

# Inside the Explorer's Notebook

*Reporting Your Testing Travels*

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**STAR East 2005**



# Some notes from this week

\* The military has medals  
to let everyone know their  
experience, should we?

Red / orange / yellow / green / blue / violet

⊛ See questions on slide  
48 for goal-setting + perf

Perf criteria - see slide @ 52

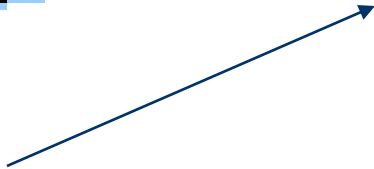
⊛ Advise spreadsheet to  
staff about how they will be  
evaluated!

⊛ Add a slide to my  
Explainer talk about  
my test notes

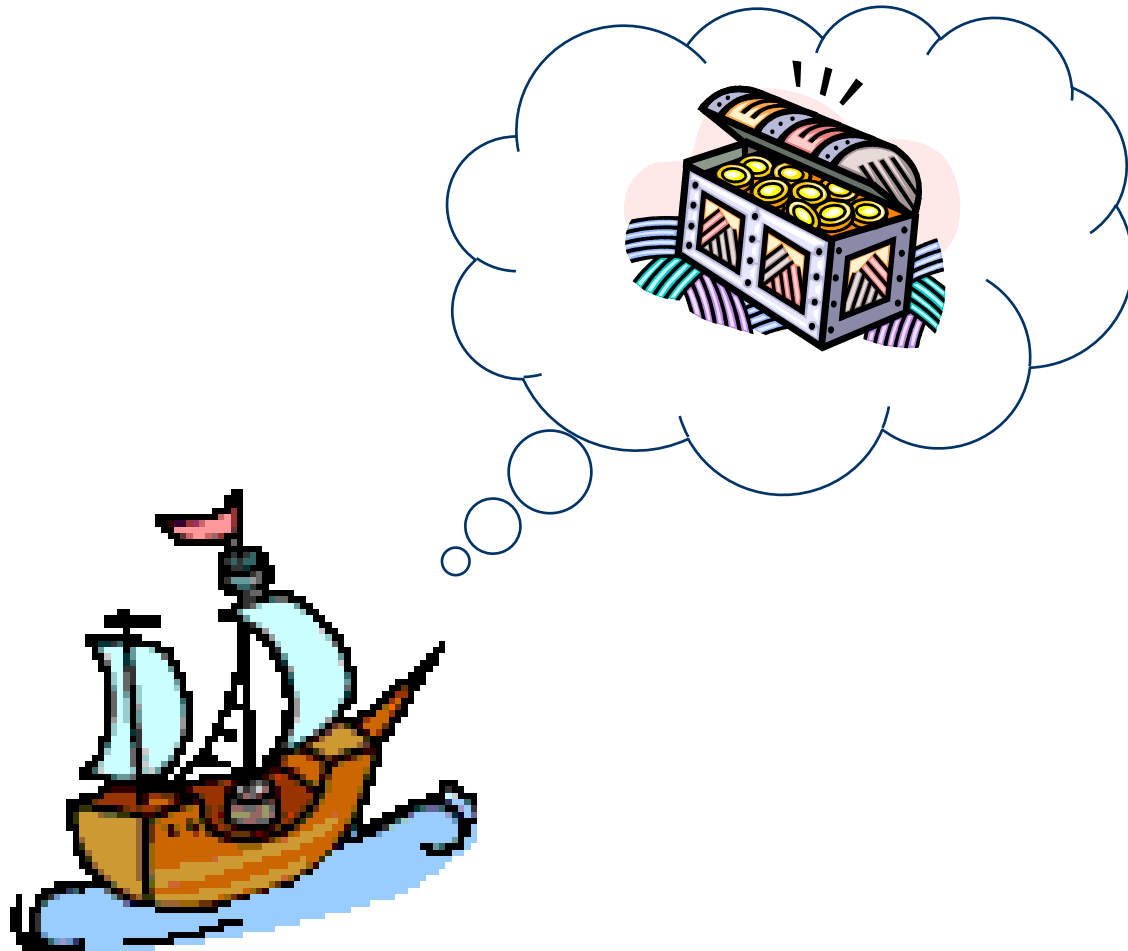
# Exploration is discovery...



Parts Unknown



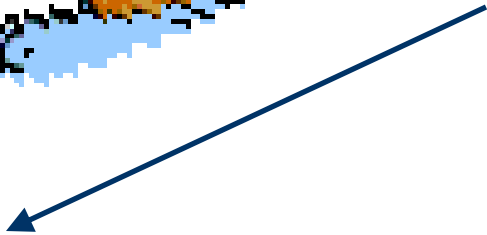
**that starts with an idea...**



**or ends with an idea...**

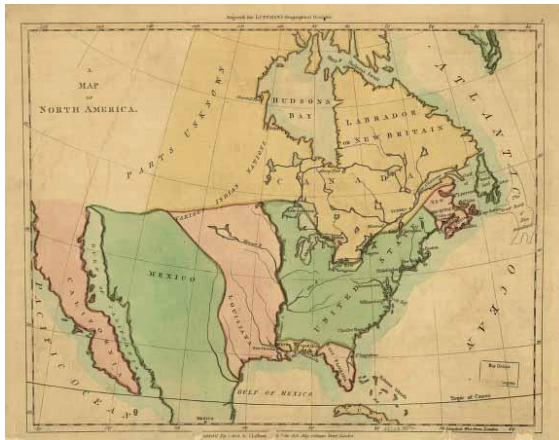


Earth stops here...



# ...depending on the mission

**Before**



**After**



# Lewis & Clark, 1802

Mission: Find a water passage across North America...



