



March 20-24, 2023  
San Francisco, CA

# Sounds As Intended: Quality Assurance in Game Audio

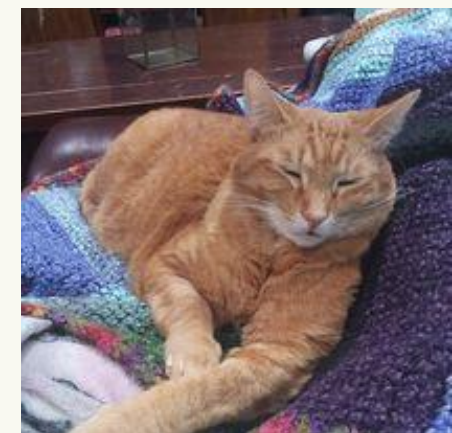
Amanda Laven  
Audio QA Subject Matter Expert

#GDC23

# Introduction

## Amanda Laven

- Composer and Sound Designer - Amanda Laven Music + Sound
- Audio QA Subject Matter Expert - Diablo IV - Blizzard Entertainment
- Audio Test Lead - Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 1+2 - Vicarious Visions
- MFA in Music Composition, Vermont College of Fine Arts
- Cat lover and yarn connoisseur





# What is QA?

## Quality Assurance

- Verify game features function as intended
- Gather information and ask questions
- Author documentation to guide testing
- Find and report defects (bugs)
- Verify bug fixes



# QA Misconceptions

What *isn't* QA?

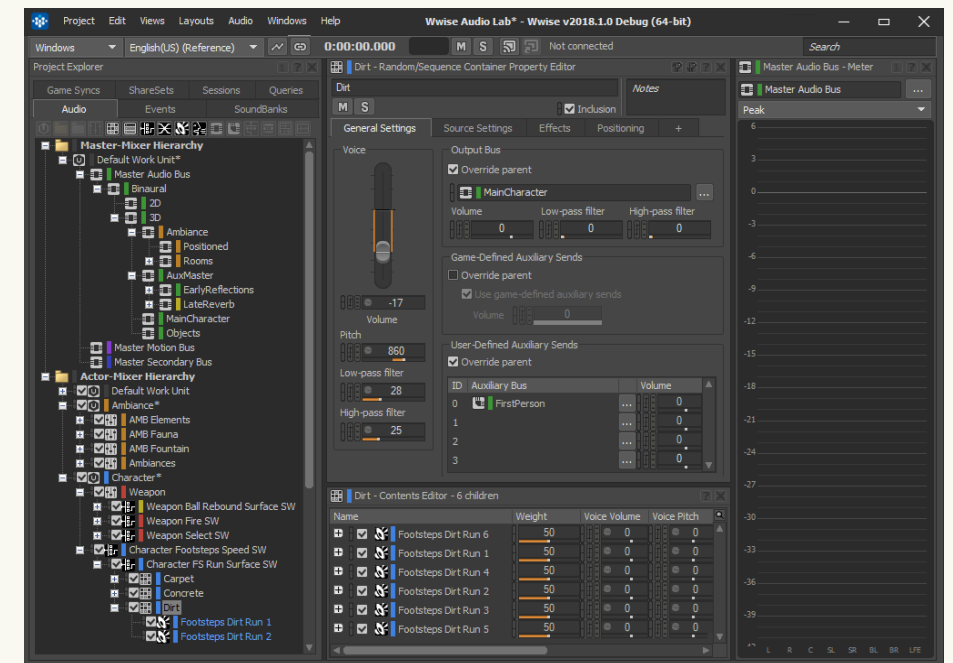
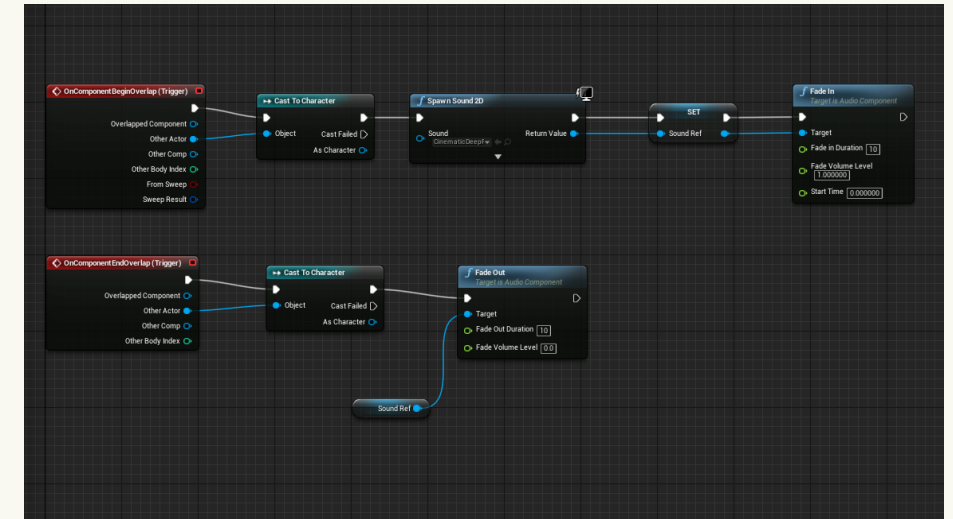
- NOT playtesting
- Doesn't “break the game”
- Doesn't implement bug fixes
- Is not “getting paid to play games all day”
- Can't find every bug
- Not every bug found gets fixed



