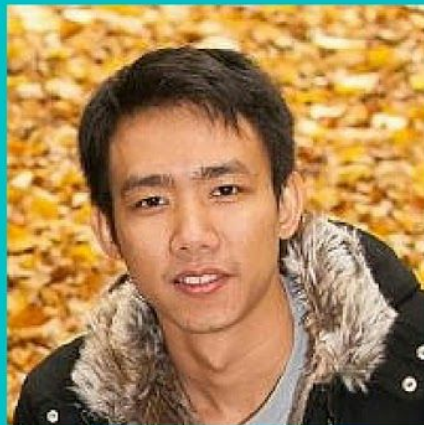


# **My Best Online Resources to Learn Software Testing**



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**ASKTESTER.COM**

KEEP ASKING - KEEP LEARNING

[www.asktester.com](http://www.asktester.com) 1

THANH HUYNH

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## Introduction

I don't know you, but if you like me, it's very difficult to find good and trusted sources to learn software testing these days. Doing a quick search on Google, there are millions of result returned and you don't know which one to pick up, or you pick one and then ask yourself "Can I trust this?". This is even more difficult if you are new in software testing.

I've been in software testing for around ten years and I share your pain.

In this post today, I would like to share with you my best online resources to learn software testing. Those are resources I've used myself to learn or received good feedback and recommended in the industry. I hope after this post, you will find a right source for you, the one will go along with you and help you improve your testing skills.

# 1. What are my best software testing blogs?

Not sure if you know this, but reading blog is one of my favorite reading habits.

Blog can bring up fresh view instantly and it's easy to digest.

TestBuffet website did an amazing job when collecting [114 software testing blogs](#) testers can follow and read. It's a great list, but to narrow down, here are my favorite ones:

## **Developsense – Michael Bolton**

No, I'm not talking about Michael Bolton American singer with the song "[Said I Loved You, but I Lied](#)". While I love this song, there's another great Michael Bolton in software testing.

Michael is well-known for Rapid Software Testing, a skill of testing software under pressure of time, and exploratory testing. Michael has blogged since 2005 and his blog is full of resources to read and learn.

DevelopSense
Michael Bolton

Home | Courses | Consulting | Writing | Talks | Resources | Blog | About | Contact | Search

### Courses

- Rapid Software Testing (.PDF)

### Articles and Talks

- Better Software Articles
- Better Software Columns 2005
- Better Software Columns 2006
- Better Software Columns 2007
- Better Software Columns 2008
- Better Software Columns 2009
- Conference Presentations

### Testing Resources

- Exploratory Testing
- Metrics
- Unpublished Articles
- James Bach's Web Site
- Cem Kaner's Web Site
- testingeducation.org
- Association for Software Testing

### DevelopSense Newsletter

- Subscribe
- Archives



## Rapid Software Testing

A course, a mind-set, and a skill set about how to do excellent software testing in a way that is very fast, inexpensive, credible, and accountable.

developed by James Bach and Michael Bolton

**Learn more about the Rapid Software Testing course.**  
**Read what people say about it.**

Hello and welcome to the DevelopSense Web page! I'm your host, Michael Bolton. I provide consulting, training, coaching, and other services in software testing for companies, teams, and individuals world-wide.

For the last five years, I have been providing training and consulting services in testing and quality to organizations in Canada, the United States, and around the world. In particular, I teach Rapid Software Testing and Rapid Software Testing for Managers, courses that I co-author with James Bach.

We're aligned with the Context-Driven School of Software Testing, a community of people who believe that testing should respond first and foremost to the needs of the organization and the project, rather than to "best practices" that may not be best at all in the given context. You can read more about these ideas [here](#).

You can read about my recent work [here](#). I'm based in Toronto. I'm a citizen of both Canada and the United States.

### Past Presentations

You can find an extensive list of presentations and courses that I've taught, including the slides and speaker notes for many of them, [here](#).

