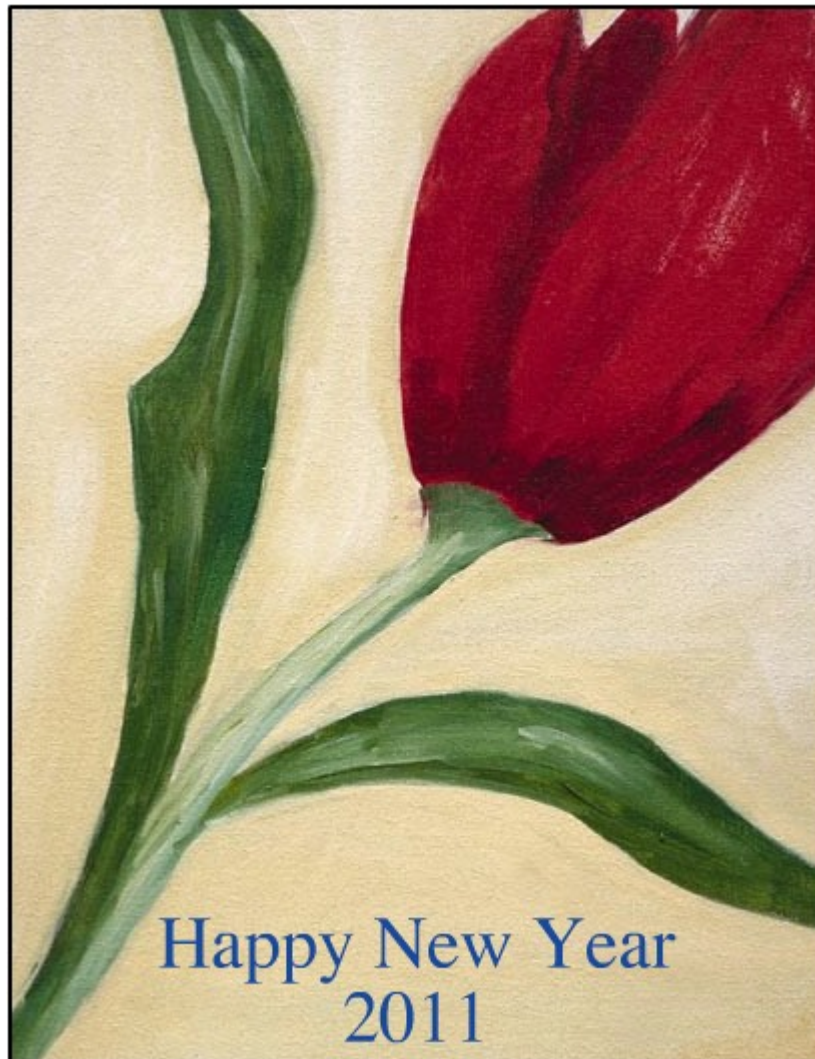


## 2010 & My Experiences

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Happy New Year 2011.

I wish each one of you a happy new year with lots of happiness, opportunities and success.



Last year – 2010 was of the most eventful year for me. I finished BBST Bug Advocacy Course, attended VISTACON 2010 and EuroSTAR 2010. Apart from facilitating 21 weekend testing sessions, I participated in 29 weekend testing sessions and I learnt a lot from these sessions. Thanks to everyone who helped me directly or indirectly progress further in my testing career. If I had to pick two moments from 2010, it would be meeting Dr.Cem in Vietnam and receiving a comment on my blog by Jerry Weinberg.

I have consolidated most of my experiences in a month by month format. This exercise helps me celebrate my achievements, recognize my mistakes, learn from them and acts as a wrap up of the year 2010.

