

Testing in Production: Yes or No?

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Session Abstract:

This session kicks off with a lightning talk on testing in production, both the pros and cons.

Karen talks about past experiences testing in production under different contexts and then moves the conversation towards CI/CD testing challenges including the debated topic of testing in production. The session then shifts to open Q&A with the intention of debating and discussing the merits of production testing.

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Testing in Production is not a new concept.

I've had experience testing in production since the late 90's. And ever since as well.

We tested to confirm configuration settings, server settings, load balancing and the age-old reality that production data is always different.

We tested with care, with caution and full awareness of the sacredness of the environment.

Now many years later for some additional reasons, some different reasons as well as some of the age-old reasons, we face the need and sometimes the question: to test in production – yes or no?

Data

"You are testing with production data. (It's hard to replicate production traffic and data, making it difficult to detect every possible scenario.)"

Quote from -

Why You Should Be Testing in Production

<https://saucelabs.com/blog/why-you-should-be-testing-in-production>

- Variety
- Quantity
- Blemished
- Aged
- Historical
- DB schema

Configuration

"These limitations (the test environment) means the results aren't always extendable to the production environment."

Quote from -

An Introduction to Testing in Production

<https://www.belatrixsf.com/blog/an-introduction-to-testing-in-production/>

- Settings
- Whitelist & blacklist
- Email
- Feature settings
- Alerting
- Logging
- The specific versions of every element of the production ecosystem

Resiliency

"It's not the breaking stuff that's the problem; you can break things safely. It's the second part—not knowing what it's doing—that's not OK."

Quote from -

Testing in Production, Yes You Can (and you should)

<https://opensource.com/article/17/8/testing-production>

- Recoverability
- Canary testing
- Maintainability

ility testing

"Our team has an active belief that is a certain class of vulnerabilities and issues that you can only find with live production traffic."

quote from -

Testing in Production the Netflix Way

<https://launchdarkly.com/blog/testing-in-production-the-netflix-way/>

- Reliability
- Compatibility
- Scalability

Why not test in Production?

- GDPR
- Sox regulations
- PCI

Thank you for attending.

Thanks to the Eurostar conference.

Let's open to Q&A.

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