Rapid Software Testing Applied (RSTA) focuses on Rapid Software Testing in practice.

Instead of explaining every part of the methodology to you, we focus on a particular product. We survey it, analyze it, perform tests and report bugs. The instructor reviews the work with a practical eye and provides coaching throughout the experience. Testers practice note-taking, product analysis, risk analysis, bug reporting and test reporting. In the three-day classroom version of RSTA a minimum of six hours are dedicated to hands-on test sessions.

We teach RTSA in a classroom or online. For the online version of the class, we use a MatterMost chatroom server for communication, a TikiWiki server to share classwork, and GoToWebinar for the presentations. The online version consists of ten webinars and four work assignments. Selected student work is reviewed in class, and all student work, videos, and class materials are provided to students when the class is complete.

This is a three-day class. We can also do it as a two-day follow-on to Rapid Software Testing Explored.

RSTA Goals

This class helps you gain confidence that you can handle the complexity and ambiguity of real-life projects. This confidence comes ultimately from encountering a product and doing testing, while seeing what fellow students do. It is a good follow-on to Rapid Software Testing Explored, but the two classes may be taken in any order.

A second goal of this class is to help you recognize, by your own experiences, when testing should be a matter of deep investigation, rather than mere repetitious fact checking and shallow demonstration.

Who Should Take This Training

Rapid Software Testing Applied is for you if you take testing seriously and want to have pride in your work:

- If you are new to testing, then come experience it for the first time in a supervised, friendly environment. We teach in plain English. You will not be overwhelmed by unfamiliar vocabulary.
- If you are an experienced tester, the hands-on testing will challenge you to show off your skills and help you refine them. You will appreciate that RST is a practitioner-centered methodology– you are in control.
- If you are a technical tester, you can apply your coding and other technical skills to testing the product at hand.
- If you are a developer who does some testing, you will learn how your deep knowledge of product internals may help you or hinder you. You will also benefit from seeing how less technical people approach the same testing situations and find different bugs.
- If you manage people who test, you have the power to steer them and create an environment to help them do their most effective work. You will learn what good testing looks like, how to judge the progress of testing, and how to set high, yet reasonable expectations for the testing process.
- If you are a domain expert involved in user acceptance testing, this class will help you experience testing as an investigation process that puts your deep knowledge to work.

If you work with people who test, you will gain an appreciation for the challenges of testing and discover what real testing looks like.

Main Topics Covered

RSTA is taught Socratically, with exercises, discussions and illustrations of the RST methodology. Class discussions and debate address students' questions and specific needs. We all learn from the unique perspective that each student brings to the class. We'll cover:

- Experiencing testing as a process of open learning and investigation that focuses on risk
- Practicing with session-based testing and how to create test session reports
- Practicing the exploratory process of survey testing to get you up to speed quickly
- Practicing bug reporting
- Practicing systematically analyzing a product using the Heuristic Test Strategy Model
- Practicing risk analysis for better test strategy
- The difference between shallow testing and deep testing
- Categorizing testing time for better reporting and estimation
- Testing tempo and the difference between spontaneous and deliberative testing

How RSTA Compares to Our Other Classes

- Rapid Software Testing Explored (RSTE) presents the methodology of Rapid Software Testing with brief practical exercises and Socratic discussion. RSTE is less focused on the work products of testing, compared to RSTA. Although the two classes can be taken in any order, people generally start with RSTE.
- Rapid Software Testing Managed (RSTM) is a class for managers and other leaders who seek to apply Rapid Software Testing methodology or are otherwise working to improve testing on an organizational level. It focuses on the deployment of RST. RSTA goes well with RSTM because it helps give a foundational understanding of the practical problems of actually doing testing.
- Rapid Software Testing Coached (RSTC) is a class for test leads, coaches, and managers who guide testing without necessarily doing it themselves. It focuses on how to build testing skills on the job. RSTA is taught more in a coaching style than RSTE is, so it's a particularly good companion class to RSTC.

What Students Should Bring

Bring a computer that connects to the Internet. You will be testing software.

For more information, upcoming classes, locations and registration: rapid-software-testing.com
James Bach: satisfice.com
Michael Bolton: developsense.com