Inside a Tester’s Mind
Defocusing and Focusing
*Software Testing’s Roller Coaster*

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Introduction
Focusing Vs Defocusing
Defocusing

Focusing is when you focus

Which of the infinite possibilities can expose any relevant risk?

Science Research Defocus

When you are frustrated, defocus.

Focusing

Defocusing is the opposite

Dig inside a selected possibility with a particular purpose.

Civil Engineers Focus

When you are confused, focus.
Defocusing Vs. Focusing

Defocusing is when you dynamite an area, focusing is combing with a spoon.

(James Bach)
Defocusing Vs. Focusing

These are concepts that define our **Being Testers**

- When we say **Testing Mindset**
- say **Systems View**
- deny **Exhaustive Testing**
- look for someone who **Thinks As a Tester**
- look for testers who **Simply Like Testing**

- Not that other disciplines don’t defocus… but few focus on defocusing 😊

This is also what we mean!
You do this... with another name

Defocusing

System View •
Bird’s Eye View •
Take a Step Back •
Make a List •
What if... •
Another! •
Shoot directions •

Focusing

• Component View
• Worm’s Eye View
• Take a Step Forward
• Follow Through
• What is...
• More!
• Have an aim
Chapter de First
Defocusing – What is Defocusing
Defocusing – Sample Techniques

• MFAT
• Exploit Variations
• Violate Patterns
• Use different configuration
• Start from Different State

• Tests are:
  • Harder to Pass
  • Harder to Reproduce
Defocusing – Mindset

- System View
  - Dependencies
  - Relationships

- Open to Surprises
  - I do not anticipate Results
  - I do not anticipate Success

- Distractions
  - Well received
  - Sometimes necessary
Defocusing - Hints

- Free yourself
- Move around, switch places
- Use more senses
- Use random();
- Take notes on what you do
Bonus – Diffuse mode of thinking

• The brain solves problems in auto-pilot
• Sleep!
• Walk!
• Let it go! Solve a different problem!
• Stop working!
Chapter the Second
Focusing – What is Focusing
Focusing – Techniques

• OFAT
• Simple Actions
• Seek Patterns
• Assert Predictions
• Conserve States

Tests are:
• Easier to Reproduce
• Narrower chance to Fail
Focusing – Mindset

- Mission View
  - Properties
  - Results

- Treading on Expectations
  - I expect specific Results
  - Success is a condition for keeping on

- Distractions
  - Poorly received
  - Dangerous
Focusing - Hints

• Have a goal
• Set a time (test session, pomodoro)
• Get people on board
• Explain what you do
  • Take notes on what you do
Chapter the Third
The Testing Rollercoaster

- Anatomy of a Test
- Bug Investigation
- Product Review
- Bug Report

Testing vs Programming...

**Bothfocusing** vs Focusing
BothFocusing – The Evolutionary Focus
BothFocusing – The Derogatory Defocus
BothFocusing – SuperHuman Trait
Both Focusing Rollercoaster

• Anatomy of a

Test

Bug Investigation

Product Review

Threat Model

Anatomy of a Tester...
Both Focusing Rollercoaster

Alternating Situations, Alternating Techniques

- Careful ← and → Quick
- Deliberate ← and → Arbitrary
- Worm’s View ← and → Bird’s View
- Play Book ← and → Oblique Strategies
- More ← and → Another
- Bug Chase ← and → Bug Hunt
- Steady ← and → Moving

Anatomy of a Tester...
Epilogue
Conclusions

• Have to Understand De/Focusing when you:
  
  Test
  (mindful and aware)

  Explain Testing
  Manage Testers
  Train Testers
  Hire Testers

You can stop crying now.
It is Ok to defocus.

Managers, take note.
Thank You!!
Q? A!

Credits due:
- James Bach
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