

Progress Report 2008 :: Pradeep Soundararajan

Last year, I published my progress report for 2007 and it helped me a lot. The progress that I make as a tester in a specific year is influenced by events that happen in that year. There are a lot of events that happen in one year. The ones that I mention here are those that are of significance and the ones that I can recollect. I use my e-mail accounts, brain memory, hand written notes and other sources to publish this report. It requires a lot of time to even recollect and draft most of the events.

My progress report would include my failures and what might look as failure to people other than me. A failure could turn out to be a key for a progress. I am a human and hence fallible. There are some failures we can afford to have. There are some failures we can afford to have it just once. There are some failures we love to laugh at, maybe after a year. There are failures that become a story at a conference. A failure isn't bad always.

Events 2008

Date	Event	Type
10 th Jan	Meet with PSR, Senior Director - Quality, Yahoo India	Networking, Learning
14 th Jan	First draft of Findings about Recognition	Learning, Article, Presentation
18 th Jan	Alexander Lobach initiated translation of some Tester Tested articles in Russian	Credibility
9 th Feb	Rapid Software Testing Approach Workshop in Bangalore	Learning, Coaching, Consulting
22, 23 rd Feb	Asia Pacific Software Testing Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Credibility, Learning, Networking, Consulting
26 th Feb	Meet with Ranjni Shridar, Head of Testing, SunGard	Networking, Learning, Consulting
27 th Feb	Review work of Jim Bullock articles	Learning, Consulting
28 th Feb	Tester Meet over coffee : Sharath Byregowda	Learning, Coaching
05 th Mar	Tester Meet over coffee : Shanti PI	Learning, Coaching
15 th Mar	Rapid Software Testing Approach Workshop in Bangalore	Learning, Coaching
17 th Mar	Interview practice sessions for ETI candidates in Bangalore	Coaching, Consulting
22 nd Mar	Anuj Magazine published a report of hand writing analysis as a part of his research work on Graphology and Software Testing connection	Credibility
28 th Mar	Work with Sharath on Testing Exercises	Coaching, Consulting
28 th Mar	Meet with Vipul Kocher and other testers	Learning
05 th Apr	Meet with Elizabeth Hendrickson in Bangalore	Learning, Networking
12 th Apr	Meet with Elizabeth Hendrickson & Joe Arnold in Bangalore	Learning, Networking
18 th Apr	Resigned from TriVium to move into full time Consulting	Consulting
23 rd Apr	Got married to Bharathi and holiday in Singapore	Learning (yes, it is ☺)
16 th May	Received invite to speak at Oredev conference in Sweden	Credibility
20 th May	MOU with Edista Testing – 1 year Consulting Agreement	Consulting
21 st May	Decided to attend CAST 08 conference in Toronto	Learning
28 th May	Created a Test Challenge for Test Republic members	Learning
1 st Jun	Book writing	Learning