# 2010 & My Experiences

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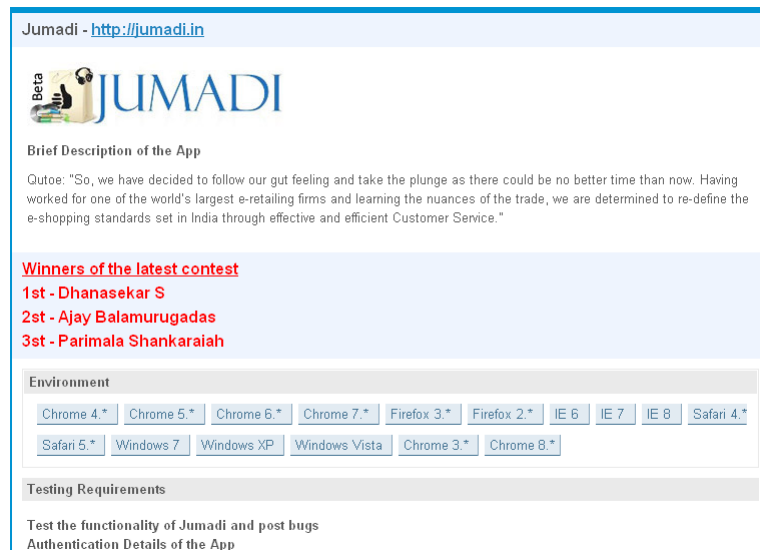
## December:

31: Article titled 'Keys to Successful Software Testing Teams' published in [Software Test Professionals](#) website. My special thanks to my colleagues who reviewed it.

30: Jaswinder Kaur Nagi (@jassi10) won the third prize in her first [www.99tests.com](http://www.99tests.com) contest. It was a proud moment for me. Congrats to Deep Verma & Amit Kulkarni.

20: 'If I were a test case' e-book was released. Download it [here](#). Thanks to everyone who contributed and directly or indirectly helped [Chandrashekhar](#).

18: Won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in [www.99tests.com](http://www.99tests.com) contest



14: 'A Tester is For Life...' e-book is released [here](#). My entry was also part of this great e-book.

14: Michael Bolton's tweet to me:

@[ajay184f](#) Reframe: Me: Don't worry. Everything's fine. Tested multiple times. Me later: OK, thought of this scenario? Me: Aaaa.... :)

This hit me hard with a valuable lesson. Everyone makes mistakes and I should not forget that even I can make costly mistakes.

10: Started cab testing. Watch out for more on this in 2011.

08: A Skype discussion with Michel Kraaij on 'learning, unlearning, remembering'.

07: An exercise with Anne-Marie Charrett on Skype. This is the second exercise this year and I am looking forward to more exercises under her supervision.

## 2010 & My Experiences

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06: Mistake in my LinkedIn profile. Thanks to Erkan Yilmaz for pointing out the mistake.

02: Dinner with Michael Bolton, Markus Gärtner, Henrik Emilsson, Martin Jansson, Teemu Vesela, Kalle Huttunen and Mika Hänninen

01: Presented at EuroSTAR 2010 - [Weekend Testing - Skilled Software Testing Unleashed](#)



Image credits: Zeger Van Hese & EuroSTAR 2010

01: Co-Facilitated and participated in a Weekend Testing session during lunch time in the Test Lab, EuroSTAR 2010.



Image credits: Markus Gärtner & Shmuel Gershon

## 2010 & My Experiences

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Photo 1: (L to R: Martin Jansson, Ajay Balamurugadas, Shmuel Gershon, Rikard Edgren, Zeger Van Hese)

Photo 2: (L to R: Joris Meerts, Shmuel Gershon, Zeger Van Hese, Lynn McKee, Jesper Ottosen, Ajay Balamurugadas)

### **November:**

30: Attended the Danish Alliance. This was my first experience of lightning talks. I was very happy to meet many passionate colleagues of the software community.



