"It’s All Fun and Games: Using Play to Improve Tester Creativity"

Presented by:

Christin Wiedemann
Professional Quality Assurance (PQA) Ltd.
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Professional Quality Assurance, Ltd.

After eleven years as an astroparticle physicist, Christin Wiedemann brings her logical and analytical problem-solving skills to the world of testing. Five years into her new career, Christin is still eager to learn, looking for new ways to test more efficiently, constantly trying new approaches, and keen to share her experiences. In her roles as tester, test lead, trainer, and speaker, she uses her scientific background and pedagogic abilities to continually develop her own skills and those of others.
It's All Fun and Games
Using Play to Improve Tester Creativity

STARwest 2013
Christin Wiedemann, PQA
What Is Play?

Why Do We Need to Play?

Foundation
what IS Play?
When Do We Stop Playing?

...and why?

http://www.grumpycats.com/
Logic Puzzles - Deduction

Three light switches are turned off. You know one of the switches controls a light upstairs in a room that you cannot see.

You are allowed only one trip upstairs to the room. How can you determine which switch controls the light?
Turn two of the switches on, say Switch A and Switch B. Leave them on for a few minutes. Then turn Switch B off. Run upstairs into the room.

If the light is on, Switch A controls the light. If it is off, feel the bulb. If it is still warm, then Switch B controls the light; if it is not warm, then Switch C controls the light.
Logic Puzzles - Questioning Assumptions

which is the larger triangle - one with sides measuring 200, 300 and 400 cm or one with sides measuring 300, 400 and 700 cm?
The first one! The second is a line and has area zero... Common assumption is that both suggestions are valid triangles.
Logic Puzzles - Bias

Answer the following two questions quickly:

what colour is a refrigerator?

what do cows drink?

Infuriating Lateral Thinking Puzzles, Paul Sloane & Des MacHale
Visual Searching - Where is the Leopard?

http://twentytwowords.com/2012/12/23/can-you-find-the-hidden-animals-in-these-20-wildlife-photos/
Memory Games
20 Questions
Video/Computer Games
Pitfalls
Summary

"The opposite of play is not work, it's depression."

Brian Sutton-Smith
Contact Information

Christin Wiedemann

christin.wiedemann@pqateesting.com

http://www.pqateesting.com

http://christintesting.wordpress.com

@c_wiedemann
Links

The National Institute of Play:
http://www.nifplay.org/index.html

Playing 20 Questions:
http://www.quardev.com/content/whitepapers/ExploratoryTestingasSport_JonBach_PNSQC06pdf.pdf

Hidden Animals:

Deductive Challenges:
http://www.public.asu.edu/royal/Deductive_Logic_Challenges.htm
Hey, I was wondering if you had plans for --
Holy crap, what happened to your apartment?
  I filled it with playpen balls!

...what? Why?

Because we're grown-ups now, and it's our turn to decide what that means.