

# Are Agile Testers Different?



**Agile Vancouver 2009**

Lisa Crispin

*With Material from Janet Gregory*

# Introduction

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- Me: Tester for ~ 14 years
  - Programmer, tech support background
  - Got involved with projects up front
  - Close developer collaboration
  - Hated telling customers: sorry, next release!
- Joined 1<sup>st</sup> XP team in 2000
  - Embraced change!
  - Needed lots of courage
- Currently on Scrum/XP team



# Takeaways

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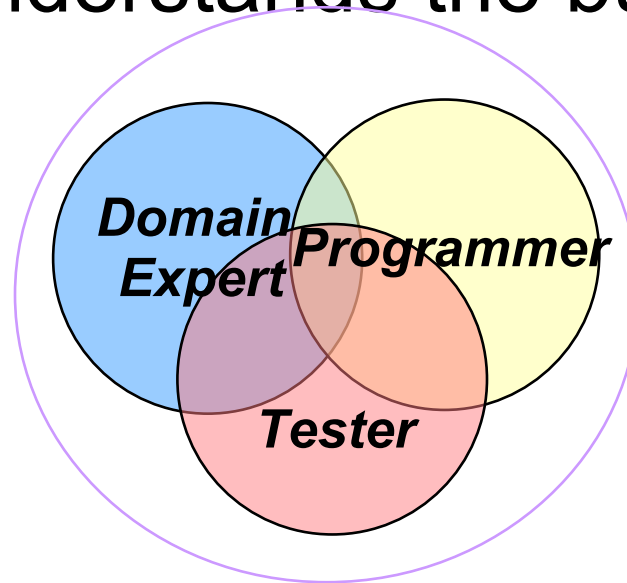
- How lines between testers and other roles have blurred
- How and why to get an “agile testing mindset”
- How agile testers add value to their teams
- How to apply agile principles to enhance testing



# Blurred Lines Between Roles

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- Agile developers are “test infected”
- Agile testers and programmers collaborate
- Agile testers and customers collaborate
- “Whole Team” responsibility for testing
- Everyone understands the business



# Agile Testing Mindset

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- Focus on doing best work
- Focus on delivering best possible product
- Proactive, willing to take on any task
- Continual improvement
- Looking for new challenges



# Agile Tester Characteristics

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- Passionate about delivering business value
- Results-oriented
- Craftsmanlike
- Collaborative
- Focus on the customer



# Developing an Agile Testing Mindset

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- Commit to helping team deliver best possible product
- Get out of your comfort zone
- Open your mind
- Pair, collaborate
- Apply these agile values and principles to your daily work



# Questions?

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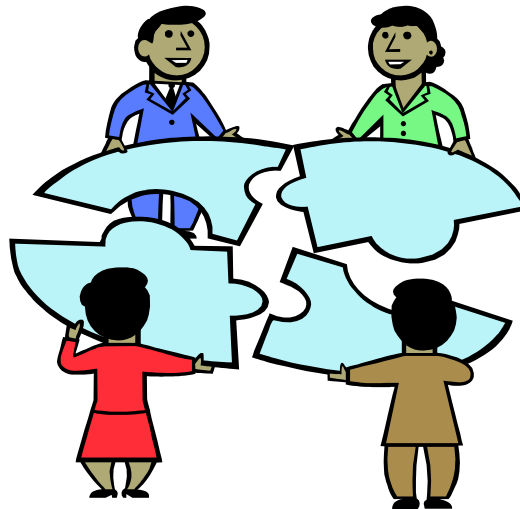


# Agile Values and Principles Focus On:

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- Individuals and interactions
- Working software
- Customer collaboration
- Responding to change

What's behind these? Five principles for an agile tester are...



