Forget silver bullets and be context-driven

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Silver bullet

Something that very quickly and easily solves a serious problem

- Merriam-Webster dictionary
´Silver bullets´ are only silver plated
This tool supports all your interfaces!
Our method always works!
Anyone can use this tool!
The PuPPET factors

• Take the context into account:
  • People
  • Processes
  • Policies
  • Environment
  • Technologies
  • And ... continuity
Example 1

- Robot Framework and Python:
  - Non-technical testers use dollar signs and assignments
  - Edit the test as text instead of using RIDE
  - Busy testers have to write the 'user keywords'
  - Code in Python against company policy
  - Ignoring people, policy and technology gives poor results
Example 2

• Specification by Example in FitNesse:
  • Data warehouse: data in, data out
  • Testers and analysts would write and review test cases
  • FitNesse was easy to use and test logs were clear
  • Automation (SSH, JDBC) was completely separate
  • Good attention to people and process
  • Testers and analysts were productive and happy
Example 3

- Runaway Scrum teams:
  - All 30+ teams were free to select a test automation tool
  - The tools did not integrate to test a chain of systems
  - Few teams used stubs / mocks for system testing
  - No automation coding standard, low code reuse, ...
  - Ignoring process, environment, continuity
  - Tool orchestration enabled testing long chains of systems
Example 4

- Embedded system with many interfaces:
  - Testers selected FitNesse for writing test cases
  - Used one of two preferred languages for automation
  - Used a COTS tool but using its COM API (orchestration)
  - Uses many interfaces from the same test case
  - Respected people, policy and technologies
  - Still in use and also used for other purposes
Conclusion

• The tool is not the solution, it is people
• Expect 'silver bullets' to be silver plated at best
• Consider all PuPPET factors for lasting success
Thank you

Questions?