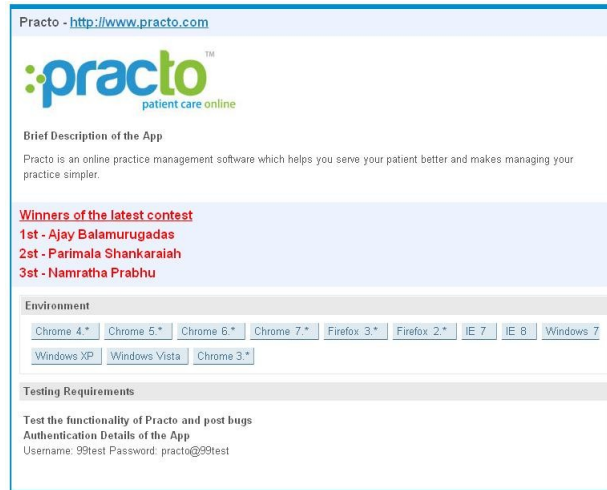
Cartoon Tester – Andy Glover’s exercise.

Image credits: John Stevenson

25: Winner of 1st testing contest at [www.99tests.com](http://www.99tests.com)

## 2010 & My Experiences

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08: Received prize money for winning second place in e-avishkar – an innovation competition conducted in efi.



07: Demonstrated the power of Google for a college assignment. It was a good exercise for me considering that I did not know anything about the assignment, and I found the answers in a quick time.

05: Received an email from Matt Heusser thanking for the chapter review.

### **October:**

20: Declared winner of <http://www.eurostarconferences.com/content/blogstar-competition.aspx>

# 2010 & My Experiences

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## BlogSTAR - Cast your Vote for your Favourite Blogger

SHARE



BlogSTAR was launched in late August this year when we began our search for the EuroSTAR 2010 BlogSTAR. Testers were invited to contribute on the EuroSTAR blog for a period of 6 weeks on anything test related. We have been delighted with the frequency and quality of the blog posts so we would like to

thank all contestants for the huge effort and work that went in. The winning BlogSTAR will receive an all expenses paid trip to EuroSTAR 2010 in Copenhagen where they will blog live from the conference each day.

EuroSTAR appointed an independent panel to judge the bloggers and their task was to select 3 bloggers to go forward to a vote. The test community would then select the winner.

## Announcing the EuroSTAR 2010 BlogSTAR - Ajay Balamurugadas



Ajay Balamurugadas, is a software tester passionate to learn to test any software. He is co-founder of "Weekend Testing" and shares his testing activities and learning through his blog [EnjoyTesting.blogspot.com](http://EnjoyTesting.blogspot.com) and tweets @ajay184f.

[Click here](#) to view Ajay's posts during BlogSTAR

07: Promoted to black-belt in Miagi-Do School of software testing school run by Matt Heusser.

07: Got upgraded to Professional member from Basic at [www.softwaretestpro.com](http://www.softwaretestpro.com)

06: Are you still at Version 1.0? Article in EuroSTAR newsletter - STARtester:

<http://qualtech.newsweaver.ie/startester/i7nw6dbtx7t1upmhnqdwva>



05: Featured on my company newsletter

<http://enjoytesting.blogspot.com/2010/10/im-featured-on-my-company-newsletter.html>

The screenshot shows the efi Spectrum website. The main navigation bar includes 'Corporate News', 'Product Info', 'People News', and 'About Spectrum'. The 'People News' section is active, displaying the article 'Efler Wins Worldwide Bug Hunting Contest'. The article text describes how Ajay Balamurugadas, a senior QA engineer in Bangalore, won a scholarship from a software testing club and was selected to present at a testing conference in Denmark. It also mentions that he was named as one of seven winners of LogiGear's 2010 Bug Hunting Contest. A small portrait of Ajay is included in the article. At the bottom, there is a link to the full article on the company blog.

02: Attended Security Conference by Silicon India, Bangalore, India.

## September:

20-22: Attended VISTACON 2010 Conference. <http://vistacon.vn/> It was my dream to meet Dr.Cem.

