WOPR15 Experience Report - Field Guides for Testing
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abstract:
In my shop, we are developing a set of 'field guides' to aid testers (and others) on future test projects in our context. The idea for these guides arose from my witnessing some of our test leads being caught unprepared in some uncomfortable, but predictable, situations (e.g. the project manager who says she did not want a status report suddenly asks for a status report).
At the time of this talk, the first set of field guides should be published and in use. I will present a summarization/characterization of the guides as well as the challenges and surprises that we encountered in creating and using them.

relevance:
One of the field guides will specifically address performance testing, with some portion dedicated to the development of scenarios. More generally, these field guides are an attempt to help a tester get a jump-start, and avoid common pitfalls, in a specific context.

outline:
1. Background - The STE Program
    a. The STE Pilot Projects
2. Bumps on HHV
    a. "What are the STEs doing?"
    b. "Where's my status?"
3. Bumps on PDS
    a. "Not without my test lead."
4. Bumps on SQL Migration
    a. "You must run full regression."
    b. "You don't need to test that."
    c. "When are you going to sign off?" or "When are you going to achieve a certain level of confidence that there is a low probability of production problems if we elevate?"
5. Message to Management - we can avoid some of this in the future
    a. Change the rules of engagement
    b. Create a "Field Guide" and related training program
        i. focused on Test Leads and the early part of testing projects
6. "This seems like it might be important, but..."
    a. not a primary assignment for anyone, at least not for long.
7. Test Initiation Survey
    a. Testers acknowledge difficulty early in projects
    b. No consensus on nature, causes, potential solutions
    c. Low participation from stakeholders
8. Expansion of the Field Guide Idea
9. Meanwhile, the pilot projects are big wins.
10. Changing of the guard.
    a. End of contract for our guru
    b. Responsibility assigned to 2 other test engineers
    c. I am now the customer.
11. Is this effort fundamentally futile?