Automation developers need to understand a minimum level of business functionality to write effective automation scripts. Organizations force manual testers to be well versed in business functionality and they should be able to write the automation scripts.
- Test Case scripting is treated as a pure coding activity even though framework design follows best practices like keyword driven, data driven and script less approach.
- Test Automation is developed & maintained by automation developers and they are costlier resources than manual testers

There are perceptions and realities on how organizations can utilize manual testers and automation testers and how to maintain right combination of manual and automation team within the organization. But certain questions will always prevail in the minds of Development and QA Heads.

- How Manual Testers can perform Test automation without tool/ programming knowledge?
- Is there a magic wand to convert manual testers into automation specialists instantly?

Z-Automate & Art of bridging the gap

Z-Automate is a revolutionary product from Zado and it can provide a different dimension to the test automation space. With Z-automate, Manual testers can perform test automation in 15 minutes without tool knowledge. Amazing, isn't it? With Selenium

as a foundation of our product, Z-automate has the fundamentals of script less execution engine. Test cases can be written in Excel and Test case execution is handled with test case execution sheet.

Configuration details are maintained in a different sheet such as Browser selection, Parallel execution or sequential execution, Email configuration and etc. If you want to migrate yourself from a manual tester to a great selenium automation expert, Z-automate is the logical first step for you.

Product Framework:

Z-Automate - Features

- Supports web application testing, mobile testing (Android and IOS) and various other platforms
- Works extremely powerful with different browsers such as Mozilla, Chrome, IE and Safari
- Execution can be triggered automatically as per the schedule with object reusability factor
- Extremely low cost of maintenance and extensible
- Integrates well with Jenkins and Bamboo tools and compatible with Continuous integration methodology
- Detailed Report generation includes last 10 iterations (Execution) that can be compared with line graph and bar graph, platform details, Test execution details such as No. of pass, No. of fails, Total test cases , each test case with line by line test steps, Screenshot at the time of failure etc.

Benefits:

- Since scripting is done with Excel, it is simple and easy to create test cases. Even a manual tester is able to write test cases once he knows about customized methods and how to trace elements from the application.
- Manual test cases and Automation test cases can be maintained in the same sheet
- Highly productive and scalable
- Cost Effective since it reduces man efforts.

Conclusion:

Manual testers and QA organizations used to think of a quick fix in Test Automation Strategy. Our message to QA organizations is simple – If you want to implement Selenium as one of your core test automation strategies, then Z-automate is the right tool for you to help your manual testers to ramp up in no time.

ABOUT ZADO

Zado is a provider of test automation solutions with specific focus on web, mobile and cloud applications. Our framework-driven approach to test automation ensures reliability and performanceof your applications in diverse environments and complexities.

Our Center of Excellence works towards ensuring the success of every test automation initiative of our customers, irrespective of the stage that they are in – startup, transitional or mature. We have successfully helped startup, ecommerce and Independent Software Vendors with their automation needs. Our goal is to ensure quality of your software using test automation optimally.

We are open to doing POCs and Pilots that prove our credibility. We also have an innovative engagement model, Enhance – Optimize – Transfer (EOT), where we implement automation testing and transition it to your local teams. Our points of intervention after that, will be only towards enhancing the automation framework.

Zado automation frameworks help manual testers write their own test scripts without the necessary automation expertise. This qualifies manual testers into automation testers, providing better economies of scale and faster ROI of your automation efforts.

Email: contact@zado-tech.com
Twitter: https://twitter.com/@ZadoInfoTech
Website: www.zado-tech.com