### Coming up—let's meet!

Check out my schedule, and drop me a line if you'd like to get together when I'm in your part of the world. If you'd like me to work with you and it doesn't look like I'm available, remember that my clients' schedules are subject to change, so mine is too. Finally, note that some conferences offer discounts—and even if they don't advertise it, maybe we can work something out.

**September 7-9, 2015**  
**Netherlands**  
A three-day public Rapid Software Testing class, organized by Improve Software.

In case you are new to the site, I suggest to start with his [Blog page](#) and filter to blog category and select the category fitting your need instead of using Monthly Blog archives.

[Subscribe to comments](#)

## Blog Full-Text Search

## Blog Posts by Category

Acceptance Tests (12)

Accountability (25)

Agile (2)

Bugs (8)

Certification (10)

Classes (2)

Community (5)

Conferences (8)

Context (13)

Coverage (11)

Critical Thinking (4)

Documentation (8)

Done (10)

Emotions (2)

Estimation (14)

Exploratory Testing (38)

Heuristics (20)

Learning (13)

Management (41)

Measurement (19)

Software Testing

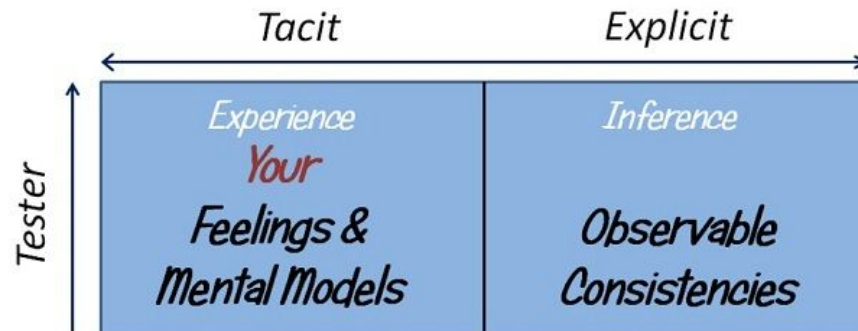
## DevelopSense Newsletter

[Subscribe](#)

[Archives](#)

- feelings and private mental models within internal, tacit *experiences*;
- consistency heuristics by which we can make *inferences* that help us to articulate why we think and feel that something is a problem;
- brief exchanges—tiny bursts of *conferences*—between people with collective tacit knowledge, and shared feelings and mental models;
- data sets and tools that produce visualizations that are explicit to—*references* that we can observe, analyze and discuss

Most of the examples I've shown so far involve applying oracles *retrospectively*—seeing a problem and responding to it, starting in the top left corner of this diagram.



Most of categories are worth reading, but my favorite categories are Testing vs Checking, Critical Thinking, Rapid Software Testing, Heuristics.

A little warning: If you are using English as second language and new to software testing, you will find difficult to catch up the ideas Mike is trying to convey, but don't be discouraged by that. Keep reading and you will soon get familiar with his writing style and thoughts.

Official website: <http://developsense.com/>

## Satisfice – James Bach

James is one of the most respected speakers, writers and testers in the industry.

James started as programmer, but then he moved to software testing because he found finding problem in software is more interesting than software production.

James is the creator of Rapid Software Testing, Session-based Test Management.

James subscribes to exploratory testing and [Context-Driven Testing](#).

James' blog covers most (if not all) topics in software testing from beginner to advanced level. If you are new, you may want to start with [For Newbie](#) category

One great thing is you can add James' Skype ID and ask for help directly (see it [here](#)). But wait..., please also read [How to Ask \(and Not Ask\) for Free Consulting](#) before asking James question.



### TestInsane's Mindmaps Are Crazy Cool

Posted on September 2, 2015

Most testing companies offer nothing to the community or the field of testing. They all seem to say they hire only the best experts, but only a very few of them are willing to back that up with evidence. Testing companies, by and large, are all the same, and the sameness is one of mediocrity and mendacity.

