

Sarah Clark is a senior test analyst, performance tester and test automation lead with a successful track record over a broad spectrum of systems and IT solutions. Her experience has ranged from realtime embedded devices via high profile web-sites across very large scale enterprise CRM systems to telecoms operational support system. A natural tester; committed, disciplined with an inherent ability to identify and exercise risk areas. Possession of a broad deep testing knowledge has resulted in a history of delivering complex testing challenges to tight time-scales.

As a test analyst and test team mentor she has led numerous assignments that have gone beyond the norms of standard testing; well beyond looking for compliance to explicitly declared behaviour. Practised in the use of SQC's innovative techniques for generating an understanding of the domain, for structuring test focus, for identifying risk and for reliable effective test implementation. Effective use of these disciplines on real-world challenges has resulted in highly successful test outcomes in demanding situations.

Advanced testing skills are supplemented by a comprehensive understanding of both software / IT technology and of how these technologies go wrong. Experience implementing complex test frameworks in languages including C, C++ and Java is combined with insight gained diagnosing obscure faults to give an understanding of software and systems technology that many developers would aspire to. This experience ensures effective contributions at all stages from concept formulation through implementation to final test; a capability that realises the major benefits of early test involvement and that enables the use of truly Agile Testing practices.

Rigour and an aptitude for spotting risk combine with systematic test design skills to ensure effective leadership when testing high risk areas. Analytical ability, tenacity and a forensic approach deliver effective investigation and replication of hard to reproduce issues. Comprehensive technical knowledge together with thinking outside the constraints of written specifications, to embrace the real-world threats, enable effective testing in specialist domains such as operational robustness, data integrity and anomaly handling.

A principal functional automation lead with wide experience using commercial tools, custom automation and hybrid approaches. Implemented test solutions in Java, C/C++ and other mainstream languages. Automated testing of systems via web-service; tested the concurrent real-time operation of embedded software. Led both local implementation projects and implementation by outsourced teams. Established framework based test automation solutions providing highly maintainability automation and reduced test automation lead times. Led the implementation of end-to-end test automation on BT Retail's Siebel based strategic OSS. Provide automation architectural guidance and technical support to a "big four" consultancy and to world leading offshore service providers.

A non-functional, technical and specialist test practitioner with in-depth knowledge of performance / load testing, reliability testing, resilience testing and data integrity assurance. Successful history of load test delivery carrying full responsibility for assignment leadership, workload analysis, risk identification, scenario design, test data synthesis, scripting, tooling and execution. Load testing domain experience encompassing large scale internet applications, government self-service portals and high profile public institution search capabilities. Piloted and implemented unique principles and practices for specialist test areas including reliability testing, system integrity testing and data integrity / data quality testing. Wide use of commercial test tools and bespoke test automation to achieve objectives that manual testing cannot address.

When the insight and knowledge gained over eleven years of testing complex systems is applied beyond the traditional testing remit it delivers major benefits. A systematic, investigatory and always questioning approach helps all those involved in the development to assess and improve their activities. Such collaborative agile test engagements have provided benefits across many disciplines; from helping to find the right conceptual solution through improvements in design to more robust first time coding by developers. This experience led to the formulation of data integrity design and test principles adopted by a major telecoms provider, to the responsibility for promoting these principles throughout the organisation and to the role as the mentor on their application.

Sarah originally trained as a management accountant and gained extensive experience in commercial accounting before moving into software testing in 1998. Her initiation into software testing came when she accidentally created a single legged entry in a leading commercial double entry book keeping system. The typical response from the supplier that "that is not possible" and "it did not happen" triggered a one woman campaign to prove them wrong. Happily Sarah was successful in this and something "that is not possible" became a readily reproducible fault. Thankfully she continues to apply the same tenacity to this day.