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Testing in the Cloud Event with Guest Speaker from Microsoft Hosted by BenchmarkQA

November 8, 2009, Minneapolis, MN – On November 5th, BenchmarkQA welcomed a software quality assurance leader from Microsoft Corporation to speak on the topic of “Testing in the Cloud” for their fall Software Quality Forum event. This event was held in conjunction with the Twin Cities Quality Assurance Association’s (TCQAA) monthly meeting, and had over sixty quality assurance professionals in attendance.

Ken Johnston, Group Manager for the Microsoft Office Internet Platform & Operations team, two-year Microsoft director of Test Excellence, and co-author of "[How We Test Software at Microsoft](#)," shared humorous insights and anecdotes of his Microsoft experiences involving cloud computing. After an overview of cloud computing, complete with explanation of cloud types (public, private, virtual and hybrids) and services (Software as a Service [SaaS], Infrastructure as a Service [IaaS], Platforms as a Service [PaaS], and hybrids), Ken described the concept of cloud layers and their dynamic nature. His anecdotes demonstrated to the audience how poor test coverage can cause chaos – even for an industry giant like Microsoft!

Although it’s generally frowned upon – even forbidden by most software producers - Ken made his case for testing in production (TiP). States Molly Decklever, Vice President of Operations, “Ken’s approach to TiP (testing in production) illustrated valuable testing concepts – whether in production or not – and highlighted the importance of meticulous planning and coordination when testing in production is being considered.”

A 2-part video of the Testing in the Cloud presentation is available on BenchmarkQA’s website (www.benchmarkQA.com), along with the slides and presenter notes Ken used during the presentation. The November 5th event was BenchmarkQA’s eighth Software Quality Forum, a free quarterly event that gives software quality assurance and testing professionals the opportunity to network, learn about a timely topic of interest, and share experiences.

BenchmarkQA, headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, has provided exceptional software quality assurance consulting and testing services for more than 22 years. Their only focus is helping software project teams deliver high-caliber software with greater efficiency and cost control through consulting, staffing, training and test lab services.

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