# The charter from Jefferson

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*“The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river, & such principal stream of it, as, by its course & communication with the water of the Pacific ocean may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent, for the purposes of commerce.”*

<http://www.monticello.org/jefferson/lewisandclark/instructions.html>



# What's in their journal?

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Guesses, anyone?

# Clark's notes...

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Captain Clark, River Dubois opposite the mouth of the Missouri River, 13 May 1804

*“I dispatched an express this morning to Captain Lewis at St. Louis. All our provisions, goods, and equipage on board of a boat of 22 oars [party], a large pirogue of 71 oars [in which 8 French], a second pirogue of 6 oars [soldiers], complete with sails, &c. Men completed with powder cartridges and 100 balls each, all in health and readiness to set out. Boats and everything complete, with the necessary stores of provisions and such articles of merchandise as we thought ourselves authorized to procure-though not as much as I think necessary for the multitude of Indians through which we must pass on our road across the continent.”*

# What to document

	Historical Explorer	Tester
<b>Observations</b> (To the degree you think they are relevant to stakeholders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• drawings of flora / fauna</li><li>• descriptions of indigenous people</li><li>• landmarks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• feature model</li><li>• text from log files</li><li>• text from dialogs</li></ul>
<b>Conjectures</b> (Inferences based on experiences. After I test, I think I know something)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what is this thing?</li><li>• where should we go today?</li><li>• how do we get there?</li><li>• new orders from HQ?</li><li>• are those people hostile?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• test ideas</li><li>• questions</li><li>• product and project issues</li><li>• concerns</li><li>• risks</li></ul>
<b>Project information</b> (Independent of observer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• mission</li><li>• supplies and staff</li><li>• latitude / longitude</li><li>• death and disease</li><li>• supply status</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• charter</li><li>• test actions</li><li>• config info</li><li>• build details</li><li>• tools used</li></ul>

# Sponsors and stakeholders

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- Test Manager
- Product Manager
- CEO
- Customer
- Developer
- Marketing
- Tech Writer
- Customer Support
- Other testers



# What managers might ask

How did you spend your time?

What did you find?

Did you need some help / tools?

Do you think there's more to do here?

Was this charter reasonable?

## Agenda: "PROOF"

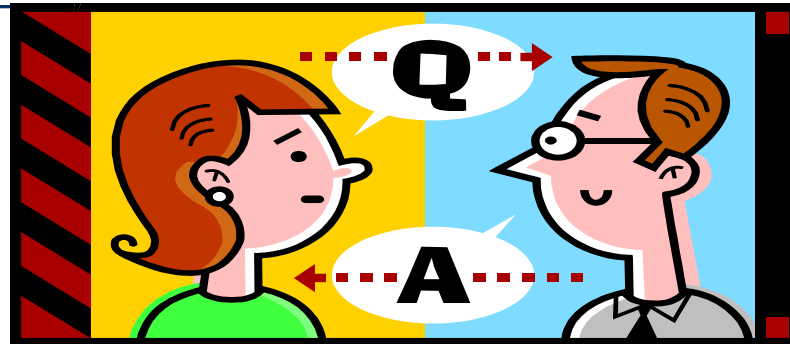
**P**ast

**R**esults

**O**bstacles

**O**utlook

**F**eelings



# The real message

<b>What's being asked</b>	<b>What they may be thinking</b>
<i>What was your mission?</i>	<i>Remind me what I told you to do...</i>
<i>How did it go?</i>	<i>What do I worry about next?</i>
<i>How far did you get?</i>	<i>Are we closer to shipping?</i>
<i>Need anything?</i>	<i>Can I speed this along?</i>
<i>When will you be done?</i>	<i>Will I get my bonus?</i>

# Scrutiny: what happened here?

*“(Orderly Book) Camp Mouth of the Kanskies June 29, 1804  
Ordered --- A Court Martiall will Set this day at 11 oClock... for  
the trial of John Collins and Hugh Hall...*

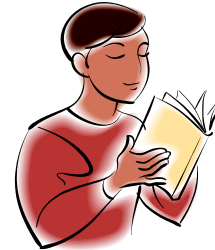
*John Collins Charged "with getting drunk on his post this  
Morning out of whiskey put under his charge as a Sentinal, and  
for suffering Hugh Hall to draw whiskey out of the Said Barrel  
intended for the party."*

*...The commanding Officers approve of the Sentence of the  
Court and orders that Punishment take place at half past three  
this evening, at which time the party will Parrade for inspection.”*

**June 29, 1804**  
*William Clark*

# Styles I've seen

1) Novel Narrative



2) Flight Data Recorder



3) ESPN Highlight





# Jon Bach, 2001

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*Sample test notes from actual exploratory testing :*

*et-jsb-010416-a.ses*

*et-jsb-010416-b.ses* *(for Issues)*

*et-jsb-010416-c.ses* *(a map for more ideas)*

*et-jsb-010417-a.ses* *(Claims Testing)*

*et-jsb-010417-b.ses* *(for Bugs)*

*et-jsb-010417-c.ses* *(for referenced notes)*

*et-jsb-010418-c.ses* *(more Claims)*

# How much detail is enough?

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- 1) *Sufficient benefits*
- 2) *No critical problems*
- 3) *Benefits outweigh problems*
- 4) *All things being equal, further documentation (or time, effort, testing, editing, etc.) is more harmful than helpful*

**All 4 conditions must be met to know when you're done,**

*(From brother James' Rapid Software Testing course)*

**But ask: “good enough for who, what and when?”**

# Harry Robinson, 2005

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*“Model-Based testing Meets Exploratory Testing”*

*D:\Proceedings\Slides\t14\slide\_002.html*

Questions?

