

# Agile Test Planning & Documentation:

*A demonstration of a lean test documentation scheme*

The logo for PerfTestPlus is centered within a white rounded rectangle with a blue border. It features the text "PerfTestPlus" in a blue sans-serif font. The word "Perf" is in a smaller font size than "TestPlus". Two curved arrows, one grey and one blue, form a circular loop around the text. Two horizontal blue lines extend from the left and right sides of the rounded rectangle across the slide.

PerfTestPlus



**Dawn Haynes**  
Senior Trainer & Coach

# The story begins ...

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## My Background

- ❖ 28+ years in IT
- ❖ Bachelor's degree in MIS, minor in programming
- ❖ Insurance, healthcare, custom software, commercial software

## Session Goals

- ❖ Share a multi-purpose documentation scheme I have used for many aspects of testing
- ❖ Get feedback
- ❖ Continue to tune the concept

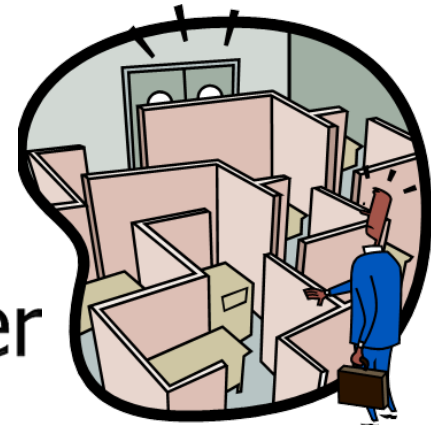
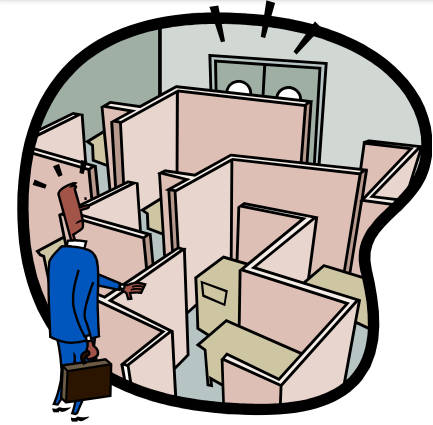
# Once upon a time ...

