

NAVEEN HEBBAR

AI-Augmented QE Lead | Test Automation | C#.NET | Modern QE Practices

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

AI-Native Quality Engineering and Test Automation professional with 19+ years of experience across software application testing, automation engineering and QE leadership. 10+ years of experience leading QE teams comprising manual and automation testers. Strong hands-on expertise in C#.NET, Selenium WebDriver, Playwright, API/microservices automation, BDD, CI/CD and automation framework design. Recent experience includes AI-augmented Quality Engineering using modern AI tools and agentic development/testing tools using tools and technologies including Microsoft Copilot Studio, OpenAI, Gemini, Semantic Kernel, MCP, VS Code and Copilot. Experienced in Agile/Scrum/Kanban environments, test strategy, release sign-off, mentoring and collaboration with product and engineering stakeholders.

CORE COMPETENCIES

QE Leadership & Strategy: QE team leadership, test strategy, estimation, test planning, release sign-off, mentoring, Agile/Scrum/Kanban, shift-left QE

Automation & QE Engineering: UI automation, API/Web Services/Microservices automation, reusable framework design, BDD, Page Objects, UI mapping

AI-Augmented QE: AI-augmented testing, prompt engineering, AI-assisted testing, AI-augmented QE workflows, prompt engineering and evaluation-support tooling measurement

Engineering: C#.NET, Selenium WebDriver, Microsoft Playwright, RestSharp, SpecFlow/Cucumber, MSTest/VSTest, NUnit, Appium

CI/CD & Tools: Azure DevOps, Jenkins, TeamCity, Git, TFS, Postman/Newman, Jira

TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE

Languages	C#.NET, SQL, XML
Automation	Selenium WebDriver, Microsoft Playwright, RestSharp, SpecFlow/Cucumber, Appium
AI / GenAI	Prompt Engineering, AI-Augmented QE, OpenAI, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Microsoft Copilot Studio, Microsoft Semantic Kernel, MCP, Healenium, NotebookLM
Cloud / CI-CD	Microsoft Azure, Azure DevOps, Jenkins, TeamCity
Testing / Tools	Postman/Newman, Visual Studio, VS Code, Power Platform, JIRA, MTM, TFS, Fiddler
Databases / VCS	MS SQL Server, Cassandra/NoSQL, SQLite, Git, SVN, TFS
Domains	Healthcare, eLearning, CRM/ERP, Commercial & Professional Services, Industrial IoT, Life Safety, Coding/Printing, Mobile/WAP

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Automation QA / AI-Augmented QE | Ciklum | Apr 2026 – Jun 2026

Vendor Response Agent – TJX EU Contact Management

- Developed QE tooling to support measurement of AI-model efficiency, success rates and token/credit consumption for an AI-enabled vendor response workflow.
- Worked with Microsoft Power Platform, Copilot Studio, C#.NET, VS Code, Copilot, OpenAI, Gemini, NotebookLM and MCP.
- Supported QE activities for an AI-enabled workflow processing approximately 300–350 vendor request cases per day with human-in-the-loop review.

Manual QA | Ciklum | Dec 2025 – Dec 2025

Smart Wear Composite Dashboard – Industrial IoT

- Performed test design, manual testing and integration testing for an IIoT application monitoring structural integrity and erosion of industrial assets.

Automation QA / QE Lead | Ciklum | Oct 2023 – Jun 2025

Selected projects: Insight, Formatic, RSM DigitalTracker

- Led QE activities and collaborated with product teams across commercial and professional-services applications.
- Owned user-story testing, test design/review/execution and production release sign-off.
- Provided QE estimates and knowledge-sharing sessions for new QE team members.
- Worked across C#.NET, API and integration testing, Azure/Azure DevOps, MSSQL and Scrum-based delivery.

- For RSM DigitalTracker, led QE for a US crypto-taxation application covering role-based access, transaction imports, gain/loss calculation and reporting.

Lead Software Test Automation Engineer | EPAM Systems | Nov 2021 – Apr 2022

Shift-Left QE initiative – APAC

- Led the QE automation team and supported adoption of shift-left testing practices across APAC projects.
- Designed and developed Web UI and Microservices automation frameworks using C#, Selenium WebDriver, RestSharp and SpecFlow/Cucumber.
- Automated API/REST Web Service and Web UI tests and supported CI/CD integration using Azure DevOps.

Automation Architect | Harman / CareCentric & NIMS | Jan 2021 – Oct 2021

- Led QE automation for cloud-based UK health and social-care record sharing and national vaccination-management solutions.
- Designed automation frameworks for Web UI and Microservices testing using C#, Selenium, RestSharp, SpecFlow/Cucumber and Azure DevOps.
- Automated API/REST services and Web UI workflows while leading the QE automation team.

QE Lead | Harman / Connected Life Safety Services (CLSS) | Dec 2018 – Dec 2020

- Led Web and Mobile application testing for a cloud-based life-safety platform providing remote connectivity and visibility to fire-safety systems.
- Automated API/REST Web Services and Web UI tests using C#, Selenium WebDriver and BDD with SpecFlow/Cucumber.
- Worked with Azure, Git, Postman, Jira and Jenkins.

Automation Lead | Harman / CoLOS | Jul 2017 – Nov 2018

- Led test automation for a coding and printing software platform focused on production efficiency, coding integrity and reporting.
- Automated Web UI and API/REST Web Service tests using C#, Selenium WebDriver and SpecFlow/Cucumber.
- Integrated automation tests with Jenkins CI.

SELECTED EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Test Lead / Automation Lead | Indecomm Global / Dell | Aug 2015 – Sep 2016

- Community Access Portal: automated Web UI testing with Selenium/C#, created the automation test plan and used BDD with SpecFlow/Cucumber.
- Partner Direct Portal: led automation for a Dell partner-registration/search portal integrated with Salesforce; automated Web UI plus SOAP/REST services using C# and Selenium.

Test Module Lead | Happiest Minds / Icodeon | Oct 2012 – Aug 2015

- Led automation for an eLearning content-management platform; automated REST services and Web UI using C#, Selenium and SpecFlow/Cucumber.
- Created automation test plans and integrated automation into Jenkins and TeamCity.

Senior Automation Engineer | Aditi Technologies / Axiata & Celcom | Dec 2010 – Mar 2012

- Automated SOAP Web Services and WAP browser UI tests using C#, Visual Studio and Selenium WebDriver for mobile carrier portals.

Associate Consultant | Siemens / Cardio Vascular Information System | Jun 2010 – Dec 2010

- Automated WCF Web Services and Web UI tests using C#, Visual Studio and Selenium for a cardiovascular information system integrating with hospital and PACS systems.

Bilingual Engineer | Nichi-In / Arts Management System | Jan 2007 – Dec 2009

- Performed analysis, design, coding and testing for an online business management system covering sales, orders, business tracking and stock processes.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics & Communication) — Sapthagiri College of Engineering, Bengaluru, VTU | 2002–2006

Certified ScrumMaster® — Scrum Alliance

Japanese-Language Proficiency Test — JLPT Level 4

SELECTED CAREER THEMES

- 19+ years across manual testing, automation engineering, QE leadership and modern AI-augmented QE practices.
- 10+ years leading QE teams and coordinating with product/engineering stakeholders.

- Strong progression from hands-on test automation to QE leadership, with recent adoption of AI-augmented QE practices and tools.
- Extensive C#/ .NET automation experience across UI, API, Web Services and Microservices.
- Recent hands-on experience applying AI and AI-augmented tools to QE and software-testing activities, including AI-assisted development and testing workflows.