#### CATEGORIES

- About Me (7)
- Agile Methodology (10)
- Automation (13)
- Bug Investigation and Reporting (6)
- Buggy Products (20)
- Certification (10)
- Context-Driven Testing (37)
- Critique (34)

Official website: <http://www.satisfice.com/blog/>

## 2. What are trusted sources to read articles?

Let me tell you this, I don't often read paperback book, but I read articles a lot. This is not because books are not good, but I find online articles are more convenient for me to read.

According to [Chartbeat](#), there are 92,000+ articles published a day about any topics in life and choosing a trusted source to read is challenging even when you



shorten the list of software testing industry only. To make things easier for you, here is my favorite sources to read articles:

### **StickyMinds – TechWell:**

If you are looking for articles written by experts in the industry, StickyMind is the right resource for you.

Most of articles published in StickyMind community is worth reading and well reviewed, so you can trust the validity of the content. The articles are not only about software testing, but also about other topics dedicated to improving software quality.

StickyMind covers the following topics:

[Agile](#), [Analysis](#), [Automation](#), [Cloud](#), [Design and Develop](#), [Mobile](#), [People & Team](#), [Performance](#), [Process](#), [Project Management](#), [QA](#), [Requirements](#), [Security](#), [Test Design](#), [Test Planning](#), [Tools](#)

While articles on StickyMinds are great and helpful, most of them are not written for beginners. If you are looking for a step-by-step guide article, StickyMind may disappoint you.

HEY, I'M NEW HERE!

INDUSTRY INTERVIEW

NEW TO TESTING?

If You're New To StickyMinds, Start Here ...

Welcome to StickyMinds—one of the first and most popular online communities for software development professionals. StickyMinds is dedicated to improving software quality throughout the software development lifecycle.

Written by industry experts, StickyMinds covers topics ranging from agile testing to mobile and cloud computing and everything in between. You'll also find blog postings, software testing jobs, Q&A and more.

Membership is free and includes a complimentary digital subscription to *Better Software* magazine. To get started, simply click [here](#) and get plugged in for the latest in software testing and quality assurance.

THE LATEST



**The GROWS Method: A Modern Software Development Suite: An Interview with Andy Hunt** [Interview]

In this interview, Andy Hunt, a consultant, author, and publisher, explains why agile development is in a rut. He also covers why agile is so often abandoned, the issues with doing agile "by the books," and his GROWS method.



Josiah Renaudin  
October 16, 2015



**Become a Great ScrumMaster** [magazine]

Performing all the functions required to facilitate project teams as ScrumMaster can be a task. Zuzi Sochova describes creative ways to become a master of Scrum by adopting a ScrumMaster state of mind.



Zuzi Sochova  
October 16, 2015

CALL FOR COLUMNS

Showcase Your Expertise



We invite you to submit articles for consideration for publication. Gain international exposure for your expertise. Article submissions must not promote products or companies, must not have been published previously and must be completely educational in nature.

For full details, [click here](#).

“...top 99% in defect removal...lower costs...shorten schedules...”

— Namcook Analytics

SAN FRANCISCO

Official website: <http://www.stickyminds.com/>

### 3. What about online Magazines?

If you are a fan of online magazine, you will love these magazines I'm going to introduce you.

The great thing about online magazines is they often presented in themes. They gather all topics in the same theme and release in monthly issue. This will help you focus better and have an in depth look for a certain topic. Also, you can download these magazines for free and read it later.

#### LogiGear Magazine





## Better Software Magazine





## Tea-time With Testers Magazine



## Testing Trapeze



# TESTING TRAPEZE

DECEMBER 2015

RICH ROGERS • JOEY COREA • DIANA OMUOYO  
VIKAS ARYA • MARIA KEDEMO

## 4. Online Training Courses

Besides of reading blog, articles, picking up an online course to learn software testing is not a bad idea at all. Here are few courses I recommend.

### **Blackbox Software Testing Course (BBST):**

BBST course is probably one the most recommended courses in black box software testing. The course is designed by Cem Kaner, Fidler, and Associates. The course consists 4 series:

**Foundation:** Foundation course provides a basic introduction to black box software testing. It presents basic terms and considers:

- Mission of testing
- Oracle problem
- Measurement problem
- Impossibility of complete testing

**Bug Advocacy:** You will learn how investigate a bug and report bug effectively.

That's all this serie is about.