# Benefits of Audio QA

## Specialization Allows for Expertise

- More and higher quality bug reports
- Fewer dupes, NMIs, WNFs
- Anticipates points of failure
- Provides additional information
- Gathers information and performs tasks





# Audio QA Relationships

## Collaboration!

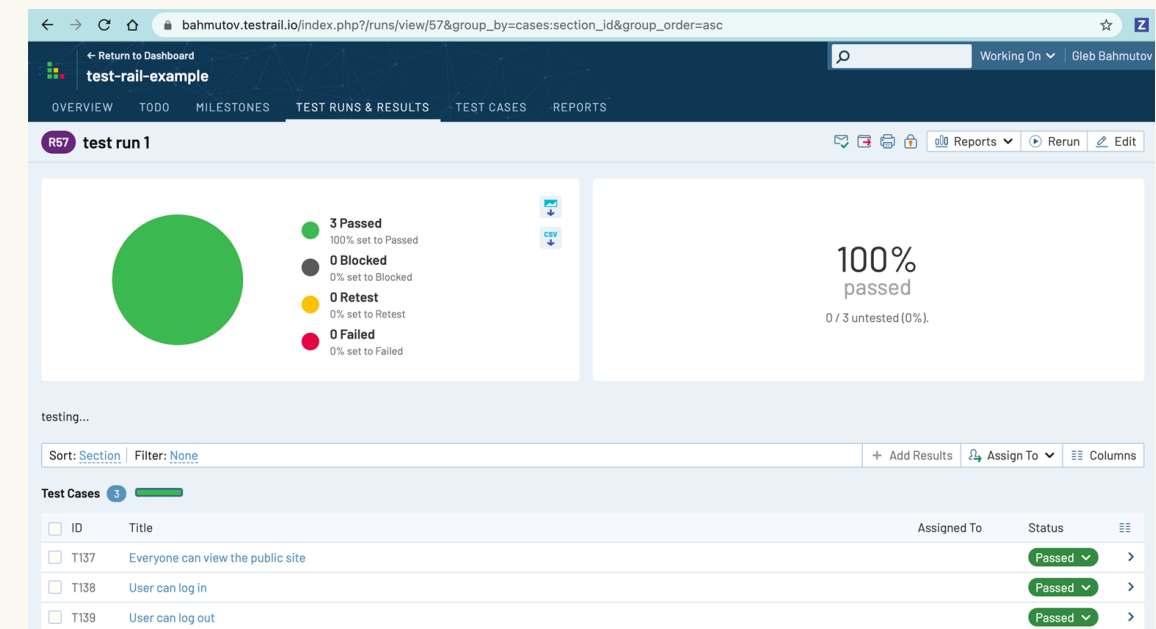
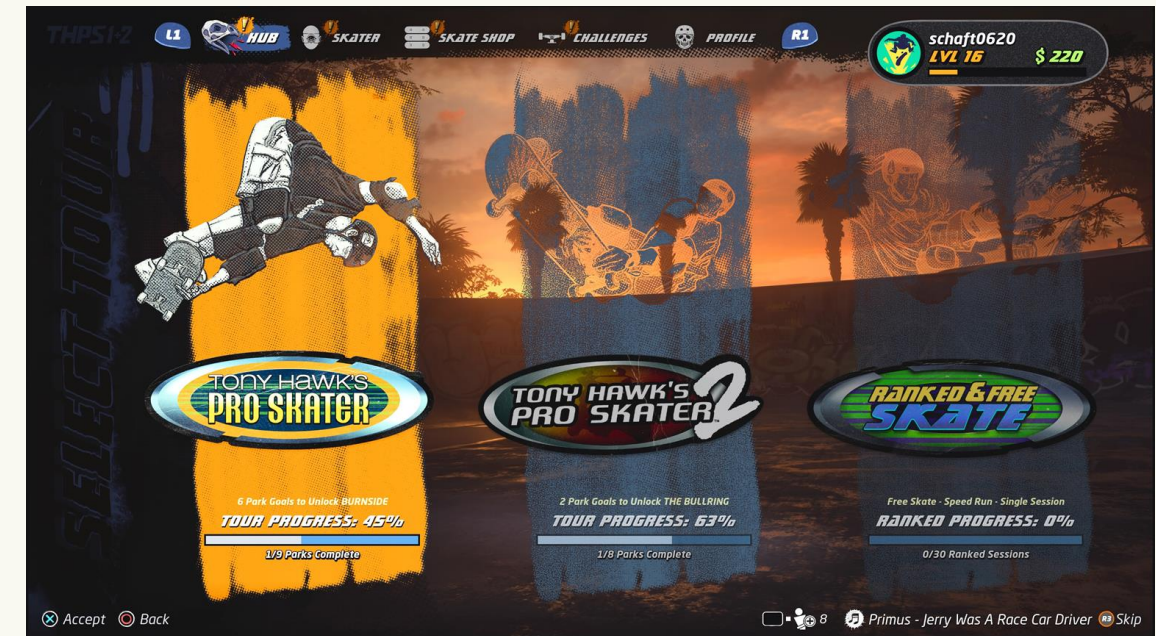
- Design – vision and goals
- Implementation – systems and structure
- Engineering – interactions with other features
- Production – timeline and state of work
- Other QA – overlap in testing