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Email: [ajay184f@gmail.com](mailto:ajay184f@gmail.com)

Skype/Twitter: [ajay184f](#)

## 2010 & My Experiences

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15: Solved the Thinking Challenge #13 – “Hotel Doors” posed by Lynn McKee

<http://www.qualityperspectives.ca/blog/1918>

13: Commented on one of the poor articles [here](#).

02: I was interviewed by Software testing Club. It was a fun interview.

<http://blog.softwaretestingclub.com/2010/09/an-interview-with-ajay-balamurugadas/>

### An Interview with Ajay Balamurugadas

BY ROSIE SHERRY · SEPTEMBER 2, 2010 · 1 COMMENT  
INTERVIEWS ·



Ajay Balamurugadas is a tester based in Bangalore. He co-started Weekend Testing and has a blog on testing.

Do you leap up or lie slumbering?



### **August:**

24: I was declared as one of the winners of the bug hunting competition and I won myself a free conference ticket to VISTACON 2010. <http://vistacon.vn/en/bug-hunting.html>

# 2010 & My Experiences

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The screenshot shows the VISTACON 2010 website. At the top, it says 'VISTACON™ Vietnam International Software Testing & Automation Conference' with a phone number '+848 8895 4072'. Below that is a navigation menu with 'Home page', 'About VISTACON', 'Conference Program', 'Registration', 'Sponsor', 'Contact Us', and 'Bug Hunting Contest'. A banner for the conference dates 'September 20-22, 2010' at the 'White Palace Convention Center HCMC, Vietnam' is visible, along with a 'Register Now' button and a 'Save 20% of conference price by August' offer. The main content area is titled 'BUG HUNTING' with a bug icon. Below this is a section for 'BUG HUNTING CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT'. The text states: 'The 2010 Bug-Hunting Contest attracted more than 200 contestants from around the world, including bug hunters from the Philippines, Indonesia, South Africa and the United States. Today, we are honored to announce the top seven contestants who each win a free ticket to attend VISTACON 2010, valued at 450 USD. The seven winners of the Bug Hunting Contest 2010:' followed by a list of names: 1. TRAN THI PHONG UYEN, 2. NGUYEN THI NGUYET ANH, 3. PHAM HO THU TRANG, 4. AJAY BALAMURUGADAS, 5. DUONG THI THUY TRANG, 6. PHAM THI THU HANG, 7. NGUYEN TUAN TU. At the bottom, it says 'Contestants will receive their award at the VISTACON 2010 Press Briefing on 19 September 2010' and 'Location: Sheraton Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City'.

18: One of the happiest moments in my life was when Michael Bolton & Jerry Weinberg posted comments on my blog. The same comment, Jerry posted as a blog post in his blog.  
<http://secretsofconsulting.blogspot.com/2010/08/attendance-too-regular-try-this.html>



The screenshot shows a blog post. At the top is a photo of a man with glasses sitting in a wooden chair, holding a small black dog. Below the photo is the date 'Tuesday, August 17, 2010'. The title of the post is 'Attendance Too Regular? Try This!'. Below the title is the text 'Inspired by Ajay Balamurugadas's blog at' followed by the URL 'http://enjoytesting.blogspot.com/2010/08/aware-of-other-side-of-your-application.html'.

6: I contributed a crash course on exploratory testing to uTest forums.

## July:

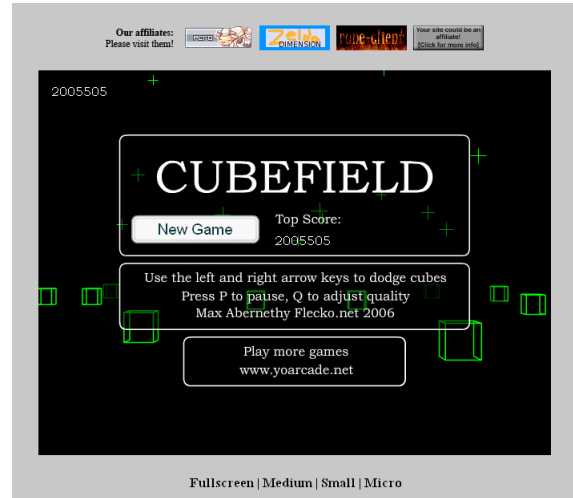
19: Conducted a mock interview to one of my friends. On going through the recording, I learnt few points about my voice modulation, questions and my thought process.

