Foreword

We all know that ICT plays a very important role in our day-to-day lives. But at what costs? A lot of time and money is used to develop, test and maintain information systems.

In times in which the economy is less rosy, companies also look for ways to reduce IT costs and are looking for ways to optimize their IT investments. Every Euro or Dollar spent has to make a positive return on investment, and information is needed that shows that business cases for projects are viable.

This demands for new ways to build and maintaining systems. By choosing for example iterative development methods the development cycles can be accelerated and involvement of stakeholders can be guaranteed. This results in less time spent on "useless" modules and systems that are not used in the end.

For testing, companies can achieve cost savings by applying a method for structured testing. By doing so the tests are documented in a standard way and this makes it easier to maintain and re-use. In 2002 we published a book on our successful test method: "Integrated Test Design and Automation: using the TestFrame Method" by testing experts Hans Buwalda, Dennis Janssen en Iris Pinkster of LogicaCMG. This was only a first step.

We kept working on better ways to get grip on test projects by searching for best practices in test management. This resulted in an approach where the tests are based on risks and linked with the requirements. This allows companies to better prioritize their tests. They can start with testing the areas with the highest priority. So, whatever happens, the most important parts are tested. Besides this, it is easier to communicate with the various stakeholders. All speak the same language and the testers are better able to tell what time and money is needed to cover the most important risks. This book describes the integral test management approach: from setting the starting points of the project through progress management to handing the testware to maintenance.

This means that besides a way to describe how to measure quality we also have a way to keep track of the status of the quality.

I am sure that you will enjoy reading this book and will be able to use a lot of topics mentioned to improve your test management process!

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