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 Technical Support Engineer

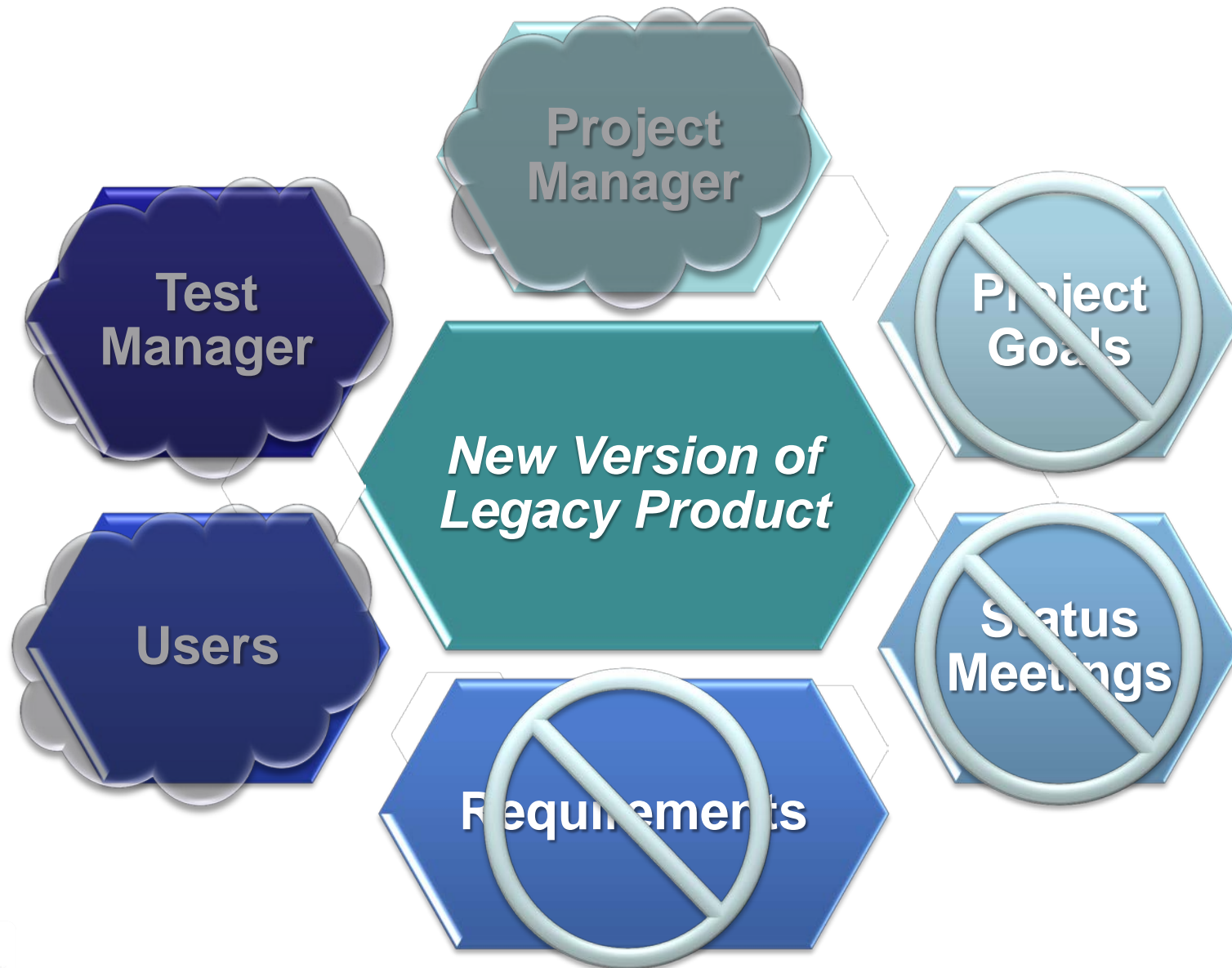


 Quality Assurance Engineer

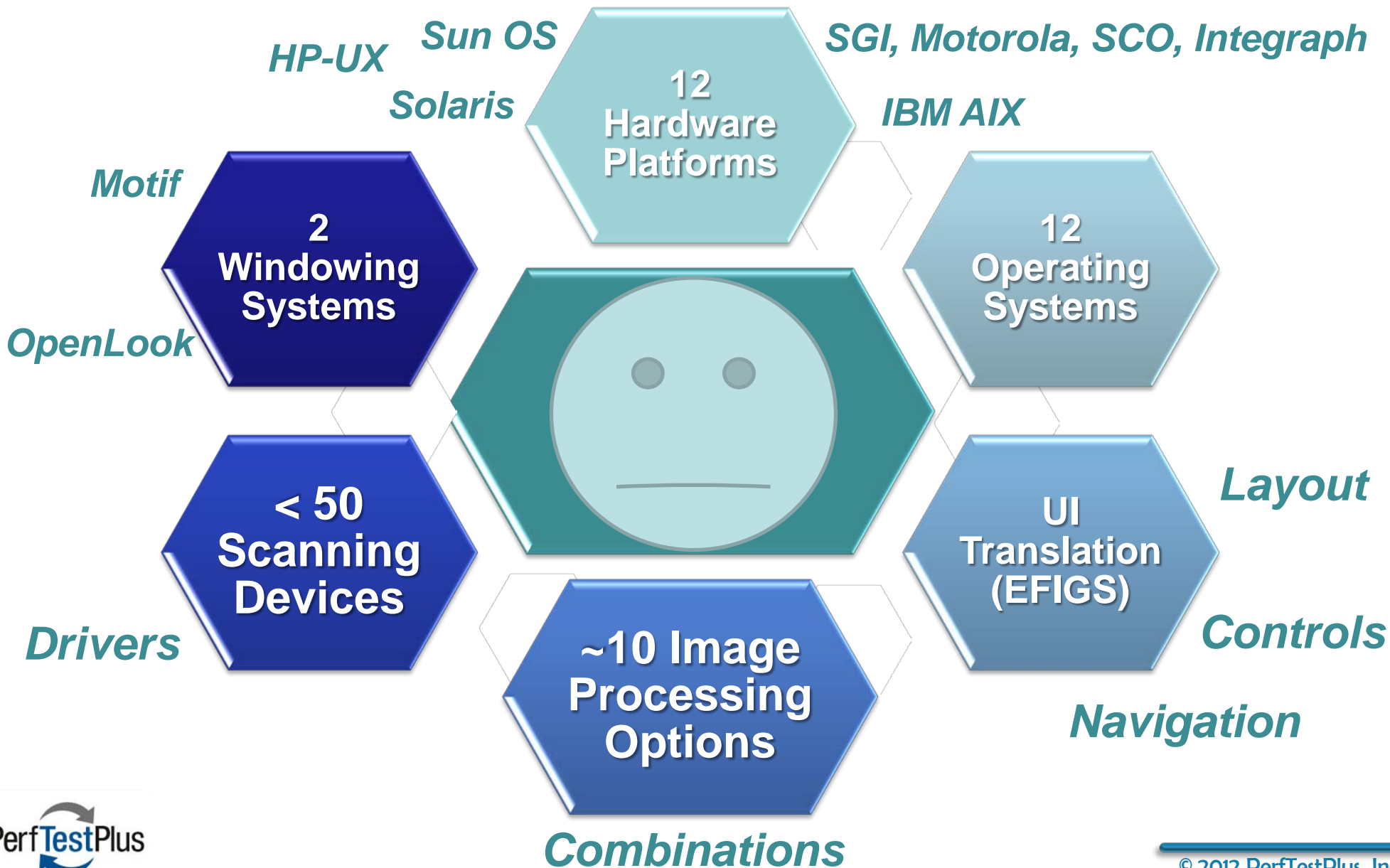


# There was a project ...

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# ... that was tooooo big!



# The blind leading the uninformed ...

*That's NOT a test plan!*



144,000+



*QA Signoff*



*When will it be done?*

# Time to invent a tool ...

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- 🔄 That will help me organize my work
  - on one page
  - that can be used for project & daily planning
    - What should I do?
  - that can guide my daily tasks
    - What am I doing?
  - that can be a record of my activity
    - What did I do?
  - that can serve as status snapshots