# 1. Continuous Feedback (Part 1)

- Testers are information providers
- Help customers articulate requirements as examples and tests
- Turn requirements into executable tests
- Test and code concurrently
- Tests guide team, provide course corrections

**RothTestCase1**  
TEST RESULTS

Assertions: 25 right, 0 wrong, 0 ignored, 0 exceptions

**TEST CASE F-3 - ADL >= ADP & CHECK CUT DATE <= 04/15/TV+1 AND > 3/15/TV+1**

Import  
com.epitan.domain.compliance

This has a roth deferral.  
ADL = P; remainder = 0  
ADL > ADP and date < boundary  
Earnings for Roth gets added in with earnings for regular refunds, with whatever code is appropriate.

Generate 1099R: Future	whidowCheckd	whidowTwebd	adlRefund	adlRothRefund	adpRefund	adpRothRefund	acpRefund	aaRefund	aaRothRefund	gainLossRatio	refundCheckDate	run!
03-15-2006	04-15-2006	2500.00	2500.00	2000.00	2000.00	1000.00	0	0	0	1.0	04-15-2006	Yes

Check 1099R: Future	code	firstCode	amount	month	month
P	0	2500.00	2500.00	0	0
B	0	1300.00	1300.00	0	0
P	0	2500.00	0	0	0

ADP is 0 and date on boundary, roth refund only

Generate 1099R: Future	whidowCheckd	whidowTwebd	adlRefund	adlRothRefund	adpRefund	adpRothRefund	acpRefund	aaRefund	aaRothRefund	gainLossRatio	refundCheckDate	run!
03-15-2006	04-15-2006	0	2000.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	04-15-2006	Yes



# 1. Continuous Feedback (Part 2)

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- Feedback helps identify and remove obstacles
  - Task cards / action items
  - Big visible charts
- Retrospectives
  - Use feedback to continually improve
- Automated feedback
  - Build results
- Feedback must be quick



## 2. Direct Communication (Part 1)

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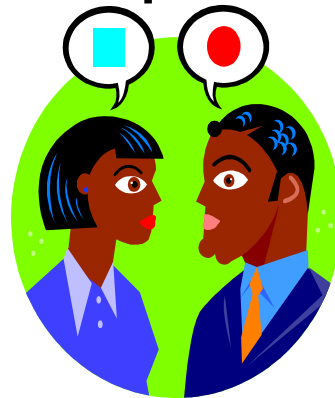
- “Power of Three”
  - Tester, developer, business expert
- Tester sees multiple viewpoints
  - Business
  - End user
  - Technical
- Help find a common language
  - Example-based



## 2. Direct Communication (Part 2)

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- Agile development needs continual collaboration
- Distributed teams face extra challenges
  - Phone, instant message, webcams
  - Collaboration tools
    - Documenting, tracking
    - Pairing
- Maximize real-time, person-to-person



### 3. Simplicity (Part 1)

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- Simplest thing that could possibly work
- Limit scope
- Keeps focus on value, ROI
- Ask customer to set quality standards
  - But provide information
  - Break down to simple steps
  - Help customer make good decision



### 3. Simplicity (Part 2)

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- Test “just enough”
- Lightweight tools and techniques
- Push automation to lowest levels possible
- Keep regression tests as simple as possible
- Focus on core functionality
  - Evaluate ROI of edge cases, side trips
  - Identify “bling”



## 4. Responding to Change (Part 1)

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- Customers can get changes next iteration
- Testers crave stability
  - “I've tested that, it's done”
- Keep talking to customer
- Do “just enough” advance work
  - Capture business satisfaction conditions
  - Elicit examples
  - Use roles such as analyst if needed



## 4. Responding to Change (Part 2)

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- Automated regression testing key to keeping up with change
- No agile team can succeed with only manual testing
- Business value loses value if not timely
- Build up your toolbox to allow switching gears
- Use retrospectives to improve



# 5. Enjoyment

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- Agile development rewards passion
- Team values testers' contributions
- Everyone is test-obsessed
- Makes our job fun and rewarding!

