



# **RAPID SOFTWARE TESTING FOCUSED: STRATEGY**

Countless thousands of people create test cases and perform testing on product in the software industry. Yet few of us, when challenged, can concisely and compellingly explain why we chose to do these tests instead of those tests. This leads to testing that is wasteful, unagile, and disrespected. Good test strategy solves that problem.

Test strategy is the set of ideas that guide our choices about what testing to do. Knowing how to construct, explain, and critique a test strategy is the gateway to credibility as a tester.

This seminar focuses on strategy as it relates to testing and fits within the Rapid Software Testing methodology. So, we approach strategy as a heuristic, not just a document. We look at it from a social and general systems perspective. Although we won't focus on risk analysis, we will look at how risk maps to test activities.

This is a one-day seminar that is taught online or onsite.

## **Goals of RSTF-Strategy**

The primary goal of this seminar is show you how to confidently apply strategic thinking to testing; and to design, explain, and defend a test strategy.

## **Who Should Take This Training**

This Rapid Software Testing Focused class is for you if:

- You are responsible for test strategy in your project.
- You lead people who are responsible for test strategy in your project.
- You want to learn how to be responsible for test strategy in your project.
- You are struggling to explain and defend the focus of your software testing.
- You are concerned that your testing may not be oriented on finding the bugs that really matter.



**For more information, upcoming classes, locations and registration: [rapid-software-testing.com](http://rapid-software-testing.com)**

**James Bach: [satisfice.com](http://satisfice.com)**

**Michael Bolton: [developsense.com](http://developsense.com)**



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## Main Topics Covered

During the class you will develop a strategy for at least one product. During the seminar we strive to accommodate students' specific needs and questions in class discussions and lectures. The general topics we'll cover include:

- Testing as experimentation.
- Why testing needs strategy.
- What sort of ideas comprise test strategy.
- How to think about testability and why it matters for test strategy.
- Risk-based strategy vs. coverage-based strategy.
- The role of automation in a good test strategy.
- How to invent test techniques.
- Families of test techniques that feature in test strategy.
- General strategy heuristics, such as *alternation*, *focusing*, and *defocusing*.
- Simple ways to document test strategy.

## How RSTF-Strategy Compares to Our Other Classes

- Rapid Software Testing Explored (RSTE) presents the methodology of Rapid Software Testing with brief practical exercises and Socratic discussion. RSTE is less focused on the work products of testing, compared to RSTA. Although the two classes can be taken in any order, people generally start with RSTE.
- Rapid Software Testing Applied (RSTA) focuses less on the explaining and demonstrating the concepts and skills of RST, and more on practicing the core elements of it. RSTA includes long exercises where you will test part of a real product, followed by debriefings. The class is taught in an online format (nine webinars over three days) or in a classroom 2-day or 3-day format. RSTE is not a prerequisite for RSTA. In fact, the two classes can be taken in either order.
- Rapid Software Testing Managed (RSTM) is a class for managers and other leaders who seek to apply Rapid Software Testing methodology or are otherwise working to improve testing on an organizational level. RSTE should be taken first to get the most out of RSTM.
- Rapid Software Testing Coached (RSTC) is a class for test leads, coaches, and managers who guide testing without necessarily doing it themselves. Since RSTC is based on the Rapid Software Testing methodology, RSTE should be taken first to get the most out of RSTC.

## What Students Should Bring

Bring a laptop that connects to the Internet. You will be testing.