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Meeting Agile Deadlines with Session Based Testing

Swiss Testing Night Zürich | 20.09.2011 | Mason Womack

Who are we?

ImmobilienScout: the market leader in real estate

- More than 5 Million unique users per month¹
- More than 1.2 billion page impressions per month²
- More than 250 million exposé viewings per month²
- More than 2 million contact requests per month per email and 1 million per telefon²
- More than 1.2 million real estate listings per month³
- Over half of all real estate seekers in Germany found their property at ImmobilienScout

¹) Source: Comscore

²) Source: ImmobilienScout24, eigene Schätzung

³) Source: ImmobilienScout24, eigene Angaben

ImmobilienScout: a great place to work!

- Top 100 placement in 2011 “Deutschland Beste Arbeitgeber”
- Over 500 employees currently employed
- More than 160 of them in the IT (internal)
- 28 employees in the Quality Assurance Department

Mason Womack: Head of Quality Assurance at ImmobilienScout

- 13 years experience in QA
- Leading Agile QA Teams since 2005
- Experience testing internet technology, telecommunications, aeronautics, gaming and more!

Why Session Based Testing?



Why Session Based Testing?

Michael, my guys are frustrated because they don't have enough time to finish testing activities during a sprint!



Have you heard of Session Based Testing?



What is Session Based Testing?

- Form of exploratory testing
- A session is 2 hours, no longer
 - 1 - 1.5 hour testing
 - 0.5 - 1 hour debrief
- Team is focused; session has an agenda
- Constant communication (direct or via IM)
- Product owner and developer accessible
- Report on the test session



An opportunity to try it

- A critical late change to a release on the day before go-live
- “Just a small change – a couple of lines of code...”
“...In the session handling...”
- Everything needed to be tested again
- A bright test engineer asked
“Why don’t we try that weekend testing thing?”
- ...and so it began...



How do we use it?

- Usually as a group, with a test lead
- Following one or more charters
- Examples of what we test:
 - New Features + Major Changes
 - Complete Regression Test
 - Bug fixes
- PO's and developers also test!
- Communicating during testing
 - Test lead takes notes
- Debrief session revisits key points of the test session
- Bugs are only logged in Jira once the PO has decided it is a bug



Example Session Report

- Number of sessions completed
- Number of problems found
- Function areas covered
- Percentage of session time spent setting up for testing
- Percentage of session time spent testing
- Percentage of session time spent investigating problems

What's really great about it?

- It gets everyone involved!
- It focuses everyone involved!
- It allows testers variation in their work!
- It gets the job done quickly! QA is not the bottleneck!
- It's fun, and creates team spirit! (Important for embedded QA!)
- It allows multiple perspectives simultaneously on the task at hand!
- It shows everyone what QA does!



How can you apply it?

- You don't need a huge QA department!
- "It seems really intuitive." - IT IS!
 - Good testers are already working in a similar way
 - Average testers can develop more quickly by practicing SBT
- Start small
- Be prepared to coach non-QA staff in how to test

Tools to help

- Session Tester (beta)

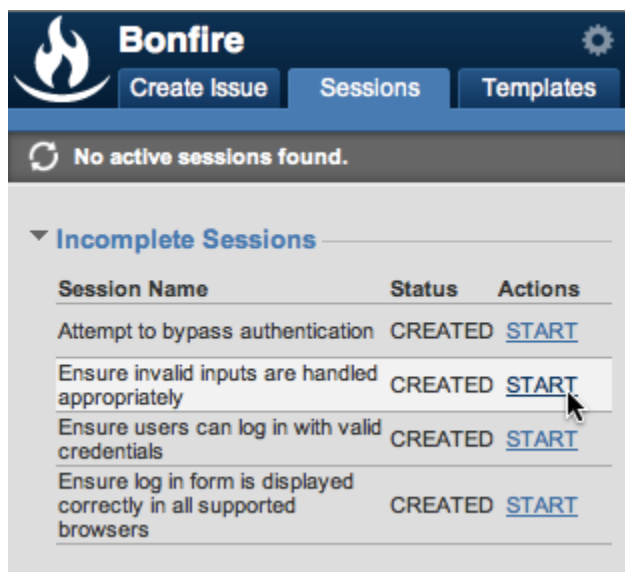
SESSION
TESTER



Session Tester is an exploratory testing tool for managing and recording Session-Based Testing. It has a timer so you limit your test sessions to a particular length, and it provides an easy way to record session notes.

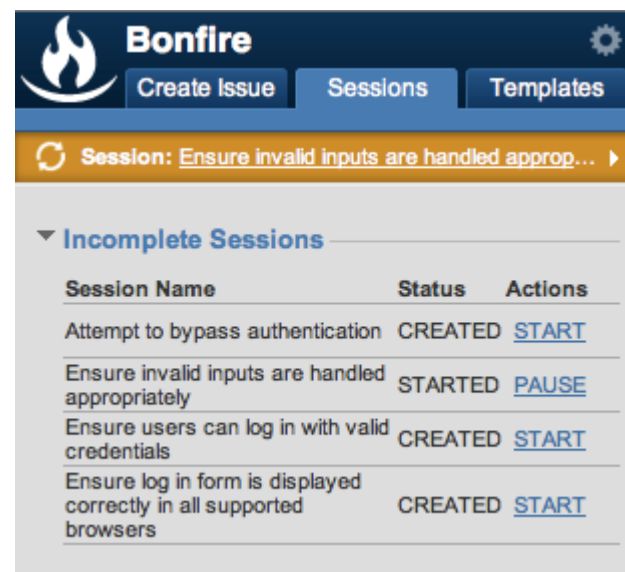
Tools to help

- Bonfire from Atlassian



The screenshot shows the Bonfire interface with the 'Sessions' tab selected. A message at the top states 'No active sessions found.' Below this, a section titled 'Incomplete Sessions' contains a table with the following data:

Session Name	Status	Actions
Attempt to bypass authentication	CREATED	START
Ensure invalid inputs are handled appropriately	CREATED	START
Ensure users can log in with valid credentials	CREATED	START
Ensure log in form is displayed correctly in all supported browsers	CREATED	START



The screenshot shows the Bonfire interface with the 'Sessions' tab selected. A message at the top indicates an active session: 'Session: Ensure invalid inputs are handled approp...'. Below this, a section titled 'Incomplete Sessions' contains a table with the following data:

Session Name	Status	Actions
Attempt to bypass authentication	CREATED	START
Ensure invalid inputs are handled appropriately	STARTED	PAUSE
Ensure users can log in with valid credentials	CREATED	START
Ensure log in form is displayed correctly in all supported browsers	CREATED	START

Thank you. Any questions?



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