13 th Jun	Publication of articles on problem solving on CNN IBN	Consulting, Credibility
14 th Jun	Signed NDA with a client in Australia for a 3 month testing activity	Consulting
22 nd Jun	Visa denied to travel to Canada for CAST 08	Huge disappointment ☹
25 th Jun	Evening meet with Manoj Nair, Sri and other testers in Pune	Consulting, Networking
27 th Jun	Member of Parliament of Canada recommends my second Visa application for attending CAST 08	Hope ☺
08 th Jul	Received Visa to travel to Canada	Extreme happiness ☺
10 th Jul	Corporate training :: Rapid Software Testing Approach :: Mumbai	Coaching, Consulting
10 th Jul	Evening meet with testers in Mumbai	Coaching, Networking
11 th Jul	Landed at Toronto and stay at Michael Bolton's home	Travel
11 th Jul	Meet with Jerry Weinberg and Jonathan Kohl	Dream come true, Learning
12 th Jul	Day 1:: Participant at Toronto Workshop in Software Testing :: Thanks to Fiona Charles and Michael B	Learning, Networking
13 th Jul	Day 2:: Participant at TWST	Learning, Networking
13 th Jul	Dinner with TWST participants	Networking
13 th Jul	Meet with Ben Simo, Scott Barber, Mike Kelly, Karen, David Gilbert, Adam White, Adam Goucher, Paul Holland, Paul Carvalho, Sherry Heinz, Tomas, Kristin, Nick, Morven, and Bart Broekman etc...	Dream come true, Learning
14 th Jul	Participant at Testers Communication Clinic by Jerry Weinberg, Toronto	Learning, Learning, Fun, Learning
14 th Jul	Bought 15 books of Jerry Weinberg and Johanna Rothman	Learning
15 th Jul	Day 1:: Conference :: CAST 08 :: Toronto	Learning
15 th Jul	Meet with Dr Cem Kaner	Dream come true, Learning
15 th Jul	Pub Meeting with testers :: Toronto	Networking, Learning
15 th Jul	Day 2:: Conference :: CAST 08 :: Toronto	Learning, Networking
15 th Jul	Delivered a lightning talk:: Findings about Recognition :: CAST 08	Credibility, Learning
15 th Jul	Dinner with Ben Simo, Dough Hoffman, Bart Broekman and Michael Bolton	Learning, Networking
16 th Jul	Niagara Falls visit with Natarajan Alagappan & discussion about testing in India	Learning, Fun
22 nd Jul	Arguing with James Bach over my idea on Findings about Recognition	Learning
24 th Jul	Corporate training :: Skilled Exploratory Testing :: Pune	Coaching, Consulting
25 th Jul	Corporate training :: Hands on testing coaching :: Pune	Coaching, Consulting
25 th Jul	Audience of the corporate client clapped after witnessing my testing activity on their product.	Credibility
26 th Jul	Hired Sharath Byregowda for a testing project	Coaching, Learning
27 th Jul	Public Workshop on Skilled Exploratory Testing, Bangalore	Coaching
28 th Jul	Public Workshop on Skilled Exploratory Testing, Bangalore	Coaching
30 th Jul	Dave translates Tester Tested articles in Dutch language	Credibility
1 st Aug	Nick , Ask The Headhunters, compliments my presentation on The Bad State of Software Testing Interviews in India	Credibility
2 nd Aug	Research on Test Team Competency Assessment Framework for Edista Testing	Consulting, Learning

11 th Aug	Training brains to test :: Workshop :: ETI :: Bangalore	Coaching, Consulting
20 th Aug	Book writing	Learning
30 th Aug	Recording of videos of Exploratory Testing with Sharath and Ajay	Coaching
11 th Sep	Interviewing candidates for Test Consultant and Coach roles	Consulting
13 th Sep	Recording of videos of Exploratory Testing	Coaching
18 th Sep	Public Workshop :: Manual Testing Skills :: Bangalore	Coaching, Consulting
19 th Sep	Public Workshop :: Manual Testing Skills :: Bangalore	Coaching, Consulting
20 th Sep	Meet with Vipul Kocher & other testers	Learning, Networking
23 rd Sep	Book Writing	Learning
8 th Oct	One Day Testing Assignment	Learning, Consulting
13 th Oct	Test 2008 tutorial :: Rapid Software Testing Approach :: Bangalore	Coaching, Consulting
14 th Oct	Test 2008 tutorial :: Rapid Software Testing Approach :: Delhi	Coaching, Consulting
14 th Oct	Discussions on testing experiences with Rahul Verma	Learning, Consulting
15 th Oct	Meet with Shrini, Rahul, Ashwin, Ravindran, BJ Rollison & Dhanasekaran	Learning
16 th Oct	Awarded for Thought Leadership and Contributions to Software Testing communities in India at Test 2008	Credibility, Honor, Responsibility
20 th Oct	Corporate Workshop :: Skilled Exploratory Testing :: Pune	Coaching, Consulting
21 st Oct	Corporate Workshop :: Skilled Exploratory Testing :: Pune	Coaching, Consulting
23 rd Oct	Public Workshop :: Skilled Exploratory Testing :: Bangalore	Coaching, Consulting
24 th Oct	Public Workshop :: Skilled Exploratory Testing :: Bangalore	Coaching, Consulting
15 th Nov	Meet with Vipul Kocher	Learning, Networking
16 th Nov	Meet with James Bach, Malmo, Sweden	Dream come true, Learning
17 th Nov	Participant at James Bach's Rapid Software Testing class	Learning
20 th Nov	Oredev Conference, Malmo, Sweden	Learning, Networking
20 th Nov	Dinner meet with Henrik, James, Laura, Karen	Networking, Learning
21 st Nov	Presenting "Great testing stories from India" at Oredev	Credibility, Learning
21 st Nov	Dinner meet with Tobe Ryber, James, Laura and a Magician	Networking, Learning
22 nd Nov	Meet with James Bach	Learning
24 th Nov	STC conference, Bangalore	Networking
24 th Nov	Interviewed Head of Testing of - Wipro, AppLabs, Stock Exchange, Deloitte, AIG, Target, Patni etc.	Networking, Learning
25 th Nov	Presenting :: Testing without Best Practices at STC	Credibility, Learning
27 th Nov	Book writing	Learning
29 th Nov	Draft of Proposal on Hands on Testing Training for ETI	Consulting, Learning
10 th Dec	Senior Coach at India's first hands on testing training for freshers with Edista Testing Institute	Coaching, Learning

