Establishing Quality Assurance in Startup environment

Agenda

Challenges of Startup environment

Stage 1: Starting from Scratch

Stage 2: Growing and Evolving

Q&A

About Me

MSc Web Science, PhD Candidate at
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Former Start up Co-founder,
5 years in industry
2,5 year of building Quality assurance system in start up from scratch

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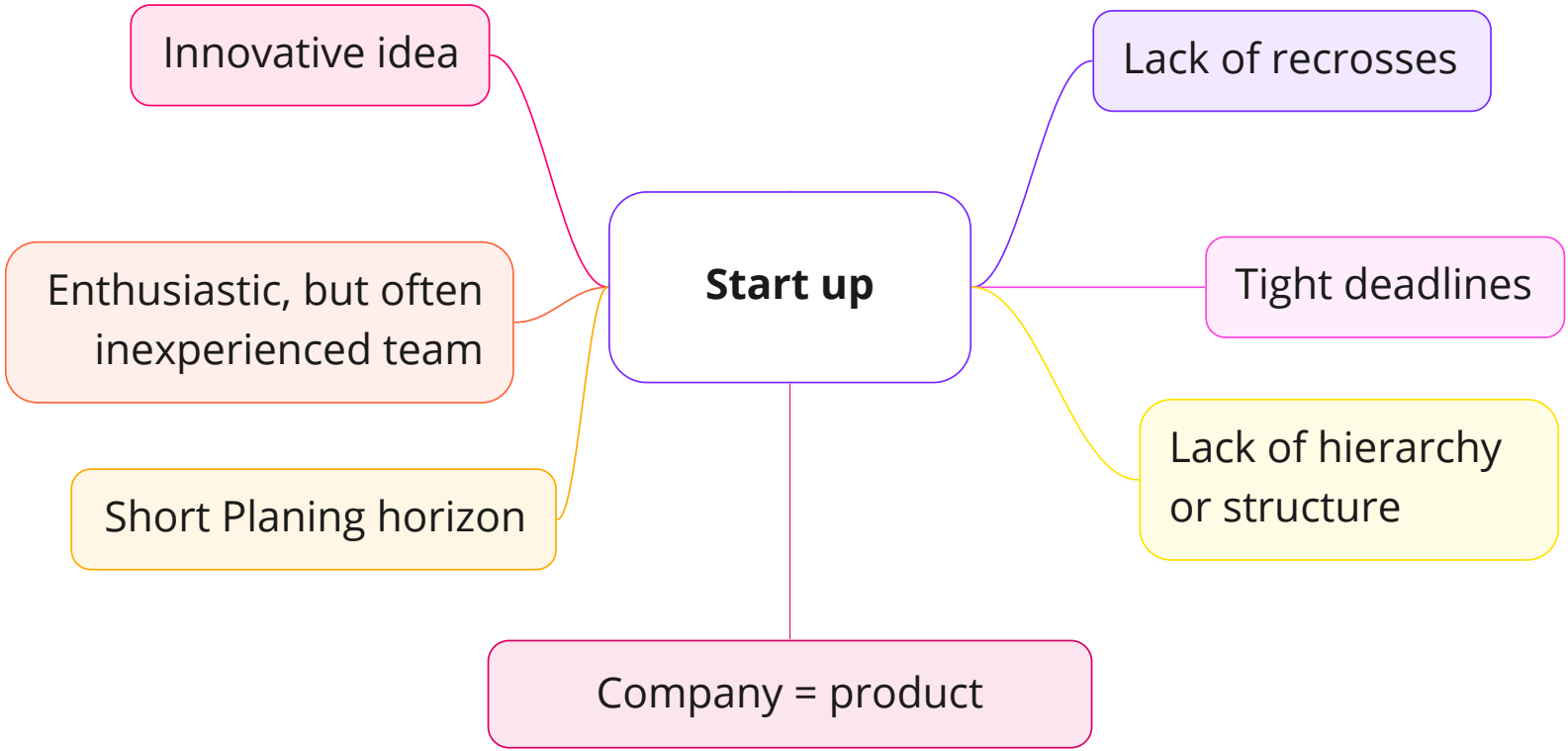
Challenges of Startup environment

“A startup is a human institution designed to create a new product or service under conditions of extreme uncertainty.”

Eric Ries, The Lean Startup

Foto von Markus Spiske auf Unsplash


Innovative idea
Enthusiastic, but often inexperienced team
Short Planing horizon
Start up
Company = product
Lack of recrosses
Tight deadlines
Lack of hierarchy or structure

What does all of this mean for us as software testers?

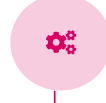
There is no time to perform testing activities as planned

Documentation is mostly missing

Requirements are changing rapidly

Team might be reluctant to accept the new workflow

No one is comming to tell you what to do



Quality assurance system needs to be created

What we can do?