08: Special thanks to everyone who helped me get to EuroSTAR 2010 via ChipIn.  
<http://blog.softwaretestingclub.com/2010/07/help-ajay-eat-and-sleep-at-eurostar/>

06: Answer to a testing challenge posed by Michael Alexander:  
<http://enjoytesting.blogspot.com/2010/07/answer-to-testing-challenge.html>

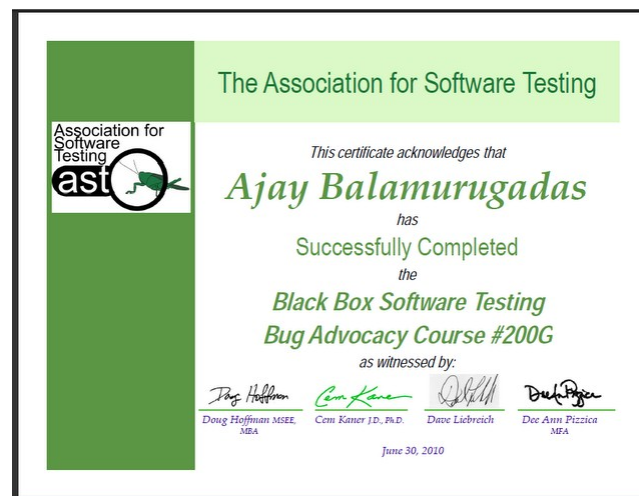
## 2010 & My Experiences

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### June:

30: I received my BBST Bug Advocacy Course Completion certificate. If there is a list of courses which has helped me succeed, BBST Bug Advocacy Course would be right at the top of the list.



08: I felt I was right next to Jon & Steven as he was solving this puzzle. Amazing blog post and great work by Steven. <http://jonbox.wordpress.com/2010/06/08/the-right-combination/>

### May:

11: I am listed as one of the top 20 tweeps. <http://blog.utest.com/top-20-software-testing-tweeps/2010/05/>

09: I did a paired testing session with Ashish Maheshwari. His experience report is [here](#).

08: I started contributing to @dailytestingtip as a volunteer.

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Email: [ajay184f@gmail.com](mailto:ajay184f@gmail.com)

Skype/Twitter: ajay184f

## 2010 & My Experiences

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04: Amazing blog post by Michael Bolton. I felt that all my questions were answered through this blog post. "[Testers: get Out of the Quality Assurance Business](#)"

### **April:**

28: Anne-Marie Charrett listed me as one of the people she admires in the software testing field. I am honored to be in this blog post <http://mavericktester.com/when-the-dog-bites-when-the-bee-stings>

20: My blog [Enjoy Testing](#) was listed as one of the blogs in top 100 blogs on software testing. <http://www.testingminded.com/2010/04/top-100-software-testing-blogs.html>

12: It was time for ParkCalc challenge de-brief and Jon Bach facilitated the session.

08: ParkCalc challenge on twitter. I learnt quite a few interesting points about my testing approach.

06: Matt Heusser mentioned me in his [blog post](#) along with some of the eminent people in the software community.

03: I attended BWST2 – Bangalore Workshop on Software Testing. The talks were interesting and thought provoking. Some great blog posts on the workshop are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).



Image Credits: Rahul Mirakhur

### **March:**

29: I wrote a guest article for uTest Blog. <http://blog.utest.com/journey-of-a-passionate-tester/2010/03/>

08: I made a mistake. I replied to one of the comments on my blog in a harsh manner [here](#).

03: Co-authored an article with Allmas Mullah for the [Testing Experience](#) Magazine - 9th Issue

## 2010 & My Experiences

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03: An excellent post By Parimala Shankaraiah on our 30 minute challenge [here](#).