*No donkeys were harmed  
in preparing this presentation*



# Questions?

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# How the Principles Help Customers

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- Tests drive development and avoid gaps between expectation and delivery
- Customers struggle to articulate requirements
  - Testers ask good questions
  - Turn examples into tests programmers can understand



# How the Principles Help Testers

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- Agile testers take team-oriented approach
- Adapt skills and experience to team's needs
- Learn new skills to meet new challenges
  - Sitting and waiting for work to come to you doesn't fly
  - All roles need each other
- Testers' unique perspectives critical to team



# How the Principles Help Teams

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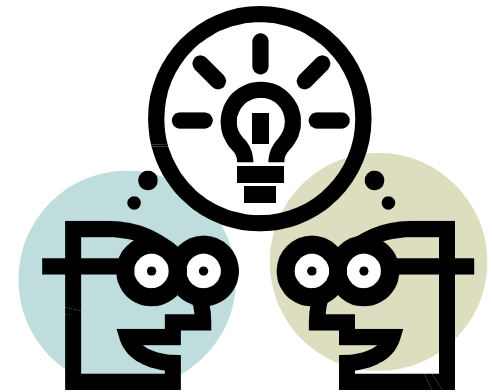
- Lines are blurred
- Analysts also think about big picture, write tests
- Programmers may be skilled at taking multiple viewpoints
- Teams take advantage of each member's skills, regardless of title
- Teams with skilled testers are more likely to communicate effectively with customers



# Your Agile Testing Mindset

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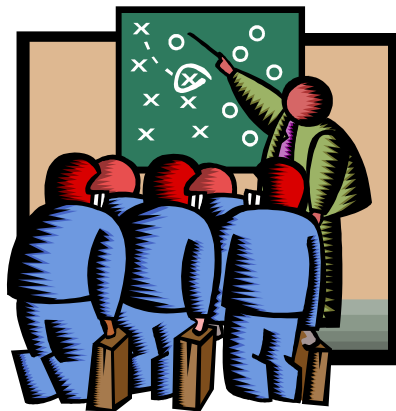
- Helps your team deliver value quickly
- Helps your team find best software solutions
- Helps you transfer your testing skills to other team members
- Helps you learn new skills from other team members
- Keeps your work rewarding



# Are Agile Testers Different?

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- Excellent testing skills help anywhere
- Agile testers:
  - Transfer those skills to teammates
  - Adapt to frequent, short iterations
  - Adapt to incremental development
  - Focus on delivering value
  - Have courage to get out of comfort zone



# Questions?

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# Agile Testing Resources

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- [lisa.crispin.home.att.net](http://lisa.crispin.home.att.net)
- [www.agiletester.ca](http://www.agiletester.ca)
- [www.agilealliance.org](http://www.agilealliance.org)
- [www.exampler.com](http://www.exampler.com)
- [agile-testing@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:agile-testing@yahoogleroups.com)
- [www.fitnessse.org](http://www.fitnessse.org)
- [webtest.canoo.com](http://webtest.canoo.com)
- [fit.c2.com](http://fit.c2.com)



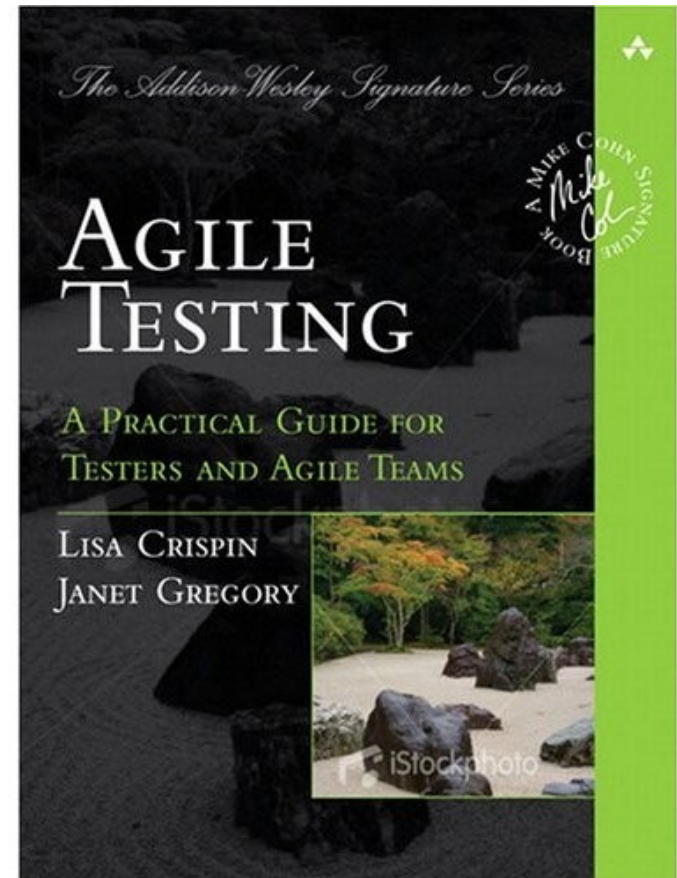
# Available for pre-order!

