

Bangalore Testers Coffee Evening with Pradeep Soundararajan

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Here is a feedback that I got from one of my coffee sponsor (a tester who had (and bought) coffee with me)

Hi,

Sometimes, there just aren't enough words. It is not on many occasions that I am at loss of words to convey my thoughts about an incident or a person. But my rendezvous with the "testing train" is certainly one such incident. And Pradeep Soundararajan is undoubtedly one person about whom I can talk at length and yet not describe what I feel about him!! My husband who is usually skeptical about any body whom I speak laurels about, was awed after listening to "that fellow" for a little less than 15 minutes. He googled and fished out his resume and passed it on to me and said "This is the most impressive resume that I have ever come across!". Upon reading that I realized how insignificant I am. My eyes popped out after I read the updated resume that he sent me when I asked for it.

Let me try to recollect that day when my stars conjured up my long-awaited meeting with him. I was very much excited that day – as excited as a 5 year old who was about to board a flight for the first time – when I was supposed to meet him. So much so that I could not concentrate on my work. I wanted to read through his blog once again for the fear of being put into an embarrassing situation where-in he would ask me something that he had blogged about which I did not know. I had, on an earlier day, boasted to him that I had read through his blog word by word. But I could not go past the first para - I was on pins to meet him!! The auto ride to Barista was filled with excitement and anticipation.

Meeting him was my dream come true! He spoke at length about testing. I was mesmerized by what he said. I sat awe-struck wondering why I had never thought about testing the way he did. His passion about testing was tangible in every word he said. I had always loved listening to people who spoke with conviction. And he has tons of it!! The small examples he drew to make me understand the simple lessons of testing was awesome!! The navigation board example, the Brrrista exapmle, and all the little examples he so carefully crafted to improve my understanding did indeed boost my understanding. I was overwhelmed by what he said. What I thought would be just a half an hour meeting got stretched to 2 hrs and 15 minutes. What more could I ask God for that day?

The next day at work (and every day after that) I made a conscious effort to use his tips for better testing. I started exploratory testing and I enjoy doing it now. What I could not believe about him was that he took time to follow-up on my progress by taking the initiative to ping me and enquire what I did and what I intended to do.

I now have a lot of self-confidence in myself and my work. I am now more focused on what I do and what I want to achieve. Many thanks to you Pradeep!! I am indeed indebted to you for all what you said and did to me. You have influenced me in more ways than one and if I believe I am a better tester than what I had been weeks ago, the credit goes to you.

Thanks a ton!!

Regards always,

Shanti PI

What is this concept?

Some testers expressed their inability to attend my workshops because their management didn't sponsor them or they couldn't afford the cost from their pocket. So, after thinking this situation for a while, I arrived at offering FREE* discussions on software testing to those who might be interested. I suspect there might be many more.

Is this the first time Pradeep is experimenting this?

He has been doing this but hasn't published it or made it official, so this is the public announcement of what he has been experimenting, successfully.

How can I frustrate Pradeep at a Coffee meeting?

You could frustrate Pradeep at the coffee meeting you might have with him if you meet him in a context of clearing interviews or getting jobs in testing.

How can you delight Pradeep?

- a) By paying for his coffee (which does not cost more than a 100 rupees)
- b) By discussing topics and challenges you face that can help you and Pradeep become better a better tester.

What should I do?

Simple, all you need to do is call up Pradeep at +91 98451 76817 and set up a time and hop in at his chosen less noisy coffee shop in South Bangalore.

What does the star in FREE* mean?

The star means that Pradeep wouldn't be charging any professional fee nor would charge for the exercises that he might give you, in order to help you and him become better testers.

What will I gain by this?

If you have already had one such session, you know what you would gain, if not, it's tough to say what you'd gain. There might also be a case that you gain nothing. No, wait... Maybe if you add 2 table spoons of sugar while sipping the coffee, you might gain a little weight, momentarily.

Pradeep doesn't guarantee any great learning for you because he can't say what is great to you. If you enjoy discussing testing topics and stories with him, he'd gain happiness and might be true to you, too.