**Test Design:** This course is survey of testing techniques:

- Gain familiarity with a variety of test techniques.
- Learn structures for comparing objectives and strengths of different test techniques.



- Use the Heuristic Test Strategy Model for test planning and design.
- Use concept mapping tools for test planning.

**Exploratory testing:** An introduction to exploratory testing. You should also know that “exploratory testing” was first coined by Kaner.

The BBST course is basically a self-study course with slides and videos. You just simply download slides and watch videos. However, to take advantage of this course effectively, it's recommended to learn this course with instructors.

**Association for Software Testing organization (AST)** teaches this course with a **reasonable price**. By learning with AST, you will have a good chance to learn with help from instructors and peers and it would be much more fun I believe.



**BBST Testing Course**

Design | Exploratory Testing | Taking Exams | Policies | Extras | Instructors Course | Metrics | Engineering Ethics | Welcome | Foundations | Bug Advocacy | Test

**Welcome to the Black Box Software Testing course site.**

Please Note: BBST is a Registered Trademark of Kaner, Fiedler & Associates.

This site provides Creative Commons-licensed instructional materials (slides and videos) to teach black box software testing. Black box testing is the craft of testing a program from the external view.

We've organized the materials into self-contained sections. Click on the tabs to navigate from section to section.

- The first sections correspond to the BBST ® course series: professional development courses taught by the Association for Software Testing, by Kaner, Fiedler & Associates, and by other professional development trainers. For example, the Foundations tab takes you to materials used in the BBST-Foundations course. We also use these materials in graduate and undergraduate university courses.
- The later sections are currently used only in academic courses. We are gradually upgrading these into their own standalone courses.
- We frequently update the course materials. The named directories ("Foundations", "Bug Advocacy", etc.) will be stable. However, we will replace files in these directories, sometimes with files that have different names. NOTE: We will probably move some topics out of "Additional" into dedicated folders.

 The development of this site has been extensively supported by the National Science Foundation, via grants EIA-0113539 ITR/SY-PE Improving the Education of Software Testers and CCLI-0717613 Adaptation & Implementation of an Activity-Based Online or Hybrid Course in Software Testing.

We are also developing instructor-support materials, provided under the Instructors Course tab. Normally, someone who wants to teach one of these courses would take the course and then take instructor training:

- We've designed some materials to support self-study and self-training. This will probably be the preferred option for informal study groups who want to train themselves in software testing.
- The Association for Software Testing supervises instructors-in-training. To certify you as an instructor, AST currently requires you to successfully complete the course, then teach it under supervision several times *and* complete the instructor's course.
- Kaner, Fiedler & Associates will customize instructor training for organizations that want to train a large number of staff and sustain that training with their own trainers. Please contact us at [BBST-at-kaner-dot-com](mailto:BBST-at-kaner-dot-com).
- Within reasonable limits, subject to time availability, Kaner and Fiedler are glad to provide free help to teachers at nonprofit colleges and universities.

Commercial instructors, companies that want to use these materials in-house, and for-profit universities are welcome to use our slides and videos subject to the usual restrictions of an Creative Commons Attribution license: *You must explicitly acknowledge us as the authors and copyright-holders of every slide of ours that you use.* There is no charge to use the materials. However, if you want my help or the help of my collaborators or students, we will have to charge a consulting fee.

