



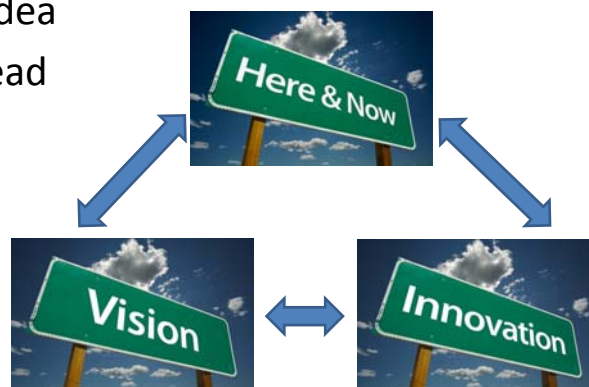
What makes an advanced tester?

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Advancing Expertise in Software Testing

What makes a tester 'Advanced'?

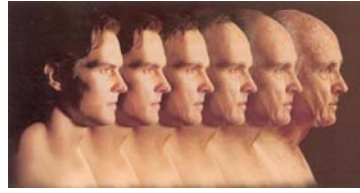
- Knowing where you are
- Having an idea
- Getting ahead



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Advanced in what?



- New Concept
- Approach and implementation
- Techniques
- Age
- Just making progress – do we not do that every day as we get more experience we advance our knowledge
- At a higher level than others in your organisation
- Ahead of your time
- Ahead of your peers

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The Dangers of Advancement



- In a constrained environment *any* advancement can be confused with the *right* advancement
- *"Lord Raglan wishes the Cavalry to advance rapidly to the front, follow the enemy, and try to prevent the enemy carrying away the guns."*
- One path may be an advancement in itself but a retrograde step in the bigger picture.

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Danger of being left behind

- New technologies
- New techniques
- New tools
- New qualifications
- Working well in advance of others, is that possible or desirable?



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Innovate and Advance

- To advance do you need to innovate?
- Develop others innovations – still progress
- Ideas need to be implemented, it has no value on it's own
- Advanced testing may be doing less rather than more?
- You may be advanced in certain aspects of the testing lifecycle but not all. What then is the measure of advanced – is there a scale?

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Reputation

- If you are considered 'the' advanced tester how do you improve – you must be a mentor and thinker and a leader and advance others.
- Is advanced certification just catching up with what is already considered mainstream?
- Do you need to be certified if you are considered advanced because of a good reputation?
- Of course you can always have a bad reputation.

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Advanced? In whose opinion? #1

- The wider industry, your customers, your peers
- Some other 'advanced' people
- You know more than me in one area or field, we are therefore by definition all advanced.
- We don't all start at the same level. Even with the Advanced certification your experience level will dictate 'how advanced' you are.

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Advanced? In Whose Opinion? #2

- Is advanced a combination of opinions – this is my opinion of an advanced tester; others will have theirs, maybe advanced is therefore nothing more than a consensus [which is said to water down opinions] of like minded people?
- Evolving industry – is anyone therefore advanced, e.g. Mobile Apps – we only recently have enough experience to define a ‘Best Practice’ or are we just keeping up?
- That is further advanced than others but not ‘in advance’ of the industry

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Your Opinion

- Do you consider yourself advanced?
- Do others consider you advanced?
- Is your advancement limited by others ability to understand or appreciate it?
- Do you value the opinion of an advanced tester?
They may be wrong ‘this time’ or you may not agree but that does not mean they are not advanced.



Knowledge and sharing

- You may be good at something but you don't know why – if you can't teach it then is that a problem?
- Is it your job or part of it?
- Business knowledge or application knowledge
- Answer a question
- Solve a problem

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Theory vs. Practice

- Can a non practitioner be considered advanced?
- Are you are a thought leader rather than a practitioner? Do you need to invent rather than follow?
- I've invented a new term.
I've replaced 'Good Enough Testing' with.....
BEWECODOGITHELIOUS known as BEWE Testing
- Does that make me an advanced thinker?
- Is thought and improvement only based on experience – it may be a limiting factor?
- If you are or are not certified does this limit your ability to prove you are advanced?

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Levels of advancement

- Relevance to the person who is asking or the role you carry out. Foundation is 'advanced enough' in some cases.
- Does advanced come with an upper and lower boundary [BVA] - Is there a scale of advancement? I guess so in the eyes of ISTQB, the Foundation is the lower limit, Expert the upper
- Reaching the limit of known knowledge on a subject – even if that is limited
- Can you apply your advancement and are you adaptable and context driven?

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Success or failure

- Do it that way and you are right – if the patient dies not so good. Trial and error?
- Cancer research is advanced but ultimately they are still failing
- Failure is advancement – don't do that again
- Prototyping – advanced party, if is OK bring everyone along for the ride – is that what certification is – a point in time. I did my advanced in 2009 am I still advanced?

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Advanced in context

- How advanced do you need to be?
 - We don't all start from the same point
 - We don't all need the same level
 - As per quality, what do we want, what can we afford , what do we need
- Context driven advancement
- An Advanced tester working in a non-advanced environment – constraints
- You need a framework or culture in which to advance

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Experience is the key – right?

- 10,000 hours [6 work years] then you are considered an expert or 'well advanced'
- I've played golf for that long but I still play off 22
- Even if I did 10,000 hours as a brain surgeon I'd still be useless – I'd be sick or pass out every time
- I've done lots of other things for 10,000 hours and I'm not advanced in those either – unless sleeping is a skill!!
- Are you considered advanced if no one asks your opinion?

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You need experience to advance

- Yours
- Others
- Success and Failure
- Driver and desire
- Implementation
- Training



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Experience is nothing without.....

- An Objective
- Framework or Roadmap
- Guidance and mentoring
- Aptitude/talent
- Physical attributes
- Sharing

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In Summary - An Advanced Tester is therefore nothing without

- Experience
- Peer opinion
- Qualifications
- Communication/Sharing/Mentoring
- Continuous learning
- Reputation
- Scope/Relevance/Contextual

***“Identification, Innovation, Implementation and
Publication”***

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Last word

- There is usually a word in another language that sums up more accurately than we can in English. In this case it is the French!

Advanced = Perfectionnéé



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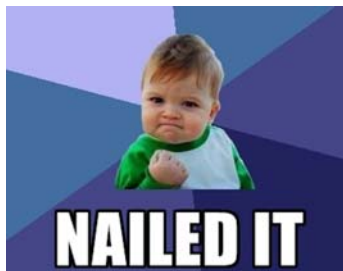


Taken one step further....

- Courtesy of René Descartes – also French; so this is allowed, although I must admit it is a bit of a stretch!

I Test therefore I am

I am an Advanced Tester therefore I am Perfect



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Thanks for Listening

Let's advance the conference now 😊

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