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## *Agile Testing: A Practical Guide for Testers and Agile Teams*

By Lisa Crispin and Janet Gregory

[www.agiletester.ca](http://www.agiletester.ca)

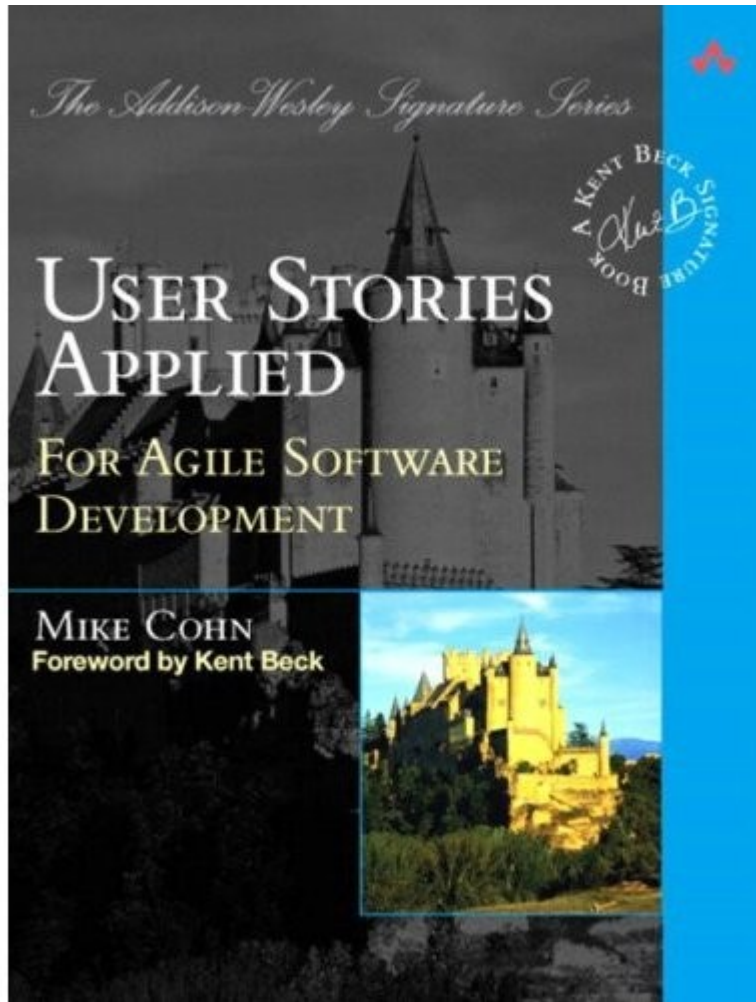


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# Agile Resources

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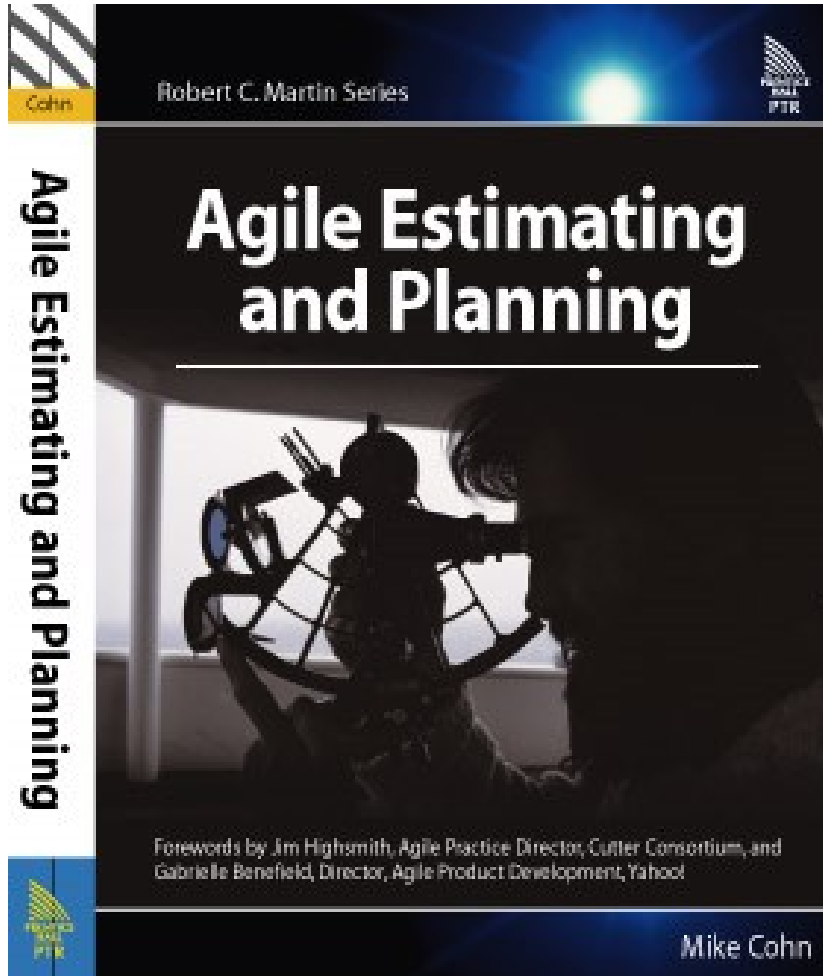