**Official website:** <http://testingeducation.org/BBST/>

## **uTest University – uTest**

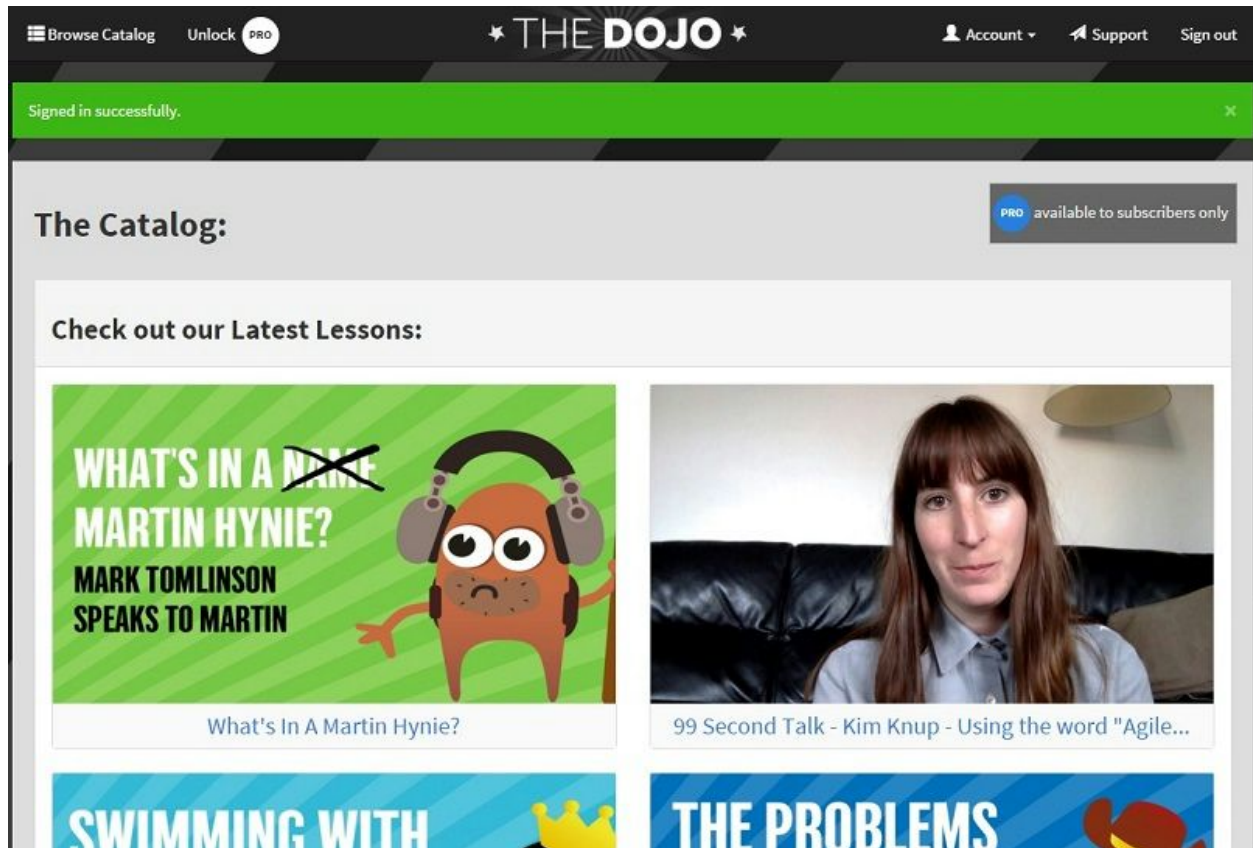
uTest is better known as a provider for paid testing projects for freelancer. If you have no interest in finding paid projects to earn extra money, you should love the software testing courses provided by uTest University.

uTest University provides all of courses in software testing from manual to automated testing, mobile testing, usability testing, security testing etc. with all levels from beginner to advanced level. The course is step-by-step guides, so tester would find no problems to follow the course.