# Key Activities

What do QA testers do all day?

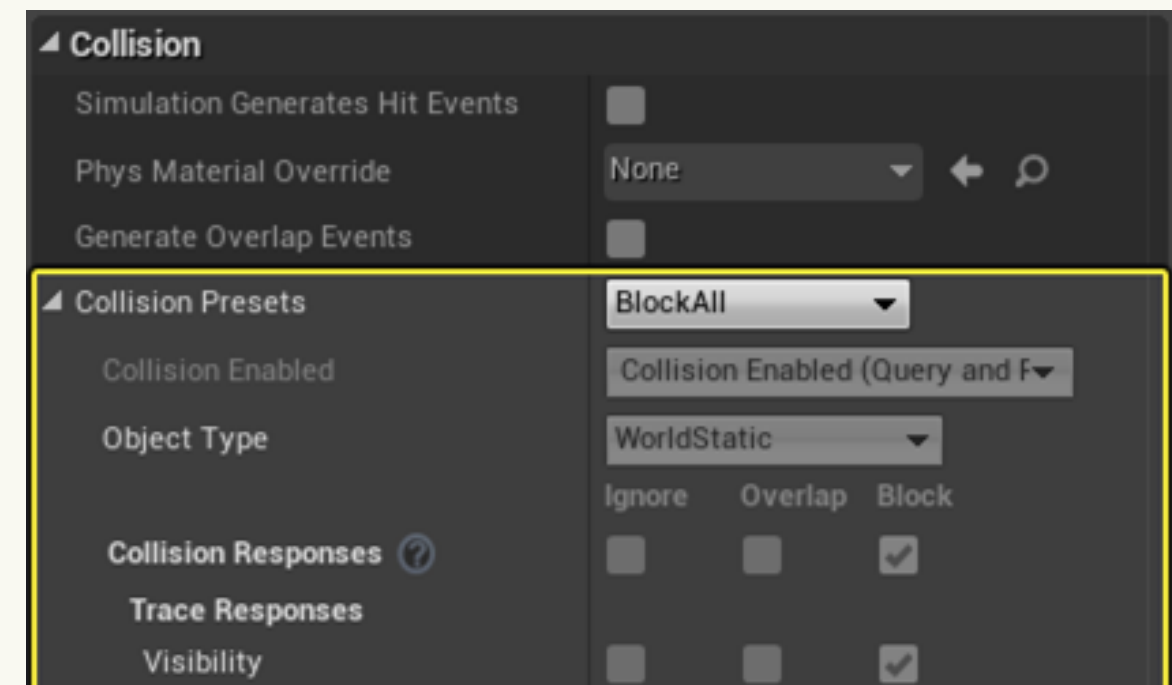
- Smoke/Build Verification Tests (BVTs)
- Targeted adhoc
- Create and maintain documentation
- Dev requested tests and tasks
- Test planning and execution
- Confirmation and verification



# Dev Requests

What can you ask QA to do?