### **Feb:**

19: Captained a team of six testers to victory in the [Zappers event](#) held at Bangalore. The discussion session was very helpful.



### **Jan:**

12: I was struggling to meet deadlines and when I tweeted about it, Matt Heusser & Michael Bolton replied. I still implement those lessons.

mheusser@ajay184f - when I see a deadline approaching, I ask myself "what happens if this deadline flies by?" :-)

ajay184f@mheusser: That way any deadline could be allowed to fly by.

mheusser@ajay184f - it's a way of separating 'real' deadlines from false ones, and kinda un-blocks you mentally :-)

michaelbolton@ajay184f Posing the question helps to determine whether the deadline is important.

### **Facilitation with Weekend Testing**

#### **January:**

WT21: Co-facilitated a session where testers interacted with Dr.Cem. Mission was to create a mind map using one of the four tools - Inspiration, Mind Manager, Novamind, Visual mind.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/683>

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Email: [ajay184f@gmail.com](mailto:ajay184f@gmail.com)

Skype/Twitter: ajay184f

## 2010 & My Experiences

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EWT 01: Facilitated the first session of Europe Weekend Testing session

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/712>

### February:

WT24: A session full of discussion with Dr.Meeta Prakash <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/773>

### March:

WT27: Google Buzz. Interesting session with testers unhappy with the mission.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/845>

WT28: Facilitated a session where there was a slight heated argument among testers.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/866>

MWT10: Tried out a new mission - four different quality criteria with just ten minutes for each. First time, I tried out with a human trap - a tester trying to distract other testers in the session.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/875>

WT30: This session, it was great to see all the testers work as one team. James Bach, who participated in the session, gave me few tips on how I could improve my facilitation.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/938>

### April:

WT33: Participated as a member of the bug triage committee with Jon Bach & Parimala Shankaraiah.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1055>

### May:

WT35: Testers tried out www.prezi.com <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1128>

WT36: Helped Matt Heusser facilitate a session on SocialText.

### June:

WT38: Solving a jigsaw puzzle was the mission. I was very happy to facilitate this session as a 13 yr old boy participated in this session. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1171>

WT39: Used a game in this session. Chuzzle. Testers seemed to have enjoyed this session

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1239>

WT40: Testers tested an open source product - Don't Panic. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1274>

### July:

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Email: [ajay184f@gmail.com](mailto:ajay184f@gmail.com)

Skype/Twitter: ajay184f

## 2010 & My Experiences

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WT41: Programmer of Personal Renamer gave us the mission.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1292>

WT42: Discussed about Regression Testing after watching video by Dr.Cem.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1337>

WT43: Ben Simo participated in this session. Testers tested File Inflater and exchanged quite a few testing ideas. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1354>

### **August:**

WT45: The session ended well before the time and I failed miserably as a facilitator.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1400>

WT46: Testers tested DropResize and I facilitated better than last session.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1404>

WT47: Testers gave feedback on WinMend File Splitter application.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1435>

### **October:**

WT48: Pligus tool was tested and feedback provided on. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1479>

### **December:**

WT49: BleachBit: Testers did NOT meet the mission. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1568>

WNT02: Text2MindMap Assisted mike Scott in facilitation. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1618>

### **Participation in Weekend Testing**

#### **January:**

EWT02: Tested Bing Maps. Paired with Thomas Ponnet.

EWT04: Tested URL Shorteners. Please find my report here. Used Google to help my testing.

EWT05: Tested Virtual Magnifying Glass. Paired with Zeger Van Hese. My list of issues is [here](#).

#### **February:**

EWT06: Evaluated Freemind. Lack of practice was clearly visible. My mind map is [here](#).

#### **March:**

EWT08: Joined half an hour late and enjoyed the discussion more than testing.

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Email: [ajay184f@gmail.com](mailto:ajay184f@gmail.com)

Skype/Twitter: ajay184f

## 2010 & My Experiences

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EWT09: Paired up with Shruti, to test Converber. The test report is [here](#).

