

SPECIAL NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

Tuesday November 29, 2005

Skilled Testers and Their Enemies

James Bach, Satisfice, Inc

According to James Bach, there are various schools of thought on the right way to test software. The Factory school sees testing as better when it is turned into a routine. Two variants of the factory school are the *Traditionals* and the *Agiles*. They are at war with each other. The *Traditionals* favour extensive documentation and independent testers, whereas the *Agiles* favour extensive automation and no independent testers, as such.

James Bach thinks both sides of the Factory school are fundamentally ignorant about software testing. He thinks the reason for this is that proponents of both sides typically avoid studying software testing, and instead rely on unexamined folk beliefs that seem scientific based on a view of science at least 100 years out of date. In this talk he will argue, as he has argued since 1990, that good testing is not factory work at all: it is intellectually demanding and fundamentally un-automatable exploratory investigation. It is learnable and teachable. It is a disciplined, systematic process. Good testing makes use of tools, but it cannot be reduced to merely the things tools do.

James believes that the Factory school ignores the role of skill, but thinks that skill-based process improvement (not based on slogans, documents, or metrics) is the wave of the future, and he will try to show, in this talk, specifically what skills he's talking about, and briefly demonstrate a couple of them.

James Bach (<http://www.satisfice.com>) is a pioneer in the discipline of exploratory software testing and a founding member of the Context-Driven School of Testing. He is the author (with Kaner and Pettichord) of *Lessons Learned in Software Testing: A Context-Driven Approach*. Starting as a programmer in 1983, James turned to testing in 1987 at Apple Computer, going on to work at several market-driven software companies and testing companies that follow the Silicon Valley tradition of high innovation and agility. James founded Satisfice, Inc. in 1999, a tester training and consulting company based in Front Royal, Virginia.

Event Changes from our Usual Dinner Meetings

Dinner will not be served at this event.

Note also the *change in the usual location* and the *change in the usual time*.

**University of Toronto, Medical Sciences Building, Room 3153,
1 King's College Circle (map: <http://www.osm.utoronto.ca/map/>)**

The building is opposite Convocation Hall. Enter on the "second" floor; the room is on the third floor.

Parking on circle: Enter either from St. George St. via Galbraith Rd., from Wellesley St., or from College St. via King's College Road.

By subway: Exit at Queen's Park station at the northwest corner of Queen's Park and College. Use the sidewalk that does not follow the road but rather goes northwest. It goes directly to the Medical Sciences Building.

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

Please RSVP by noon on Thursday November 24, 2005

6:00 P.M. Registration/Networking 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. Presentation

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