    - What did it mean?

# Low-Tech Test Doc Example

Implies an iterative approach to test planning and design

Enables exploratory or loosely structured testing

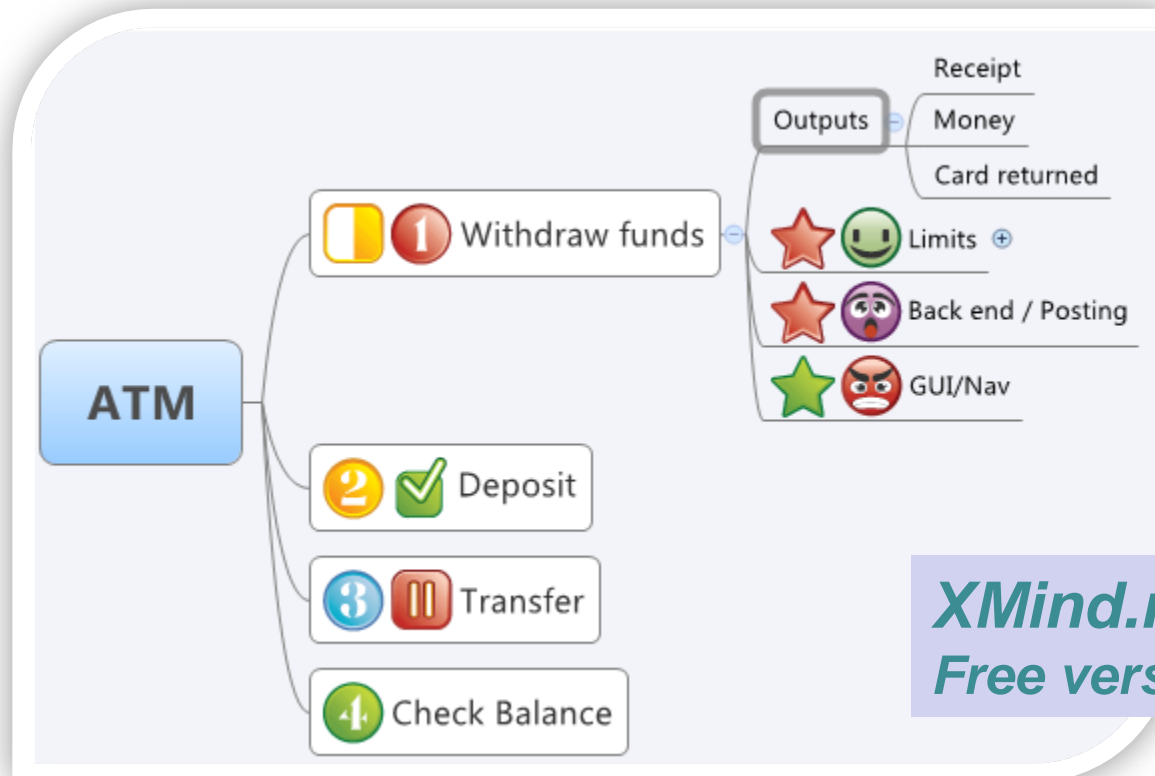
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Test Plan		Test Design	Oracles				Test Log
2	(targets)				Actual results	Comments	Notes	Defect #'s
3	Feature 1	P	Valid files	No probs				
4			names: _____					
5		N	Invalid files	Errors				
6		C	Suspect operations	???				
7								
8	Feature 2							
9								
10								
11	Feature 3							
12								

A test coverage scheme including Positive / Negative / Crazy (or stress/robustness) tests



# What about status reporting?

- Clearly a hole, but it was a problem I did not have to solve
  - Mind maps? Low-tech dashboards?



