ARE PRODUCT MANAGERS DEFACTO QA?



With Brendan Gilhuly & Jessi Roesch





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WHAT WOULD **CHAT GPT** SAY?



Are product managers defacto QA?



Product managers are not defacto quality assurance (QA) professionals, but they do play a significant role in ensuring the quality of a software product. While QA professionals specialize in testing and quality control, product managers have a broader set of responsibilities that encompass product strategy, customer needs, market research, and overall product success. However, product managers and QA professionals often collaborate closely to achieve a high-quality product. Here's how their roles differ:

Product Managers: Product managers are responsible for defining the product vision, strategy, and roadmap. They focus on understanding customer needs, market trends, and the overall business goals. Their role involves making decisions about what features to prioritize, setting goals, and aligning the product with the company's objectives. While they care about product quality, their primary role is not to perform hands-on testing but to ensure that the product meets customer expectations and business goals.

Quality Assurance (QA) Professionals: QA professionals specialize in testing and quality control. They are responsible for designing and executing test plans, identifying and reporting defects, and ensuring that the software meets quality standards. QA teams perform various types of testing, such as functional testing, regression testing, performance testing, security testing, and more. Their role is to systematically assess the product's quality from a testing perspective.



AND...



However, there is a close collaboration between product managers and QA professionals. Product managers provide QA teams with the product requirements, goals, and priorities. QA professionals use this information to create test cases and perform testing activities. They report defects and provide feedback to product managers, who then make decisions about prioritizing bug fixes and improvements.

Product managers also rely on QA professionals to ensure that the software meets the specified quality standards and to assess the readiness of the product for release. The collaboration between these two roles is essential to delivering a high-quality product that aligns with the product manager's vision and customer expectations.

In summary, while product managers are not QA professionals by definition, they are responsible for overseeing the product's quality and ensuring that it aligns with strategic objectives. QA professionals specialize in testing and quality control and work closely with product managers to achieve the desired level of product quality.



SO MAYBE?

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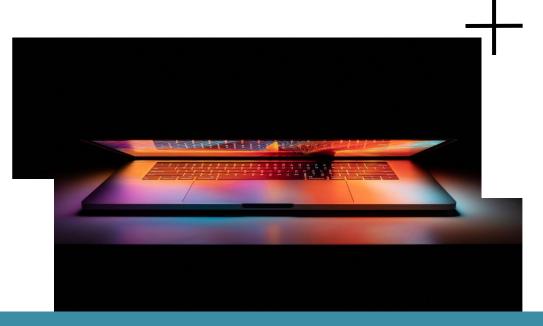
WHAT ABOUT IRL?





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WHAT WOULD CHAT GPT SAY?



What do product managers care about with respect to software testing?



Product Managers (PMs) play a crucial role in the development of software products, and their involvement in software testing is essential for delivering a successful and high-quality product. Here are some of the key aspects that Product Managers care about with respect to software testing:

- 1. **Quality Assurance**: PMs are ultimately responsible for the overall quality of the product. They want to ensure that the software meets customer expectations and performs reliably. Therefore, they care deeply about the quality assurance (QA) process, including testing methodologies and strategies.
- 2. **User Experience**: PMs are focused on delivering a great user experience. They want to make sure that the software is not only free of bugs and errors but also easy to use. Usability testing and user acceptance testing are critical to meeting these goals.
- 3. **Feature Testing**: PMs are concerned with ensuring that new features and enhancements work as intended. They work closely with the development team to define acceptance criteria and test cases for each feature. They want to verify that the software meets the requirements and delivers the expected functionality.

AND...



- 4. **Regression Testing**: PMs care about regression testing to ensure that new updates or bug fixes do not introduce new problems or break existing functionality. They want to avoid "regressions" where fixing one issue inadvertently causes another.
- 5. **Test Coverage**: PMs are interested in understanding the scope of testing. They want to know which parts of the software have been tested, which areas need additional coverage, and if there are any high-risk areas that require special attention.
- 6. **Testing Automation**: PMs recognize the importance of testing automation in accelerating the testing process and ensuring consistency. They may work with QA teams to prioritize test automation efforts and identify areas where automation can provide the most value.
- 7. **Defect Management**: PMs are concerned with how defects or issues are tracked, prioritized, and resolved. They want to ensure that critical issues are addressed promptly and that there is a clear process for managing and communicating about defects.

AND...



