

Neil Hudson is the lead principal consultant at SQC. He is a highly experienced IT / software manager and lead with a comprehensive technical knowledge and a world class understanding of IT systems assurance, risk management and testing. He has worked in the IT industry since 1985 and during this time has successfully undertaken a diverse range of roles spanning from development and test through requirements capture and design to delivery and test management. He is a self-motivated innovator and leader able to take on and deliver very demanding assignments.

Throughout his career he has worked in roles where successful outcomes have been essential to the aims of the sponsors. He has led and delivered numerous complex assignments within a diverse range of organisations. He has worked extensively in senior test architect and test management roles and in enabling others to deliver such roles. His wider experience includes periods in software development, system definition and design, leadership of development teams and in programme management. He has managed major organisations employing hundreds of people and led small teams focussing on particular technical missions. His broad experience has developed robust technical and managerial skills and capabilities that permit him to deliver successfully in very challenging circumstances.

He has implemented advanced software solutions and led development of such solutions. He has worked in roles across the complete programme life-cycle from system concepts through requirements and design into development integration and test. He has delivered and managed assurance and testing of very sophisticated high intensity critical IT projects. This history has developed knowledge, aptitudes and competencies that span both testing and development disciplines.

Under his leadership SQC has a long track record of delivering project testing services, risk / test management, project review, performance / scalability testing, test automation and associated consultancy services across many sectors. The application of innovative and disciplined approaches together with the professionalism with which they are applied has repeatedly delivered results that exceed client expectations and materially improve the outcome of projects. Recent challenges have seen these approaches applied inside BT as he has spent much of the last three years as acting Head of Test for the BT Retail IT estate.

During this period supporting BT he defined, created, developed and led the unit responsible for protecting and testing BT Retail IT solutions. Development of the unit involved selection of the management team, formulation of operating policies and principles, establishing an effective operation, integration into the wider organisation and ensuring recognition of the unit's remit and ethos. As Head of Test he held responsibility for the overall integrity of testing along the delivery chain, responsibility for the end-to-end test service and was ultimately responsible for the protection of the IT estate holding final IT organisation sign-out accountability.

The BT Retail end-to-end test service he built holds a multi-million pound budget delivering overall solution testing of large scale enterprise business systems. This work is delivered across a number of high intensity large volume development pipelines in a complex operating environment using a mixed in-house and outsourced model. The quality and effectiveness of the end-to-end test service were key factors in enabling successful delivery of programmes such as the Retail strategic CRM / OSS system; this is one of the largest and highest intensity Agile software delivery programmes in the world. Beyond these immediate responsibilities his wider remit within BT included oversight and assessment of programme delivery plans and technical risk management throughout the IT delivery chain.

At SQC he has developed and established approaches and capabilities that provide highly effective services for test management, test delivery, test automation and non-functional testing. SQC's delivery of automation services has covered the implementation of sophisticated effective test automation solutions for clients and helping clients and their suppliers to develop and improve their own use of test automation. Solutions have been delivered for enterprise CRM and billing systems, communications systems and for real-time control systems. Sophisticated performance and scalability assurance testing assignments have included complex highly scalable rich internet solutions, booking systems, high profile public institution search engines and web-sites for government services. Testing and assurance deliveries have encompassed real-time embedded systems, small scale applications, large scale web solutions and critical elements on enterprise level systems.

The portfolio of services SQC offers provides effective risk control in complex IT and software projects. The result is SQC's successful track record solving client problems, avoiding project failures and increasing the benefits clients obtain from their software and IT investment. As principal consultant it is Neil's ability to rapidly assess and comprehend uncertain situations, to identify strategies in the face of this uncertainty and to plan and then lead the execution of the solution, overcoming the inevitable obstacles along the way, that enables SQC to accept and successfully deliver these novel complex challenging assignments.