- Gather information
- Capture media
- Write bugs
- Test specific features or areas
- Answer questions
- Help with dev tasks





# Ensuring Success

## Help QA help Audio!

- Invest in QA testers
- Delegate tasks and testing
- Maintain open communication
- Create thorough, up-to-date documentation
- Build strong relationships
- Advocate for QA

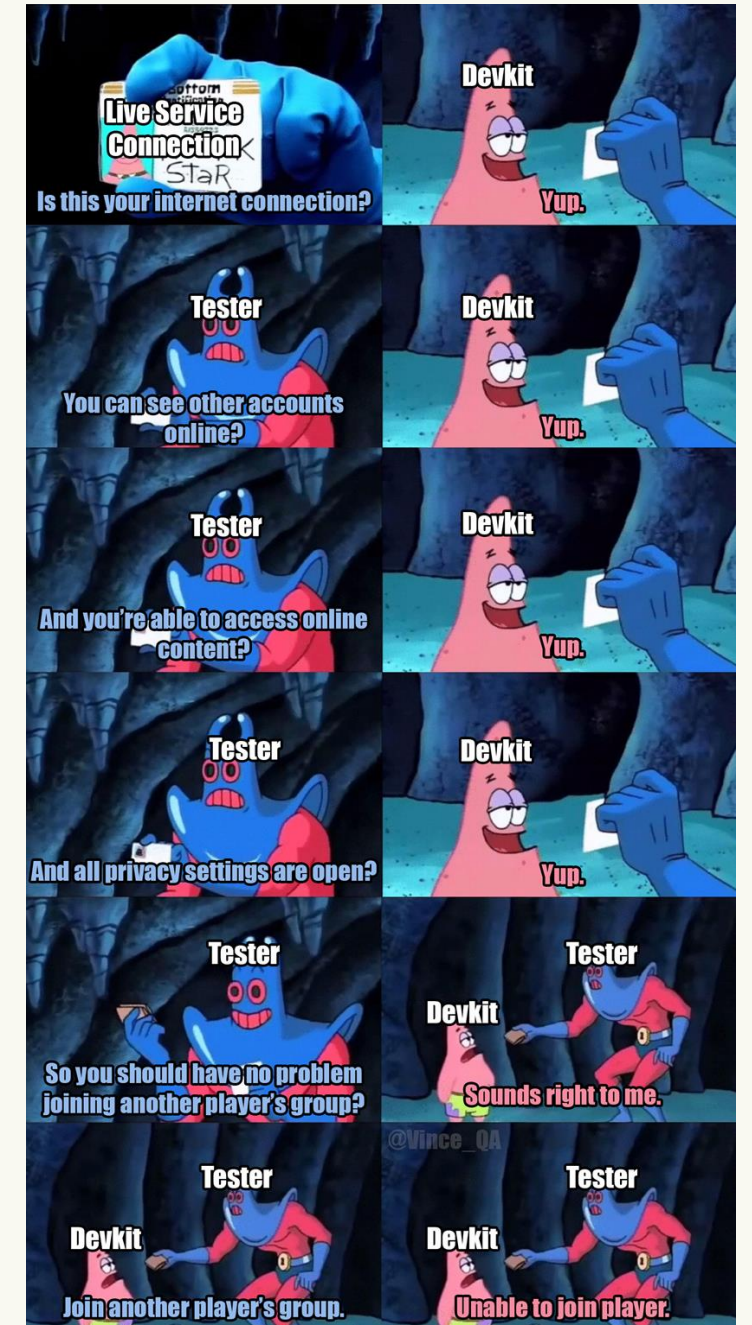




# Contact and Memes

Let's Be Friends!

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- @ALavenMusic (FB, Twitter, IG)



AND MAINTAINED!

