

Why Testers Need to Learn How to Code

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“If you’re a tester and don’t know how to code, you won’t have a job in five years.”

-- Jeffery Payne, STAREast Keynote 2010

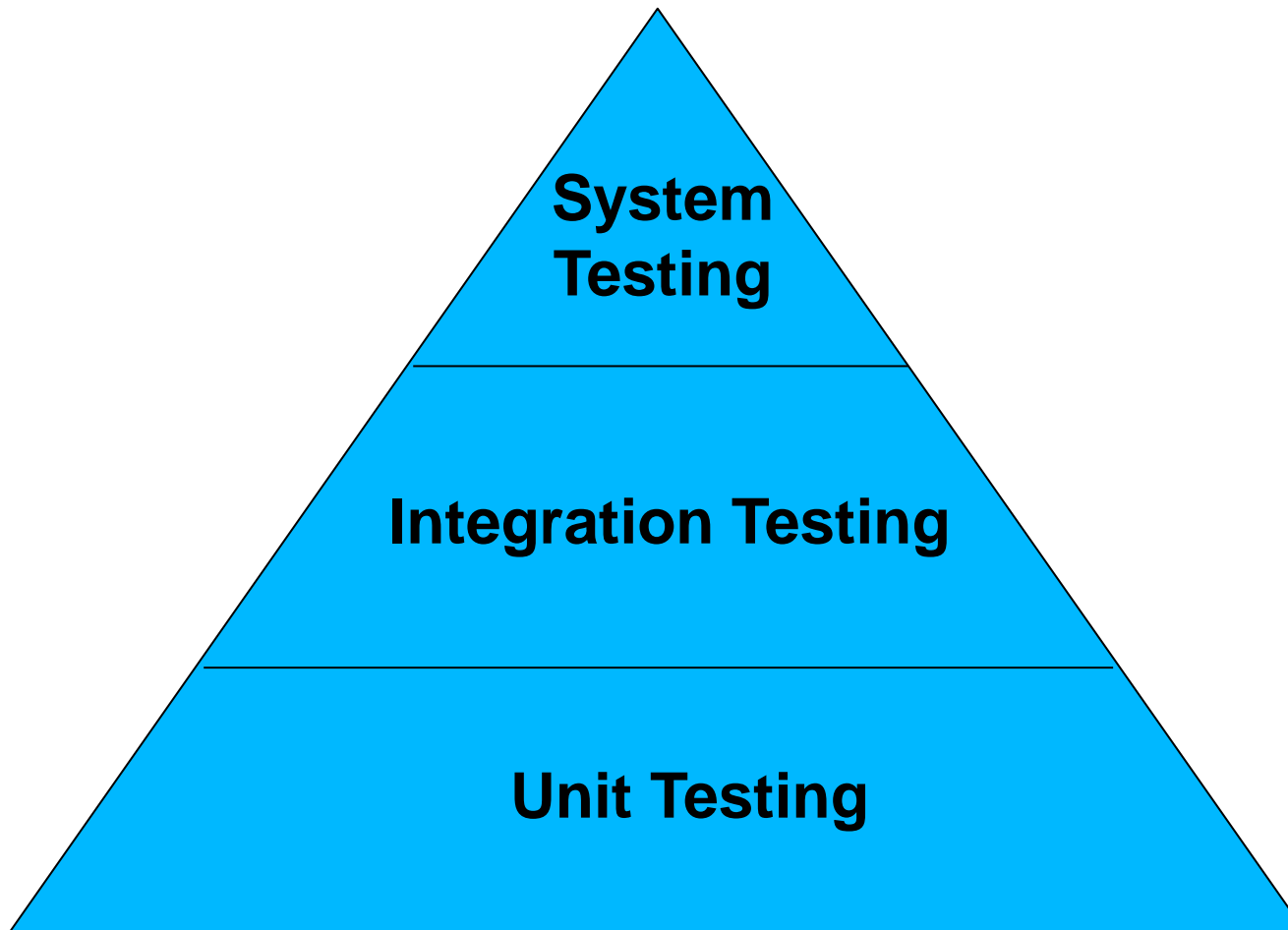
Why did I say this?

- The drive for business agility is changing everything
- “The economy is not *recovering* as much as it is forever *changing*”
 - Healthcare Executive
- This means the agile movement in software development is not a fad ... it is a trend
- Agile software development is a philosophy ... harder to resist than a methodology (because it makes sense!)

Agile philosophy that is driving changes to testing

- *Short iterations* – testing must be done thoroughly and rapidly which can only be accomplished through automation
- *Whole team quality* – no one wins if testing doesn't finish
- *Emergent design* – need strong, rigorous regression testing to assure that an ever changing design does not break existing functionality
- *Test driven development (aka test early)* – developers must test their own code for implementation errors

Agile Test Automation Pyramid



Automation approach

Primarily only done for
non-functional reqs

Acceptance test-driven
development
Story testing

Test-driven and test-first
development

Why you should care

- It's in the best interest of your **career**
- It makes you more valuable and respected by the rest of your team
- It makes your software better!

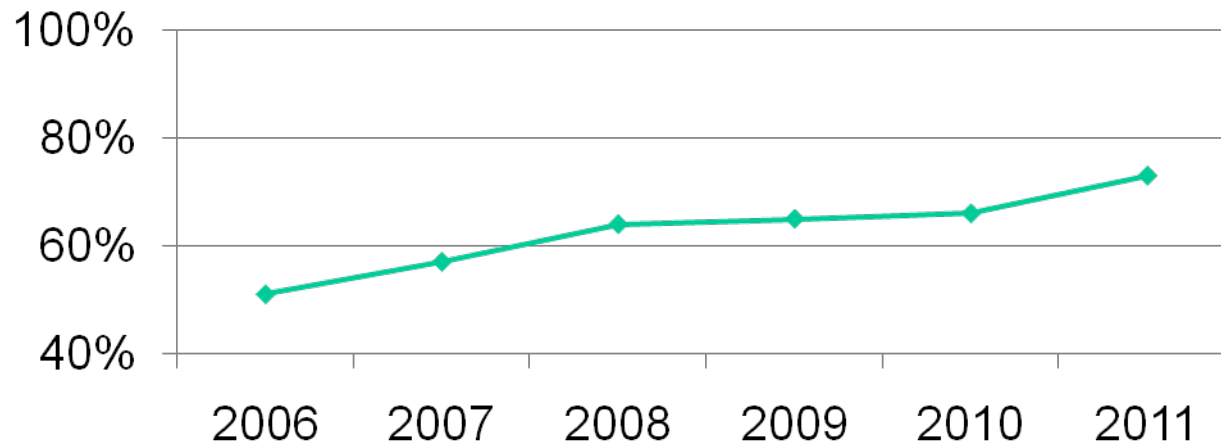
*Don't be this generation's version of a COBOL programmer
praying for another Y2K!*

Evidence

- Testing job ads survey
 - 80% of testing job ads reviewed required programming skills
 - Survey by Elisabeth Hendrickson, Quality Tree Software (www.qualitytree.com)

- Recruiting data

Testing jobs that require programming skills



- Analysis by Paul Moyer, TrustedQA (www.trustedqa.com)

A Wakeup Call

The world is changing

Agile is here to stay

It's time for you to act

