

At the September 8, 2004 QA SIG meeting, Jon Bach, Managing Test Lead at Quardev Laboratories, spoke on what to do “When You’re Tested”. Jon started off talking about how people are like software and how interviewing is like testing. Jon discussed ways in which an interviewer can setup an audition to determine the level of the testing applicant’s skills, and possibly find flaws.

Finding flaws involves creating a scenario. The scenario itself can consist of two things. 1) The interviewer can role-play, choosing multiple roles to act during the audition to create a specific testing environment. 2) Software should be introduced for the applicant to test. By creating a scenario, one can easily simulate a testing environment.

More about important topics covered during the meeting:

- Interviewer
 - Role-playing during the audition
 - Developer
 - Test manger
 - Project manager
 - CEO
 - Applications to use in gauging testing proficiency
 - "File/Open" dialog
 - Triangle program
 - Taskmaster 1.0
 - “Lindsay” machines
 - Important behaviors and evaluation criteria to consider
- Interviewee
 - Be confident, but be humble
 - Ask questions
 - Think aloud
 - Don’t be afraid to use the whiteboard
 - Point out own weaknesses
 - Take notes
 - Use a test heuristic (like SFDPO)
 - Structure
 - Function
 - Data
 - Platform
 - Operation
 - Confusion is a weapon

The presentation was very insightful, and led to several discussion points. This included questions regarding the four applications shown during the speech, and listed above, as well as various bugs that exist and how they can be tested.