*User Stories  
Applied*  
by Mike Cohn



# Agile Resources

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## *Agile Estimating and Planning*

By Mike Cohn

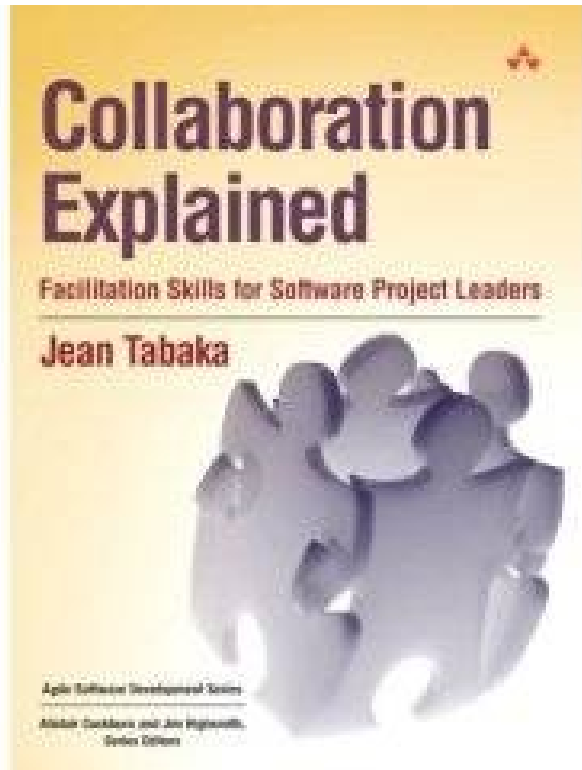


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# Collaboration

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*Collaboration Explained :  
Facilitation Skills for  
Software Project Leaders*