- 8. **Testing Metrics and Reporting**: PMs often rely on testing metrics and reports to gauge the progress of testing efforts and the overall quality of the software. They may want to see test execution progress, defect trends, and other relevant data to make informed decisions.
- 9. **Release Readiness**: PMs are responsible for deciding when a software product is ready for release. They collaborate with the testing team to assess the software's readiness based on the results of testing, the severity of any outstanding issues, and the overall quality.
- 10. **Feedback and Iteration**: PMs value feedback from testing phases to inform product improvements. They work with testers and development teams to iterate on the product, addressing issues and enhancing features based on user feedback and testing results.

In summary, Product Managers care deeply about software testing because it directly impacts the quality, reliability, and user satisfaction of the software product they are responsible for. They work closely with QA teams and development teams to ensure that testing aligns with product goals and customer expectations.

TLDR; A LOT

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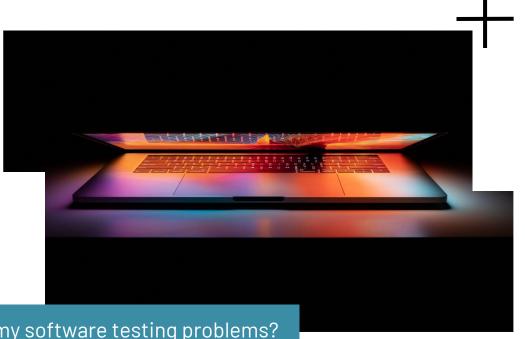


Source: Edureka

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How can I solve my software testing problems?



Solving software testing problems can be challenging, but it's crucial to ensure the quality and reliability of your software product. Here are steps you can take to address common software testing problems:

Identify the Problem: Begin by identifying the specific testing problems you're facing. Common issues include insufficient test coverage, unclear test cases, frequent regression issues, or difficulty in reproducing and debugging defects.

Analyze Root Causes: Dig deeper to understand the root causes of these problems. Are they related to the testing process, test data, test environment, or communication gaps within the team? Identifying the underlying issues is essential to finding effective solutions. Improve Test Planning:

Test Strategy: Define a clear test strategy that aligns with your project's goals and objectives. Ensure that testing is integrated into the development lifecycle from the beginning. Test Coverage: Review and enhance your test coverage to ensure that all critical functionality is tested. Consider various testing types (unit, integration, system, performance, security, etc.) based on your application's needs.



Enhance Test Case Design:

- Test Case Clarity: Ensure that test cases are well-documented, clear, and comprehensive. Make them easy to understand and execute.
- Test Data: Ensure that you have the right test data to cover different scenarios. Consider edge cases, boundary conditions, and real-world data.
- Test Automation: Automate repetitive and critical test cases to save time and increase test coverage. Choose appropriate test automation tools and frameworks.

Test Environment and Test Data Management:

- Stable Environment: Ensure that the test environment mirrors the production environment as closely as possible to catch environment-specific issues.
- Data Management: Manage test data effectively, ensuring it's consistent, up-to-date, and secure.

Defect Management:

Defect Reporting: Improve the process of reporting defects. Ensure that defects are documented with all necessary information for easy replication and debugging.

Defect Tracking: Implement a defect tracking system to prioritize, assign, and track the resolution of issues.

AND...



Communication and Collaboration:

- Team Collaboration: Foster open communication and collaboration between development, testing, and other stakeholders.
- Feedback Loop: Encourage regular feedback and post-mortem discussions to continuously improve the testing process.

Training and Skill Development:

- Training: Invest in training for your testing team to keep their skills up-to-date.
- Best Practices: Implement industry best practices and standards in your testing processes.

Continuous Improvement:

- Metrics and KPIs: Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness of your testing efforts.
- Feedback Loops: Continuously gather feedback from testers, developers, and other stakeholders to identify areas for improvement.





Tools and Technology: Evaluate and adopt suitable testing tools and technologies to streamline your testing processes.

Seek Expert Advice: If you encounter particularly challenging testing problems, consider seeking advice from experienced testing professionals or consulting with experts in the field.