Good design and easy to read are what I can tell about uTest University course. Not all courses are free, but you can surely find the good ones there

**Official website:** <http://university.utest.com>

## MinistryOfTesting – by Rosie Sherry

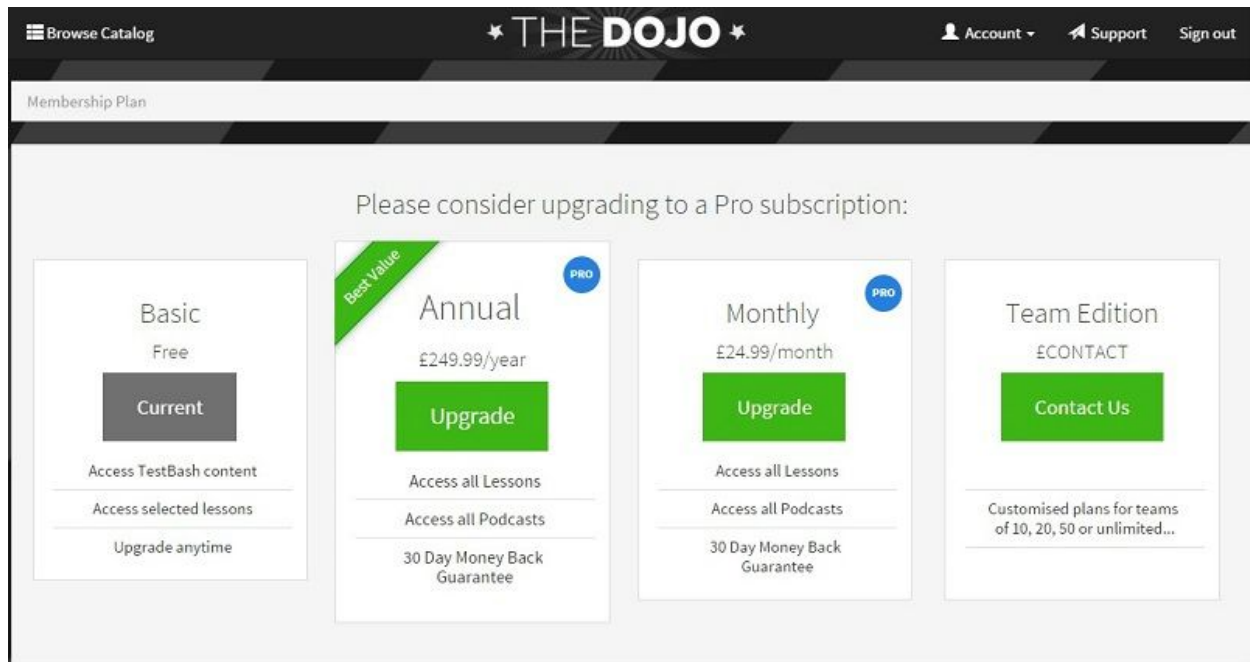


If you don't know Rosie, Rosie is also the founder of SoftwareTestingClub.com community, TestNinjas, and TestBash conference beside of MinistryOfTesting.

MinistryOfTesting provides The Dojo where testers can check out online courses. Dojo is a room or hall in which judo and other martial arts are practiced.

What makes the Dojo is different is it provides practical courses using Podcast and Video. If you are too busy to read text, The Dojo may be for you.

The Dojo has both Free and Pro subscription. You can start with a Free plan first. If you like the content, you can upgrade to Pro any time.