Books that had a great influence on my progress in 2008

- Turning Numbers into Knowledge - Jonathan Koomey (thanks to Ben for the gift, I owe him a lot)
- Perfect Software and other Illusions about Testing – Jerry Weinberg
- Lateral Thinking – Edward De Bono
- Are your lights on – Jerry Weinberg & Don Gause
- The book that I am writing (Watch out for it in 2009)

Testers who got most of my time (in other words, from whom I collaborated in India for learning)

- Sharath Byregowda :: Won an award for best contribution to Test Republic. Cleared BBST.
- Mohammad Kothari :: An extreme self learner who read the entire Microsoft Windows Help File
- Manoj Nair :: Joining me next month to work more closely for bettering the craft
- Natarajan Alagappan :: Traveled with me to Toronto to attend CAST 08 from his own pocket money

Blog Posts from Tester Tested in 2008 (those that are of significant importance to me)

- Progress Report of 2007
 - Got Anuj curious to analyze my handwriting
- Great Testing Stories from India (Created by *not* following any best practices)
 - Got me to Malaysia and Sweden for presenting it in more detail
- The (bad) state of software testing interviews in India
 - Was mentioned in Johanna Rothman's blog on Hiring Technical People
 - Was complimented by Drake of Ask The Headhunters
 - Got the post as a forward from someone (without that person realizing it was me)
- Most test cases fail
 - Can you believe that I logged 52 comments on my own post?
 - Thanks to Michael Bolton (the devil) and Jonathan Kohl (the angel) idea
- Faking Experience in Software Testing from India to USA
 - Got all those fakers and their friends angry on me for speaking truth
 - Good job, Pradeep
- Your search for bug free software ends here
 - Some testers from India wrote to me that they'd be thinking better after reading that.
- Grammy Award for Michael Bolton and others
 - Its amazing moment for me that Michael Bolton was awarded for his innovations in testing
 - Wait, not just he, T H E Y won the award
 - While my guru got an award, my student, Sharath was awarded at the same time in India
- Hands on Testing Training in India
 - A defining moment for coaching software testers in India (in my perspective)

For those who'd love to see Pradeep fail than succeed they will enjoy the following

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM

Workshop : Skilled Exploratory Testing/Approaches and Techniques for Better Testing
 Instructor : Pradeep Soundararajan
 Date : 23.OCT.2008 – 24.OCT.2008
 Participant Name : _____
 Organization : _____
 Designation : _____
 Email : ~~_____~~ @yahoo.com
 I would never want to be contacted

EVALUATION

Sr	Parameters of Interest	1 Bad	2	3	4	5 Good
INSTRUCTOR						
01	Instructor's knowledge of subject	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
02	Instructor's quality of presentation	-20000 ← <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
03	Instructor's handling of Questions	-30000 ← <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
04	Would you attend any related workshops by the same instructor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WORKSHOP TOPIC						
05	Usefulness of topic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
06	Fulfillment of Objectives	Not at all <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
07	Quality of Case Studies (if provided)	Not at all <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
08	Would you recommend this workshop to anyone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHERS						
09	Quality of Workbook	No, workbook <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Usefulness of reference materials (if provided)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sorry NEVER [enough I wanted money once]

It might look like a failure but notice the success that no trainer could have ever got a rating of minus 20,000 and minus 30,000 other than me.

