Chris Fay

Quality Architect | Engineering Leader | Test Automation & AI-Assisted Engineering

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SUMMARY

Quality architect and engineering leader, with most of my career spent in enterprise storage. I've managed a 22-person quality team and a combined development and QA team, then went back to hands-on engineering to build a Playwright framework, Python tooling, and AI-assisted workflows. Having done both jobs, I know what leadership needs from a quality team and what engineers need to get the work done.

SKILLS

Quality & Test Architecture: Test Strategy | Framework Design | Playwright | pytest | Selenium | REST API Testing | Regression Testing | Fault Injection & Negative Testing | Release Readiness
AI-Assisted Engineering: Agentic Workflows | Custom AI Skills | AI-Assisted Test Generation | Prompt Engineering | Claude | Windsurf (Cascade)
Software & Infrastructure: Python | Flask | Bash | Git / GitHub | CI/CD (Jenkins) | Linux | Windows Server | VMware ESXi / vCenter | iDRAC (Redfish / RACADM) | Syslog & Alerting
Storage: Enterprise Block Storage | SAN | iSCSI | Fibre Channel | MPIO | High Availability
Leadership & Delivery: People Management | Hiring | Budget & Headcount Forecasting | Roadmap Planning | Agile | Scrum Master | Product Owner | JIRA | Confluence | qTest

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Software Quality Senior Principal Engineer **Aug 2022 – Jul 2026**
Dell Technologies

Moved from managing a PowerStore development team back to hands-on engineering, then moved to PowerFlex when Dell staffed up for a large customer contract. Main tester for Alerts & Notifications.

- Designed a Playwright test framework that also plugged into the team's existing SIT suite. Used AI to migrate slow, high-maintenance Selenium/Python UI tests into it, then expanded coverage across alerts, security modes, maintenance mode, node scaling, and certificate management. Teammates built their own tests on it, and a shared runner with a live dashboard let them launch and watch runs themselves.
- Found an untested gap in the Alerts feature that sat blocked for 5 months, since neither commercial webhook tool covered both secure and insecure endpoints without paid licensing. Closed it in a few days by building a Python/Flask capture service that handled both, and the feature was fully tested and shipped.
- Built AI workflows (Windsurf Cascade, Claude) to provision PowerFlex lab environments, run REST API tests, and drive a fault-injection tool for iDRACs and Dell OS10 / Cisco NX-OS switches, so failure and negative testing could run on demand. The tool never changed or removed existing settings, so it was safe on shared lab gear. Teammates testing similar features picked up a few of the workflows.
- Served as Scrum Master for a US/India team. Built an AI pipeline that turned standup transcripts into summaries, action items, and decisions, posted automatically to Confluence so the team could track progress, plus a sprint velocity tool for forecasting upcoming sprints.

Quality Engineering Senior Manager **Aug 2010 – Aug 2022**
Dell Technologies

Owned qualification of the Host Integration Toolkits (Windows, VMware, Linux) for Dell's EqualLogic storage arrays, then took the team to Storage Center, and later moved to PowerStore to run a GUI development team.

- Started as the only QA engineer on the Windows Host Integration Toolkit. When VMware and Linux support was added, took on the lead role and built the team to 22, including full-time staff and contractors, owning hiring, salary

reviews, performance reviews, and training. Promoted both team leads from Principal to Senior Principal, one of whom later served as Product Owner on PowerFlex.

- Made the final ship/no-ship call on Host Integration Toolkit releases across Windows, VMware, and Linux, running parallel qualification programs that included VMware SRA, 16- and 32-node cluster testing, and Microsoft WHQL and VMware certifications.
- Led the transition of the toolkits to a team in India, then moved the team to Compellent Storage Center and built GUI automation alongside them (Selenium/JavaScript in Jenkins) that ran nightly across multiple test environments and replaced much of the manual regression work.
- Managed a 10-person development and QA team building PowerStore GUI features, while also serving as the team's Product Owner and Scrum Master.
- Worked closely with product marketing on roadmap planning, and forecasted budget, headcount, and lab equipment for the team.
- To support Dell's DPACK analytics tool, built and led a small team to qualify the software across multi-vendor lab infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Principal Quality Test Engineer, Dell EqualLogic | System Test Engineer, Cereva Networks | Design Engineer, EMC Corporation