EWT10: Tried out an approach to focus on Skype chat for hour an hour and then work on the mission for the other half an hour. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/882>

EWT11: A session where I was not able to test due to an error. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/915>

### April:

EWT14: Prepare a charter to test Brain Workshop. In this session, I took advantage of the loophole by preparing just one charter. There was no information on the number of charters to be prepared.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1003>

WT32: Jon Bach facilitated the session. I learnt about [www.typewith.me](http://www.typewith.me) in this session and I use it regularly now.

EWT15: Compared CycleStreets with Google Maps based on the HICCUPPS heuristic. I tried to fulfill this mission using my smart phone.

### May:

WTANZ02: Exploratory Testing of two websites: data.gov & data.gov.uk I found this session quite disturbing. My experience post is here: <http://enjoytesting.blogspot.com/2010/05/wtanz02-interesting-session.html>

EWT18: ZoomIt: My prior experience with this product helped me during this session.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1096>

WTANZ03: This session was all about tools for a tester. This session was

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1113>

EWT20: Participated in a discussion focused on Bug Triage. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1185>

### June:

EWT22: <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1159> Attended a session where Michael Bolton facilitated the session. One of my goals for 2011 is to listen to most of the podcasts on 'How to Think About Science'

WTANZ04: Learnt about some security testing using the Jarlsberg exercise.

<http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1174>

EWT21: How to report test progress better? My report is [here](#).

EWT24: Jon Bach facilitated the session and I learnt about two tools - SharedView & DimDim.

### July:

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Email: [ajay184f@gmail.com](mailto:ajay184f@gmail.com)

Skype/Twitter: ajay184f

## 2010 & My Experiences

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EWT25: Bug advocacy special <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1287>

EWT27: Tested a brokerage system. Brown & Donaldson.

EWT28: Did not complete the session.

### August:

EWT31: Provided feedback on Google StreetView.

EWT32: Paired up with Venu and conducted an experiment on Mikago. A lesson learnt from this session: Be aware of not disrupting the test environment with the tests.

### October:

EWT36: Skype Video Conference: It was a good session participating in a video chat with other testers.

### December:

WTA03: Explored Rapid Reporter.

WNT01: Stellarium: I did not join the discussion session as my laptop ran out of battery.

EWT38: I loved this session. I paired up with Stephen Hill. Please find the cheat sheet [here](#).

WTA04: I did not participate fully. <http://weekendtesting.com/archives/1638>

### Other mentions:

Testers' Carnival

<http://testers-headache.blogspot.com/2010/09/carnival-of-testers-13.html>

<http://testers-headache.blogspot.com/2010/07/eurostar-blogstar-candidate-roll-call.html>

<http://testers-headache.blogspot.com/2010/03/carnival-of-testers-8.html>

Rahul Verma: Ajay Balamurugadas Spam - <http://www.testingperspective.com/?p=306>

<http://www.fluidlogic.org/post/2010/09/15/Testing-luminaries>

<http://www.bettertesting.co.uk/content/?p=645>

<http://www.testmagazine.co.uk/2010/10/the-testing-landscape-of-india/>

<http://strazzere.blogspot.com/p/people-in-testing.html>

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Email: [ajay184f@gmail.com](mailto:ajay184f@gmail.com)

Skype/Twitter: ajay184f

## 2010 & My Experiences

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### Some of my quotes this year:

“Speak the language of testing & network faster.”

"When we listen and respect each other, Paired testing ROCKS"

“Clearing traps is a skill. Recognizing traps is a bigger skill.”

So, finally – **Thank you very much for your contribution.** You have helped me improve my skills as a tester and make 2010 a very memorable year to me. Thank you very much. **Please feel free to test me** further with your challenges, exercises and it definitely makes a difference. **I learn from you.**



And just as I added this image, I noticed the Alt Text tab. Learning continues... See you in 2011.