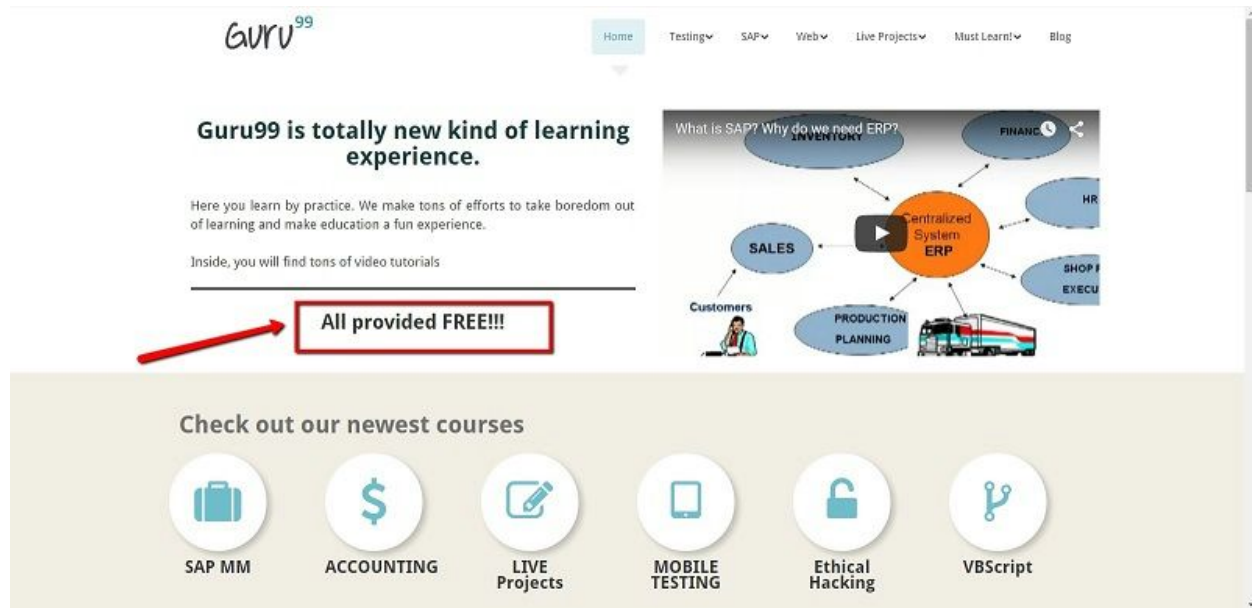


Official website: <https://dojo.ministryoftesting.com/>

## Guru99

Are you looking for a 100% free online software testing course? You will love Guru99.

While most of training class is designed just to take your money, Guru99 is not one of them.



Even though Guru99 provide their course for free, their content quality is more than my expectation. Courses are designed as step-by-step guide with screenshot to help new testers follow easily.

If there's one thing I don't like about Guru99, it's the way they present their contents. You could be distracted by frequent AdSense advertisements display inline. However, it's common for free content service.

I highly recommend Guru99 for new testers. Good job Guru99!

**Official website:** <http://www.guru99.com>

## 5. Online forum and communities:

### **LinkedIn Group:**

You may be familiar with LinkedIn, but if not, LinkedIn is the #1 network of professionals. Unlike Facebook where most people take pictures and share what they eat or where they are, LinkedIn is where people shared their professional experience and discussion. LinkedIn is considered as complete tool you need for your personal/business marketing.

If you haven't got the LinkedIn account yet, create one. It's free. You can also login LinkedIn using your Facebook account.

LinkedIn has many useful features, but my favorite feature is LinkedIn group and my favorite group is Software Testing and Quality Assurance (QA) @Standardqa. To join the group, you can follow the necessary steps to search the group or simply click on [this link](#) and join the group

Walker Industrial - Industrial Automation Distributor of America's leading brands.

**Software Testing & Quality Assurance (QA)**  
@standqa

199,716 members Member

Discussions Jobs About Search

Start a discussion with your group

Enter a discussion title

Sort by: Recent

Gerry Isaacson, MBA President and Contract QA Consultant Manager's Choice

**Why does an IT developer need another person to verify the systems that they have created?**

In the true essential character of quality why doesn't an IT System developer certify what they have developed as defect free. If I make and sell a bolt/washer/nut I have to certify it as defect free (which allows the buyer to... more

Comment (74) • Like (25) • Follow 6 days ago

Rafal Sikorski, Amro AlTahtamouni, CSM, Alejandro Figueroa, +23 like this

See all comments

Andrew Kelly

@Mick, as soon as it is suggested that the term 'Tester' is a misnomer for what QA should be doing you might as well add in the terms 'Coders, BA's or product owners' in there also as

**Changes for messaging group members**

We've updated the rules for messaging the Out of Network members in your Groups to prevent abuse. To read more about how we've improved Groups, visit our [Help Center](#).

**Your group contribution level**

Getting closer! Reach the next level and you could get featured on the group homepage.

