Showstoppers for Continuous Delivery in Small Scale Projects

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Context

- Small Scale Projects

- Different Customers

- Initial Problem

  - "How do we know when we are done testing?"

  - "We find bugs too late in development cycle."

Lack of documentation

"We find bugs too late in the development cycle"

Waterfall-like Development

Problem Domain

Manual testing

"How do we know when we are done testing?"

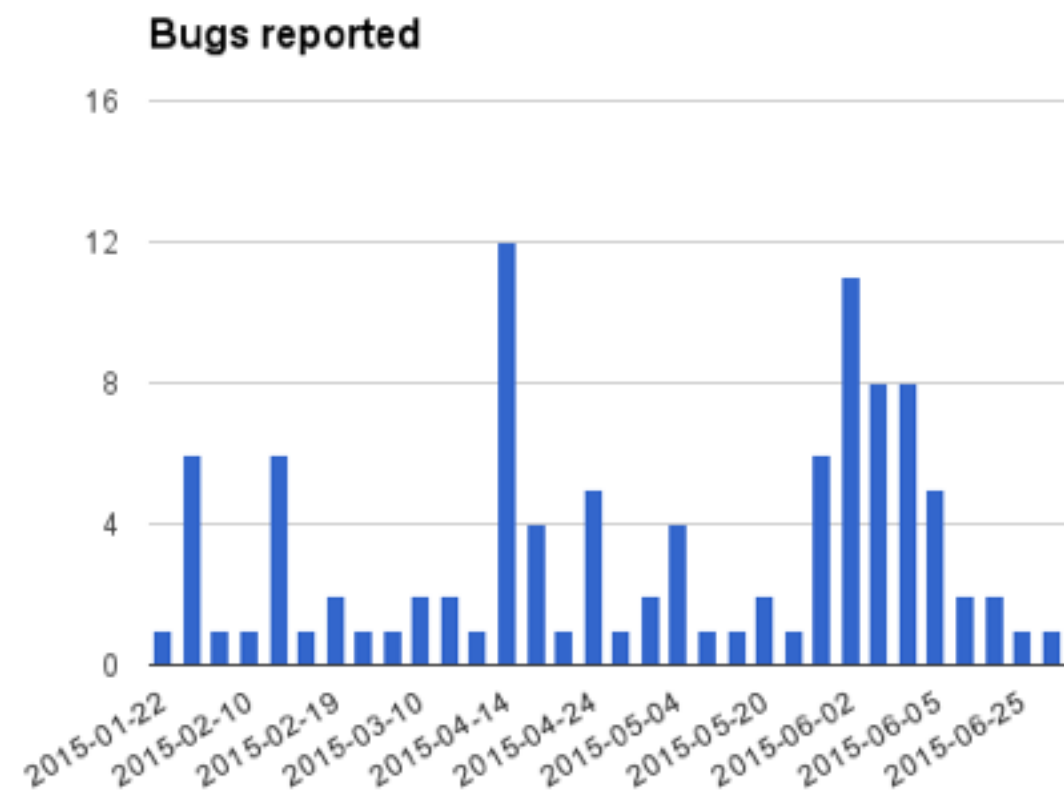Ad Hoc Testing

Discussion topics

- Root Causes found:

  - Developers do not see an advantage with automating unit and integration testing

  - Quality Assurance is tied to Releases

  - Improving development practices are not prioritised

Developers do not see an advantage with automating unit and integration testing

- Heavy focus on manual testing

- Undocumented testing

- No need to frequently verify functionality

- GUI testing prioritised

- Discussion: With automated testing being a big part of CoDe, what is perceived as most important, unit, system, gui testing?

Quality Assurance is tied to releases

- Bugs found late in development

- Testing as an afterthought

  - Bugs slip through to the customer

- Acceptance tests have no clear link to original stories

- Discussion: What is a configuration managers role when trying to improve development?

Bugs reported

Improving development practices is not prioritised

- Focus is on things that can be delivered to the customer

- Most improvements give benefit over time

- Unclear who is responsible

- Discussion: What should come first, technical CoDe implementation or organisational changes?

My solutions

- Improving Development

- Making Continuous Delivery Viable

Improving Development

- Create an environment where small feedback cycles are used

  - Creating test cases is part of development

  - involve customer

- Ensure the product is stable enough to show to the customer

  - Use automation to test often and cheaply

Making Continuous Delivery Viable

- One project may not be long enough to both implement and benefit from changes

- Focus on improvements that can persist between projects

- Have someone responsible for working on improvements

Summary

- Overall recommendations:

  - Start automate testing on a smaller scale, unit and integration before GUI

  - Have the customer included in the validation process early on, not as a last stage

  - Set up clear goals for how development should be improved