Chris Melski

SENIOR TEST MANAGER | SDET

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Professional Summary

Results-driven Test Manager and SDET with 20+ years of global experience across QA strategy, test automation, and requirements management within FX Trading, Telecom, and eCommerce domains. Skilled in developing end-to-end test automation frameworks and leading large, distributed QA teams to deliver high-quality, compliant systems. Combines a strong hands-on technical foundation with strategic test leadership, ensuring quality governance, automation efficiency, and business alignment from requirements through production release.

Career Highlights

Test Management & QA Governance

- Directed end-to-end QA delivery for BARX FX e-Trading, covering pricing, order execution, risk checks, booking, and regulatory controls.
- Led global QA teams across Singapore, Pune, Prague, and London; standardized FX test coverage, automation, and reporting practices.
- Defined and enforced QA strategies including trade lifecycle test planning, defect triage, and risk-based coverage.
- Managed SIT/UAT execution and sign-off with trading, sales, compliance, and technology stakeholders.
- Championed Agile QA transformation, embedding automation into sprint delivery for FX platforms and improving release predictability.

SDET & Test Automation Engineering

- Designed and implemented automation frameworks using Python (pytest, Playwright) for FX trading applications.
- Automated API, database, and UI testing across pricing engines, execution services, and downstream trade processing, integrated into CI/CD pipelines.
- Implemented BDD frameworks (Cucumber) aligned to FX user stories for clearer business and technology alignment.
- Conducted automated trade and data validation across FX trading systems, APIs, and databases.
- Built reusable test utilities for market data setup, trade simulation, log analysis, and results validation.

Business Analysis & Requirements Quality

- Partnered with FX traders, sales, risk, compliance, and developers to define and test requirements for trading and regulatory changes.
- Produced functional specifications, user stories, and process flows covering pricing, execution, and post-trade workflows.
- Drove traceability from FX business requirements to automated test coverage, improving audit readiness and reducing production risk.

Key Skills

- **Test Management:** Test Strategy | QA Governance | SIT/UAT | Defect Management | Risk Assessment | Reporting | Team Leadership | Stakeholder Engagement
- **SDET & Automation Engineering:** Python (pytest, unittest) | Playwright | Cypress | Selenium | BDD (Cucumber) | REST API | SQL | Jenkins | GitHub | FIX Protocol | JavaScript | Java | VBA | Linux
- **Business Analysis:** Requirements Analysis | User Story Mapping | Process Modeling | Test Traceability | UAT Coordination | Root Cause Analysis
- **Tools & Tech:** JIRA | Confluence | Postman | PyCharm | VS Code | MySQL | PostgreSQL | Oracle | Pandas | NumPy | Matplotlib | Excel Macros
- **Domains:** FX Trading | Algorithmic Trading | eCommerce | Billing | POS | Inventory Systems
- **Soft Skills:** Communication | Problem-Solving | Negotiation | Adaptiveness

Professional Experience

Senior Test Manager | SDET Lead - Barclays, Singapore (2007 – 2024)

- Led test automation initiatives for BARX FX e-Trading platforms, covering spot, forwards, swaps, and NDF workflows, integrating Python Playwright regression suites into CI/CD pipelines.
- Drove test planning and execution across FX cash and derivatives, ensuring global test alignment across pricing, execution, STP, and post-trade flows.
- Managed and mentored a team of QA engineers and SDETs, establishing automation-first testing strategies for low-latency trading systems.
- Oversaw requirements validation and regulatory change testing (e.g., MiFID II, Dodd Frank, trade reporting), ensuring compliance and audit transparency.
- Conducted root cause analysis for production trading incidents (pricing discrepancies, execution failures, booking breaks), implementing preventive test coverage improvements.
- Acted as the bridge between QA, Development, and FX Trading, Sales, and Risk stakeholders, ensuring end-to-end delivery quality across the trade lifecycle.

Independent Professional Development - Singapore (2024 – Present)

- Engaged in self-directed learning to stay current with QA tools, frameworks, and Agile practices.
- Strengthened SDET and QA management expertise including Python certification and gained more exposure to test automation tools (Playwright, Cypress, Selenium).
- Built test automation frameworks integrating pytest, BDD, Playwright, REST API, and AI.
- Developed multiple SDET-focused Python automation tools emphasizing config-driven design, clean OOP architecture, pattern matching/machine learning techniques, validation, logging, and testability.
- Built a Python Playwright test automation framework using YAML-based feature specifications, POM, and data-driven testing, with AI-assisted generation of test specs to accelerate test creation.
- Designed a Python Playwright automation framework with GPT-assisted self-healing selectors that dynamically recover broken locators and persist learned selector updates.
- Project examples on **GitHub** - https://github.com/cmelski)

Test Lead - Gen-i, Wellington, NZ (2006 – 2007)

- Defined and managed test strategy and requirements validation for helpdesk software implementation.
- Facilitated UAT sessions, ensuring business sign-off aligned with user expectations.

Test Engineer - Bell, Toronto, Canada (2004 – 2006)

- Supported billing system migration, combining test execution with requirements traceability.
- Developed reusable test assets and early automation scripts for regression cycles.

Business Analyst - ReserveAmerica, Mississauga, Canada (Jan 2003 – Dec 2003)

- Gathered requirements, created functional specifications, and supported testing for e-commerce POS and Ticketing systems.

Java Developer | QA Analyst - SIVCO Inc, Calgary, Canada (2002 – 2003)

- Built Java solutions for an Inventory Tracking System and introduced formal QA processes into SDLC.

Education

- Post Graduate Programming Diploma, ITI, Toronto, Canada (Hon) – 2001
- Bachelor of Business Admin (Marketing), Cape Breton University, Sydney, Canada (Hon) - 1998

Professional Development

- Cypress – Modern Automation Testing + Frameworks (Sep 2025)
- Business Analysis Fundamentals – IIBA Endorsed (Aug 2025)
- Playwright Python Automation Testing (Jun 2025)
- API Testing with Python and PyTest (Jan 2025)
- [PCEP-30-02] PCEP™ - Certified Python Programmer (Oct 2024)
- 100 Days of Code: Python Pro Bootcamp (Jun 2024)
- Learn Cucumber BDD with Java – Masterclass Selenium Framework (Apr 2024)