*XMind.net*  
*Free version: 2012*

# Where to go from here?

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☞ There's a broad spectrum of documentation schemes and ideologies

## ☞ Very Agile

- Tests document themselves and are built as needed (automated)
- Code documents itself
- Tests piggy back onto Stories or Tasks, etc. (backlog items – Product or Sprint)

## ☞ Traditional

- Earmarked by up front planning activities (predictive)
- Heavy documentation distributed across many linked pieces
  - Test Policy, Strategy, Plans, Cases, Procedures

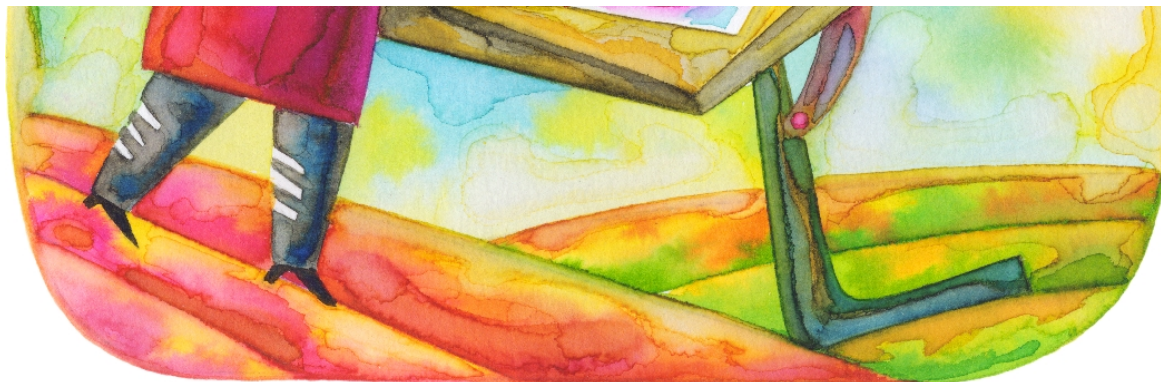
# Just imagine ...

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🔄 A real world without documentation



*Where would you start if you had a blank slate?*



# Example starting point ...

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Test Plan (Targets/Scope)</b>	<b>Test Design (Coverage)</b>		<b>Oracles (expectations)</b>	<b>Test Log</b>		
2					Actual results	Comments/ Notes	Defect #'s
3	Feature 1	Positive	Valid files	No problems detected			
4			names: _____				
5		Negative	Invalid files	Errors (error list if available)			
6		Crazy	Suspect operations	Unknown			
7	Story 1	Primary	Frequent, happy path				
8		Alternate	Other ways to get happy				
9		Exception	Errors				
10	Constraint 1 (compliance)	Fonts	Acceptance criteria	Measures & methods			
11		Layout					
12		Navigation					
13							
14							

Some ideas for handling typical backlog items

Consider adding a column for Priority / Risk ranking / or Time allocation (e.g. 30 min)

Consider adding details need for testing (e.g. pairwise values) via a link to another spreadsheet

# Tools I used in my demonstration

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## Microsoft Excel

- Utilising the ability to group and split lines
- Daily planning would take advantage of the Hide/Unhide feature

## MindMeister (web-based, paid version)


- Sharing and versioning key for distributed teams
- Embed links, images & files
- Use “playback” feature to see evolution of testing over the course of a sprint during a retrospective meeting

## Corkboard.me (free version)

- Online, shareable sticky notes

# Acknowledgements

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 Many thanks to those who have directly and indirectly influenced my thoughts on test documentation, and especially to my mentors and reviewers:


- Henrik Andersson
- Scott Barber
- Elisabeth Hendrickson
- Robert Sabourin

# Thank You!

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Agile  
TESTING DAYS

 Questions? Comments?

 Please fill out an evaluation form!

➤ Your feedback is valuable and appreciated!

 Contact info:

Dawn Haynes

[dhaynes@perftestplus.com](mailto:dhaynes@perftestplus.com)

[www.perftestplus.com](http://www.perftestplus.com)