USING DIFFERENT TESTING POLARITIES TO HELP MANAGE FOCUS WHILE TESTING

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Testing polarities

- Warming up vs. cruising vs. cooling down
- Doing vs. describing
- Doing vs. thinking
- Careful vs. quick
- Data gathering vs. data analysis
- Working with the product vs. reading about the product
- Working with the product vs. working with the developer
- Training (or learning) vs. performing
- Product focus vs. project focus

- Solo work vs. team effort
- Your ideas vs. other peoples' ideas
- Lab conditions vs. field conditions
- Current version vs. old versions
- Feature vs. feature
- Requirement vs. requirement
- Coverage vs. oracles
- Testing vs. touring
- Individual tests vs. general lab procedures and infrastructure
- Testing vs. resting
- Playful vs. serious

Source: http://www.satisfice.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/et-dynamics22.pdf

Not all polarities work in all situations!

Some examples of ones that I think do work
are included in the following slides.
Experiment to find out what works for you…

Polarities when chartering

In Your Charter:

- Testing vs. touring
- Feature vs. feature
- Requirement vs. requirement

☐ When you charter your tests, include polarities explicitly in your mission. This practice is particularly effective for shorter test charters (20-30 minutes).

☐ When you charter, use the polarities to help you identify new charter ideas. This practice feeds overproduction and abandonment.

While Chartering:

- Individual tests vs. general lab procedures
- Coverage vs. oracles
- Lab conditions vs. field conditions

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Use polarities when note taking

- I often start with MCOASTER as a template when I take session notes.

- Another approach I sometimes use, is to lay out different test polarities.

- Don't use more than one or two of them at a time, but notice how your notes change when you do this.

The following work *particularly* well:

- Warming up vs. cruising vs. cooling down
- Careful vs. quick
- Data gathering vs. data analysis
- Lab conditions vs. field conditions
- Current version vs. old versions
- Feature vs. feature
- Requirement vs. requirement
- Coverage vs. oracles
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- Individual tests vs. general lab procedures and infrastructure
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Polarities while pairing

☐ When pairing, have each person in the pair take a polarity for the session.

☐ As decisions are made, have each person vocalize their perspective on what should be tested next, what data should be used, or what oracle might offer the best results.

☐ As you write notes, bugs, or automated tests, reflect on both sides of the polarity when you do so.

Examples:

• Doing vs. describing

• Doing vs. thinking

• Data gathering vs. data analysis

• Working with the product vs. reading about the product

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Use structured time

Examples:

• Quick vs. carful

• Doing vs. thinking

• Working with the product vs. reading about the product

• Working with the product vs. working with the developer

• Current version vs. old versions

☐ Try using a clock to manage focus for periods of time

☐ Focus on a specific polarity for 10 to 15 minutes; then focus on it's opposite for an equal amount of time

☐ Write down what you notice

XNote Stopwatch

00:00:31.76

Stop   Snap   Reset   ▼ More...

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