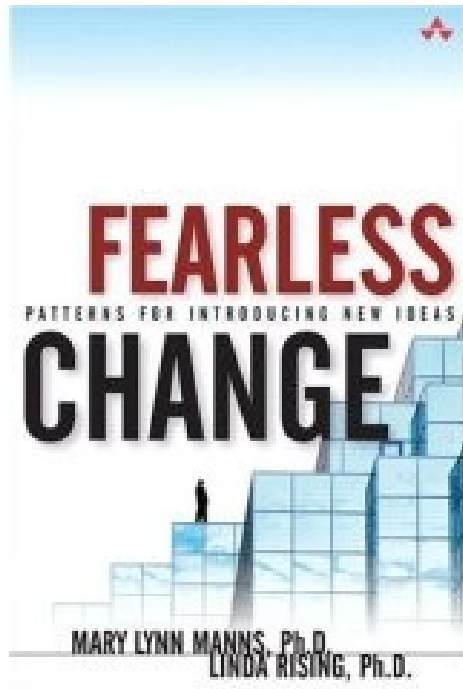
By Jean Tabaka

Available on Amazon



# Implementing Change

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*Fearless Change: Patterns for introducing new ideas*

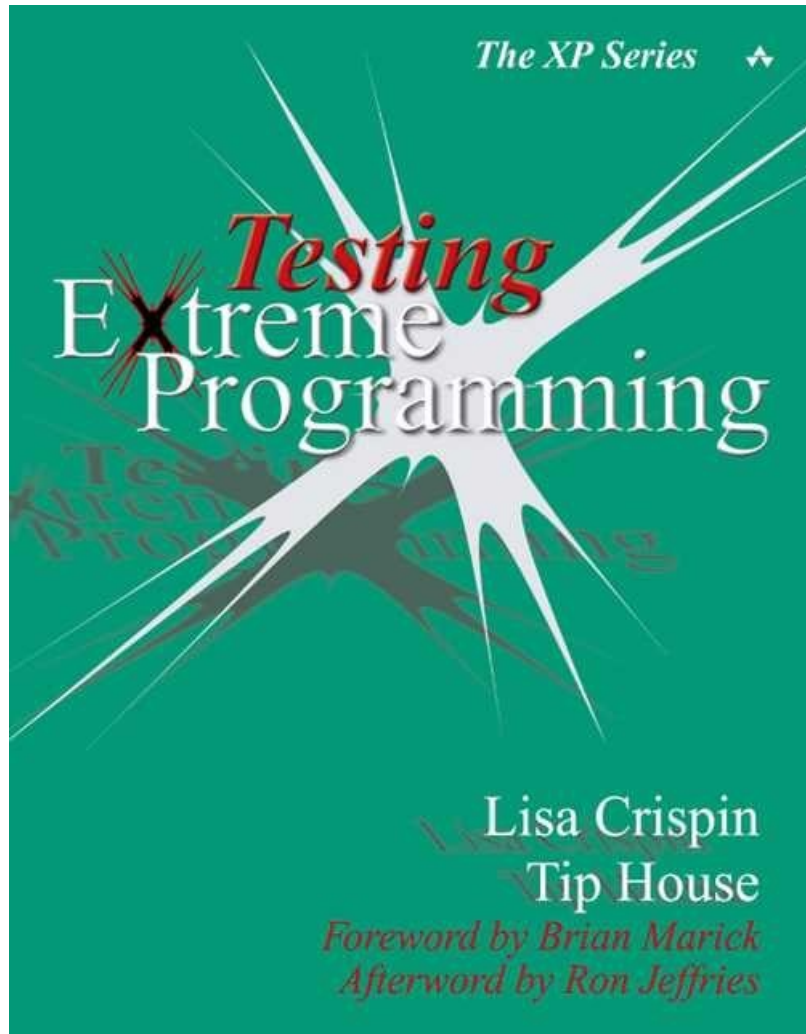
By Linda Rising and Mary Lynn Manns

Available on Amazon



# Agile Testing Resources

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Available  
on  
Amazon



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# Goal

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Have fun, whatever you do!

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[lisacrispin.blogspot.com](http://lisacrispin.blogspot.com)



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