The QE/QA Role: Supporting DevOps

The smart way...

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Why me?

- I'm devoted to the Quality (with a capital Q) of the SDLC
- My experience is in the QA/QE and agile spaces
- I spent my career focusing on three tenets: efficiency, innovation, and culture
  - QE and DevOps play nicely with all three!

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What are we talking about?

- Defining the QE role
- Re-tuning automation
- Shifting traditional QE/QA *right* tasks to the left
- Re-defining refining
- Making it shippable

What is DevOps?

"The collapse and automation of the software delivery supply chain" - Anne Hungate's reference!

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Quality Engineering - The New QA!

Influence the building of the software before the software is built.

- Like DevOps, it's a Mindset
  - ...even if you're QA you can still be QE
- Balances technical acumen with user advocacy
  - ...with equal emphasis on both
- Influential throughout the SDLC

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Test Automation

Test automation makes humans more efficient not less essential.

What It Has Been:

- Monolithic
- Focused on everything
- A numbers game

What It Should Be:

- Tiered approach
- Multiple runs for multiple *dones*
- Provides the most valuable information ASAP
- AoA (Automated of Automatable)

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Shifting Left to Focus on the Right

Wrong Tasks:

- Regression at the end
- Automation at "sprint +n"
- Non-automated, scripted testing first
- Redundancy

Right Tasks:

- Regression throughout with Dev
  - Share those runs!
- Automation = Shippable
- Unscripted testing first… because
- TDD mindset
  - Share those tests!
- And Dev…
  - Read those tests!

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Refinement

Time to re-define. Or, is it re-refine?

Old School Refinement:

- The entire project team + lurkers
- … in a room
- Cramming as many stories as possible in one hour

New School Refinement:

- Small working groups
- Shorter times
- Everyone represented … yes, even DevOps
- Tiered approach

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Shippable Re-Defined

Old Definition of "Done":

- Used to be owned by Product - and focused on the acceptance of User Stories

New Definition of "Done":

- Each practice in the *agile* team is represented
- Shares their playbook
- Removes guesswork
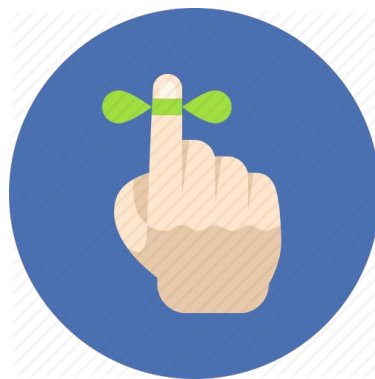- Remove silos of Dev, QA, PM, and DevOps

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Shippable

Make it Shippable

- ✓ Tech debt is addressed

- ✓ Automation is green and in the pipeline

- ✓ Sev 1/2 bugs are closed

- ✓ All P1/2 tests cases have been passed

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Shippable

Final thoughts:

- Just because you can, doesn't mean you should
- Just because you could, might not mean you did

Summary

→ Define the QE role
→ Re-tune automation
→ Shift left to focus on the right
→ Re-define refining
→ Get to a new definition of "done"

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Thank You!

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