

Findings about recognition

(Abstract to CAST)

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"The test doesn't find the bug. A human finds the bug, and the test plays a role in helping the human find it." --

Why didn't you find this bug? Why didn't your team find this bug? Why are we finding this bug when we are paying you to find it? Why is our customer finding such bugs?

These are pretty common things we (Indian testers) hear. It could be anyone from the following list saying it: a) Customer b) Manager c) Lead d) Developers

Here is a question I have: Are we really **finding** bugs all time?

You might want to take this exercise: Find *pickachoo* in the following image:



I am sure, you didn't. Does that mean *pickachoo* does not exist in the image?

I know where *pickachoo* is in the image. It is the first one heading the race and *pickachoo* is the name I gave to that bug. Here is why I can find *pickachoo* but you couldn't - It is because I named the first one like that and whenever I open the image and see the front guy, I **recognize** it as *pickachoo*. You couldn't find pickachoo because you haven't seen it earlier and because you don't **recognize** it.

Close and open the file and then maybe you will recognize it and say, "*I found a bug*".

In this paper and talk, I'd like to ask a lot of questions (that might not have been asked by a lot of testers before) and address them that is relevant to "recognizing" and "finding" bugs.

Finding seems to me as more of an investigative process. You could navigate a thousand pages of the web application as a part of a specific test but you could spot a bug with the navigation or ones that exist in each of those thousand pages you navigate, only if you can recognize them.

So here is a question: Why do testers across the world never say or have never been asked, "I recognized a bug" / "Why didn't you recognize this bug?" OR - If they are already saying it that way, "Why isn't that known to most testers in my continent?"

I hope and recognize that this idea or paper might contain something that can be of value addition to such a conference and testing community. Do you find it, too?