

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING
Tuesday October 28, 2003

Breaking Software for Fun and Profit
Michael Bolton, DevelopSense

In most of the books and other literature on software testing, you'll see lots of material on preparing test plans and test cases. You'll find templates, frameworks, formulas and flowcharts. You might read information on cyclomatic complexity, the Capability Maturity Model, and cause-and-effect graphing. On the other hand, you might not find very much about specific techniques for finding important bugs quickly. Too bad, really--because finding bugs can be lots of fun... and finding them before the product ships saves trouble, time, and money for our organizations.

Do you want to find lots of bugs? If so, you should

- Force error messages to occur (and cheat in order to find them)
- Identify and challenge the product's own claims about itself
- Overwhelm the product with data
- Force invalid outputs
- Use Scenario Tests and "Soap Opera Tests"

Black-hat hackers use similar kinds of tests for evil; testers can use similar techniques before the product ships to shut the hackers out.

In this discussion, inspired by James Whittaker's "How to Break Software" and informed by the Context-Driven School of software testing, Michael Bolton will show you a number of ways to attack software vulnerabilities, with the focus on finding defects, annoyances, and security risks. He'll demonstrate that these attacks can expose bugs quickly, even in commercially released software.

Michael Bolton is a longtime resident of Toronto who has recently returned from Los Angeles, where he spent six years as a program manager, programmer, testing trainer, and independent consultant. His company, DevelopSense, provides training and consulting in effective program management and software testing. He writes about software and related subjects, with articles appearing this year in STQE Magazine and TASSQuarterly. This year Michael was an invited participant at Cem Kaner and James Bach's Workshop on Teaching Software Testing in Melbourne, Florida. He is a member of TASSQ, the IEEE, and Gerald M. Weinberg's SHAPE Forum.

Note: After the formal TASSQ meeting, Michael also invites attendees to a follow-up discussion at a local pub--the specific location to be determined by the participants.

**Presentations are on the last Tuesday of the month at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel,
123 Queen Street West, across from New City Hall**

If taking the subway, exit at Osgoode station (Queen and University), walk one block east along Queen to York.
If driving, you can park at New City Hall, which is accessible underground to the Sheraton Centre.

Dinner and Presentation: \$35 Members, \$50 Non-Members
Cash and Cheques are accepted at the door.

Please RSVP by noon on Thursday October 23, 2003

5:30 P.M. Networking 6:00 P.M. Dinner 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. Presentation

**For reservations, information and membership inquiries,
visit our web site at www.tassq.org or phone TASSQ at (416) 444-4168**