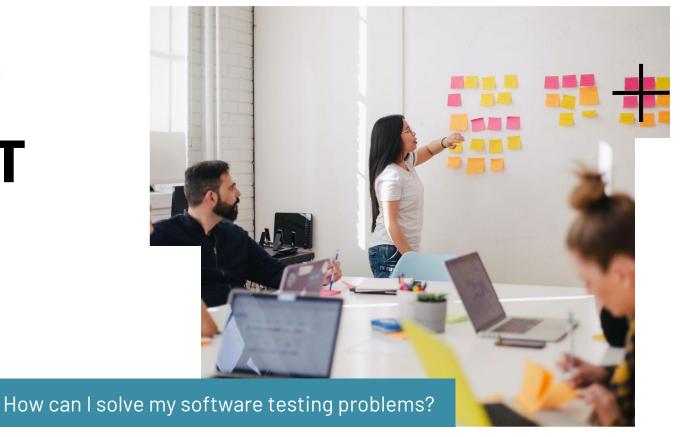
Remember that solving software testing problems often requires an iterative approach. Continuously monitor and adjust your testing processes based on feedback and results to achieve ongoing improvements in software quality.

TESTING IS A LOT OF WORK,

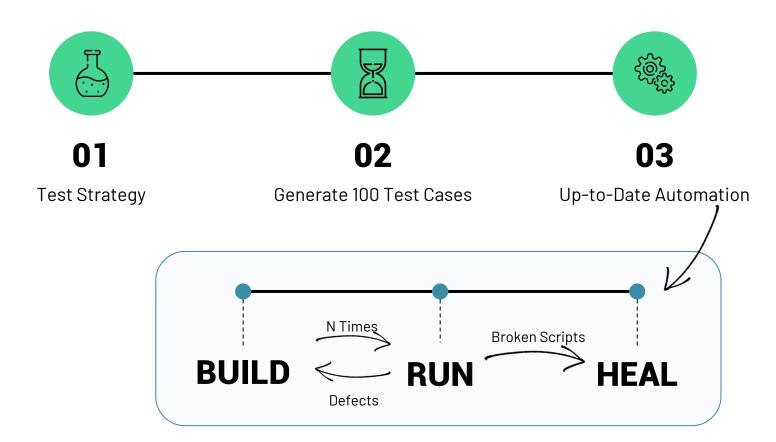
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HOW IT WORKS







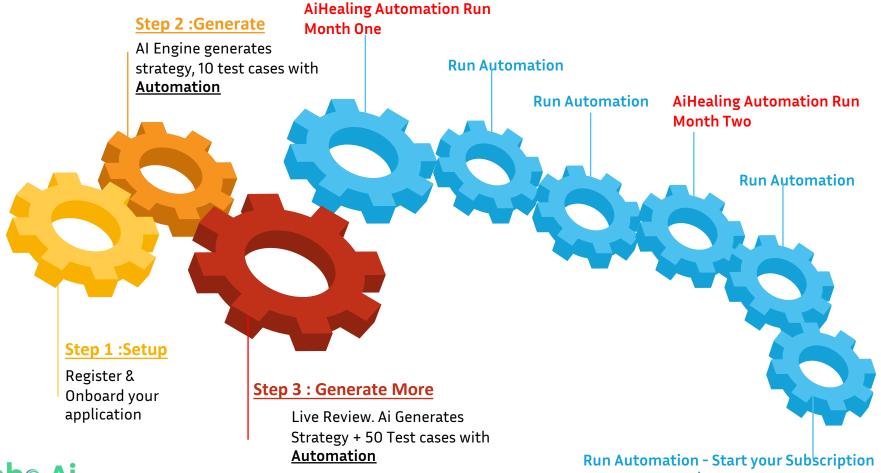


Traditionally, 80% of test case automation is maintenance is AFTER the automation is created. When automation is not up-to-date with software, releases are delayed. Maintenance can be VERY expensive or worse, is passed on to your customers to find bugs that escape into production.

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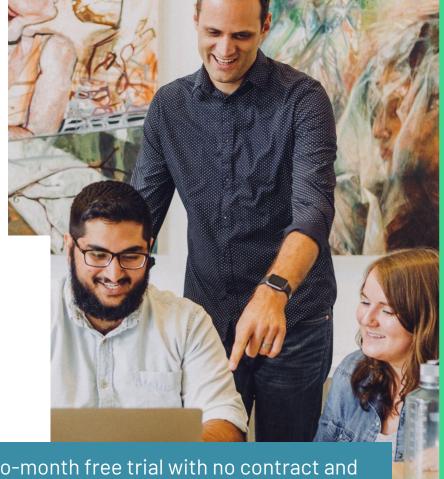




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