

Paris, 8 June 2009

Natacha Pickaert, Director of Software Qualification at Optium | Vision IT Group, co-authors 'Industrialize the functional test'

How can we reduce the risks and costs of IS? In a period of belt-tightening, the industrialization of tests represents a major opportunity.



Industrialize the functional test, co-authored by Natacha Pickaert (Optium | Vision IT Group), Bruno Legeard and Fabrice Bouquet, was written for project leaders and those who must put in place a test strategy for the applications they are responsible for, whether they be specific projects or software packages. It also concerns the Directors, IS - those responsible for methods and quality who must guide the work of their teams.

This work deals with functional tests over the various phases of qualification. It shows how the design and then the construction and implementation of tests can rely on systematic processes which may be 'industrialized.'

The book divides into three major areas:

- Presentation of an overview of the current situation of software testing, where the cycle of qualification and the needs of respective industrialisation are described.
- Description of the techniques for implementation so as to end up with systematic action and presentation of a process with tools, plus the key elements of successful deployment.
- Setting out the details of three case studies (software package, web application, built-in system) and a summary of the factors of ROI.

Software tests have progressed a lot over these past few years, both on the level of methods and processes and on the level of tools available. *Industrialize the functional test* provides operational elements which allow the reader to situate himself at a better level of present practices.

Natacha Pickaert, Director of Software Qualification at Optium | Vision IT Group.

After starting out in industry working on ISO and quality control, she moved on to data processing applied to management and then to Software Quality, thereby combining two areas of skills. Natacha has hands-on experience in Software Qualification and management of a qualification unit in TRA – Third Applications Formula. She has had a lot of experience working on advisory assignments for production of Information Systems. She has led many important projects, particularly in the framework of quality measures, implementation of methodologies, in manual contexts with tools. She did work for USINOR, BOUYGUES TELECOM, PACIFICA, L'OREAL, DASSAULT AVIATION, BUREAU VERITAS, SOCIETE GENERALE, GENERAL ELECTRIC Money Bank, etc.

Today she holds the position of Director of Software Qualification within the company Optium | Vision IT Group.

Indeed, Optium | Vision IT Group has the very special skill of Software on offer. It consists of validating the conformity of software present during the entire cycle of developing projects and extends right up to the ability to support its clients as they define and put in place elements which compete with Software Quality in Production 'for a durable Information System.' This quality move makes it possible to avoid costs linked to errors and to increase the performance of the software at every stage. These services satisfy the concern to render professional and to industrialise the production of software. They satisfy the need to validate acceptance of software packages of outsourced projects. The market for Software Qualification is fast growing. These assignments account for between 20% and 30% of the overall cost of a project and are hard to provide using 'off-shore' teams. Optium | Vision IT Group has been an actor in the Software Qualification market for 12 years. It is a 'pure player' in this domain and has more than 150 consultants and experts ready to assist its clients in their daily work by improving the quality of their IT projects.

Practical Information

Editions Dunod

Computer sciences and enterprises collection

Price: 33€

Available on sale at the website of the publisher, in the usual bookstore chains and in boutiques on line.

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A Belgian company founded in 2001 and having as co-chairman Marc Urbany and Philippe Muffat-es-Jacques, VISION IT GROUP is an advisory group with expertise in Information Technologies: infrastructures, software qualification, business applications and mobile solutions, high level consulting and training. VISION IT GROUP is present in 7 European countries (Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Great Britain) and employs around 1,000 experts. It is simultaneously quoted on the Alternext markets of the NYSE-Euronext Paris and NYSE-Euronext Brussels.

Its rapid development rests principally on the quality of its experts (90% of whom are engineers) and on its operating model of the Grid Company. This particularly effective model consists of making common use of the expertise of the Group's units. Each of the subsidiaries is specialised in one or two technologies and is committed to working on behalf of all the business units of the Group, wherever their geographic location, without duplicating R & D. VISION IT GROUP offers its clients critical competences at the best price, thereby winning over some of the largest European companies as references.

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