
The Big Book of How to Do Perfect Testing

A “Lightning Talk” Including:
The Big Book
and
How it Came to Be
in
Five Minutes or Less
(Really)



A story, because 5 minutes is a long time.

On SHAPE forum, we were reviewing “testing parables” written by Jerry (Weinberg) and Elisabeth (Hendrickson) each “. . . debunking a myth about testing.”

Jim Batterson spoke up: “. . . each vignette is an illustration of some principle . . . a violation of Chapter three subsection two of *The Big Book of How to Do Perfect Testing*. The frustration for the reader . . . is that such a book does not exist.”

So, I wrote it.



The Big Book of How to Do Perfect Testing

by James Bullock

- 1 - Testing is an informational function . . .
- 2 - Testing produces information reliably grounded in the observed behavior of a system . . .
- 3 - Information is valuable if you act on it . . . So, get what you'll act on, and act on what you get . . .
- 4 - The techniques of testing are endless – literally. So, pick the one that best gets you the information you need . . .
- 5 - Act always according to these four principles and you will do perfect testing, every time. The rest is details.



The Big Book – The Director's Cut

with Commentary Track

Handout: *The Big Book of How to do Perfect Testing - The Director's Cut*

The Big Claim: This definition accounts for, accommodates, and even encourages the whole testing canon:

- Any “school” of testing you can name
- Techniques & tools of testing, and inventing new ones
- Life-cycles and life-cycle integration for testing
- Kinds of information you can get from testing
- And why you'd test vs. find this out some other way (Hint: Any time we trust observation more than other ways to find stuff out.)

Very useful for resolving issues with test management, support of testing, and the responsibilities of testing & testers.



Coda: In Case We Have Time Left Over

Jerry: “I guess nobody ever asked for this book before. Thanks, Jim, for writing it. No thanks, Jim, for putting our book out of business.”

Bullock: “You are welcome, and yours will sell. Mine won't. Too short.”

To be fair, Jim Batterson also said: “. . . I hope such a book is never created. It is not the nature of testing that there is one right way of testing everything.”

SHAPE = Software as a Human Activity Practiced Effectively, a subscription-based forum hosted by Jerry Weinberg.