Yeah, there are no schools of testing.

What did you like most about the workshop?

NOTHING AT ALL. This is just waste of money & effort & time !!!

What did you dislike most about the workshop?

Instructor's skills and the way he explained (!!!) exploratory testing. He could not answer the questions. He did not touch the topics mentioned in the brochure:

Any other Comments?

- * ~~Learnings~~ Instructor need to improve his communication & influential skills.
- * Pradeep Sumbhrajani could not explain exploratory testing its differences from other testing techniques, and when it has to be started and in "SKILLED" exploratory testing techniques program.

Other failures

- Was unable to complete the book writing by the time I had planned because I am practicing to be a good enough writer.
- The number of books that I bought and could not read is growing in number. However, I am maintaining a bookshelf near my toilet and it definitely helps ☺
- Screwed up my understanding of a testing contract work and hence had to pay a price for it
- Suffered severe stress and pain levels over the body. I owe my body good health in future.
- Suffered Obsessive Compulsive E-mail Checking Disorder.

Final Note

I have missed a lot of information with respect to events that happened this year. It took me about 15 hours to compile all this information and I hope it is worth your time as well. I learned that I should probably make better notes from this year onwards instead of costing my time every year but I realize that it's a good challenge to do it.

2008 was a fantastic year overall, not just for me but for other testers whom I work with. I don't step into a year with goals to achieve but my only mission for every year is to learn, practice and demonstrate better testing. I want to thank you all for the support you have offered to me or to the challenges you gave in critiquing me or for the simple fact that you hate me a lot. All of which helps me progress.

I feel great when I sit back and think that I traveled to Canada at my own cost (Of course, Michael did help in mega bytes) for the sake of educating myself and meeting people who have been inspiring me and feeding my passion through their work. I didn't think for a single moment, "Is that so much money?" because I was imbibed with the thought of cost versus value.

Interactions with James Bach, Jerry Weinberg, Cem Kaner, Michael Bolton, Ben Simo, etc... was fantastic. They are testing mammoths. As Scott Barber said, "If you can see it in your mind, you will find it in your life". It's so true.

One of the huge disappointment that I had in 2008 and even today - The interpretation of the intention behind all work I do seems to be a little misguiding for some testers in India whom I care about. In the last one year at least, I consciously never did a task just for the sake of gaining reputation. I am working hard and possibly smart to help good people in the craft better their testing skills and thereby contribute something to the craft of software testing. Anything done for the sake of gaining reputation can be disastrous.

2009 looks fantastic so far because I have with me a couple of testers who are serious about doing a better testing and we are looking for project to work on that can pay us. We are practicing testing and skills that can make us test better together. All of us are building complimenting skills. Our mission is to demonstrate better value for the cost than what most Indian IT organizations currently seem to offer. Working with die hard testers is fun for me.

I must mention Mohan Panguluri a.k.a PSK. He is a co-founder at Edista Testing who is not just my client but a great friend that I gained in 2008. He would say he isn't a tester but is definitely game for all new ideas that help in bettering the software testing craft. I also want to thank my friends Shrini Kulkarni, Vipul Kocher, Nandan Pujar and Amith Prakash for spending time discussing things inside and outside the testing space of my life.

My wife Bharathi has been an excellent support. The fun part is, months before I met her she attended a testing course somewhere in Chennai and decided that it's a boring job. Not her fault, the person who taught her had done no testing at all and had been coaching people in testing for a couple of years. Can you believe that I hardly spoke about testing with her? Thanks to my parents, gurus and God for their blessings.

Let's get back to work.

Cheers,

Pradeep Soundararajan :: <http://testertested.blogspot.com> :: <http://viddler.com/explore/testertested>