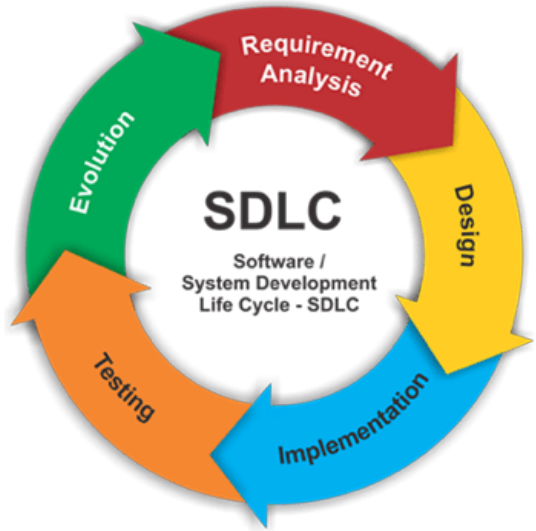
Stage 1:
Starting from Scratch

Integrating first QA
Practices without slowing
the development down

Stage 2:
Growing and Evolving

Improving QA workflow,
shifting testing left,
building strong team

Stage 1: Starting from Scratch



Source:https://testingtraveler.com/2021/01/09/testing-in-sdlc/

You can not do it all at once!

Nobody can.

So start small!

Foto von Luis Villasmil auf Unsplash

The Lesser Evil

Prioritize Product over Process

Documentation

Excessive test cases

Doing everything "by the book"

Forcing process upon the Team

Releasing on time

Exploratory testing

Adjusting to the environment

Following the Team dinamics

Jack of all trades

Be ready to take on different tasks

Testing Activities
Event facilitation (e.g SCRUM)
Defect management
Requirement engineering
Feature Development
Bug fixing
Backlog managment

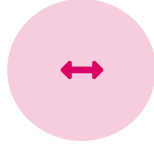
Communication is the key

Closely collaborate with the Team

Communicate

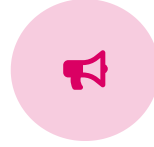
MOB programming

Use MOB sessions to support your team and acquire knowledge of the product



Direct and "Horizontal" communication

Since there is little to no hierarchy - make the communication as efficient as possible



Stand your ground and be proactive

If a team is reluctant to follow testing practices - do not hesitate to be vocal and raise awareness of QA issues

Stage 2: Growing and Evolving

The company is growing.

It is time to make bring QA in order.

Focus on the processes.

Foto von Iván Díaz auf Unsplash

Building QA Team

Hire

Get involved into hiring!

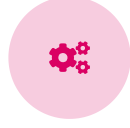
Soft skills and team fit is as important as tech skills

Onboard

Invest time into onboarding new people

Get to know each QA team member!

Set up



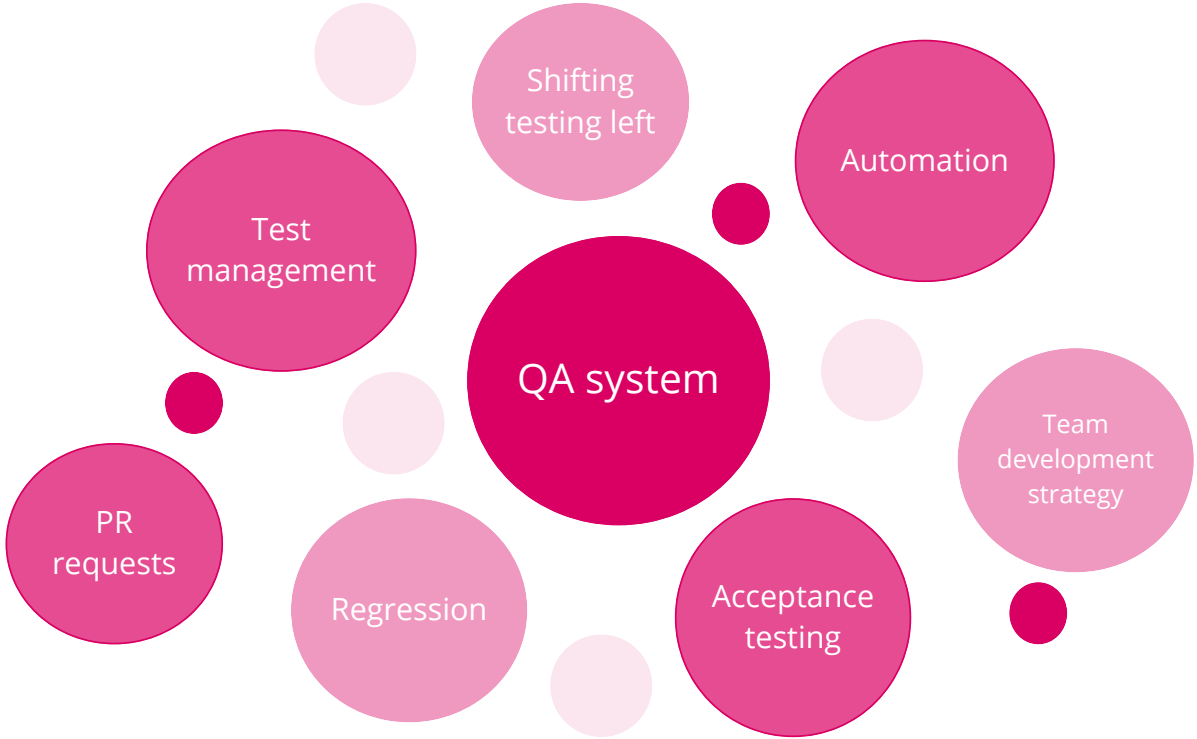
Define place of the QA team

Limit the area of responsibility and try to stick with it

Delegate!

Start delegating!

Integrate QA system



Q&A

Thank you!