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Abstract

This research examines the effect of test automation on software testers. Over time testing has carved out a separate discipline distinct from software development. Software has become increasingly more complex and distributed. The pressure to release into production multiple times a day has raised the strategic importance of test automation. The history and background of testing are considered in light of a critical analysis of the current body of research. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods, a picture emerges that is in contrast to the development strategy being promoted by the Cloud Services Company where the semi-structured interviews took place. After analysis of the data, the fact that a lot of testing carried out is still manual was unexpected and means that manual testers are still required. However, the problems that are preventing automation being more successful and widely implemented are solvable and can be addressed in the next five years or less. The conclusion to this research suggests that people currently in manual software testing are in danger of being replaced. To survive in the software industry, they will need to retrain and learn to code. Otherwise, their positions will become obsolete.