Building a Following

**Ads You May Be Interested In**

**Get Your Financial Aid**  
For as low as 3% interest rate, you can secure your loan. No hidden fees.

**Futureproof Your Business**  
Let FutureBrand China help you

Your group joining request will need to be reviewed for approval. It will take you a day or two as I remember.

Software Testing and Quality Assurance group has been created since 2008 with almost 200,000 members which is one of the largest group in the software testing community I know. With such a large number of members, you will surely find the support you need from this community.

Once you are in the group, you can start asking your burning question in software testing or you can find the discussion you like and join to discuss. However, unlike



other forums where you can ask anything in any ways you like, here in this group you need to pose your questions in a professional way because many experts may ask you back for clarifying your questions. This will help you ask better questions and they can help answer you better. I think this makes sense because if you are looking for advice or discussion from professionals, you have to be professional.

Connect with me



...And the last resource I want to introduce you is a website which is unrelated to software testing, but it surely can help you do better testing.

## LearnCodeTheHardway.org – by Zed A. Shaw

# LCodeTHW

- Home
- Python
- Ruby
- C
- SQL
- Regex
- Blog

### Learn Ruby The Hard Way

All the original prose of "Learn Python The Hard Way" but with new source code that teaches you Ruby instead of Python. It's the same successful teaching style, same writings, but with a different language.

If you've always wanted to learn Ruby, then start with this book which will get you ready for other more advanced Ruby books.

[Find Out More](#)

```
1 print "How old are you? "
2 age = gets.chomp()
3 print "How tall are you? "
4 height = gets.chomp()
5 print "How much do you weigh? "
6 weight = gets.chomp()
7
8 puts "So, you're #{age} old, #{height} tall"
```

Take an online class by the author of *Learn Python The Hard Way*, Zed A. Shaw at [Inculcate.Me](#).

[Find Out More](#)



I can't remember how I knew or who recommended me this site at the beginning,



I'm glad that I knew it.

Unlike other programming training site choosing the easy way to learn programming (or at least that's what they advertise). LearnCodeTheHardWay does the opposite. When following the course, you have to sweat to learn programming by doing exercise, by typing and mostly on...Notepad. If you are familiar with IDE to write your code, you can image how difficult it is when typing on Notepad.

Below is the LxTHW Philosophy:

## The LxTHW Philosophy

"Less Talk, More Code" summarizes the philosophy. By having students get code working *first*, and explaining it second, you cut down on much of the difficulty of explaining programming concepts to the uninitiated.

A LxTHW book simply has students do exercises, focuses on practice and rote repetition, and instills an attitude that to learn anything one must be prepared to work at it.

LCTHW will teach you the following programming languages:

[Learn Python The Hard Way](#) (My favorite one. I learned it)

[Learn Ruby The Hard Way](#)

[Learn C The Hard Way](#)

[Learn SQL The Hard Way](#)

[Learn Regex The Hard Way](#)

...and the best part? They are all FREE for online version. Of course, if you like what Zed wrote, you can buy the book to have full access to video and lifetime support. Anyway, if you are looking for a book or a course to learn a programming language, free online version is all you need.

**Official website:** <http://learncodethehardway.org/>

## Final thoughts

There you have it. I have just introduced you my best online resources to learn software testing. Some of them are free, but some will cost you money. You don't have to like these courses or take my words. You need to check out and assess the site by yourself. If you are new to testing, this list will give you a heads-up or some initial guide so that you know where to go.

Also, while I'm tempted to find and introduce some good websites or course to learn automation or security, I haven't found any good ones so far to introduce to

you. I did some searches but I was getting confused by the results returned. Some of them are low-fruit courses and designed just to get your money. No, I'm not saying that all the courses out there are like that, it's just my personal feeling. I would rather make you disappointed than point you to wrong resources I've never experienced.

**Thank you so much!**

*I hope you enjoyed reading and learned thing or two from this ebook so far.*

*If you have any questions or want to reach me privately, just drop me an email at: [thanh@asktester.com](mailto:thanh@asktester.com)*



-Thanh Huynh