

Rowan Kendal

Senior QA Automation Engineer · QA & Automations Team Lead

052-8081628 | rowan.kendal@gmail.com | rowan-kendal.com | linkedin.com/in/rowan-kendal | github.com/Zapkid

SUMMARY

QA & Automations Team Lead with 5+ years designing and implementing **automated testing frameworks** and QA processes across **Web, API, Mobile, Desktop, Web3, and Blockchain**. Ran **AI-assisted testing in production** and transformed a traditional SDLC into an **agentic one**: integrated AI agents across test generation, automation scripting, triage, and observability, and built the guardrails that keep their outputs consistent and auditable. Cut release sign-off from **days to hours**, shipped **300+ E2E tests** covering 85% of critical flows, saved **100+ manual hours per week**, and published open-source agentic QA tooling to PyPI. Learned first-hand where AI multiplies quality work and where it breaks down.

QUALITY ENGINEERING IN THE AI ERA

AI-Ready Test Architecture Designed frameworks with structured outputs and deterministic assertions that AI agents generate, run, and interpret without manual intervention.	Agent Guardrails & Consistency Built guardrails enforcing reliability and repeatability for AI-generated test actions, keeping hallucinations out of production.
Testing AI Systems (LLM QA) Implemented distribution-based assertions across prompt variants, probed guardrails with adversarial inputs, and built eval regression harnesses (LangChain, Chroma) re-scored on every model or prompt change.	MCP & Agentic Tooling Created and published Tuskr MCP to PyPI, giving Cursor and AI agents direct access to test case management. Adopted a daily AI-augmented workflow with Claude Code, Cursor, and LLM tooling.

EXPERIENCE

QA & Automations Team Lead · DcentraLab

May 2024 – Jun 2026

Web3 / blockchain startup

- Owned the full test strategy: **designed and implemented automated testing frameworks** from zero (Selenium/Python, GitLab CI/CD) and led a **Selenium-to-Playwright migration**, replacing Chrome-extension wallet imports with pre-injected wallets and cutting per-test setup from minutes to seconds.
- Developed and improved QA processes** end to end: **established testing standards and best practices** and created **detailed test plans and test cases** for every feature and release.
- Shipped **300+ E2E blockchain and Web3 tests** covering wallet flows, smart contract interactions, and on-chain state verification across distributed blockchain services: **85% of critical user flows, 100+ manual hours saved weekly**.
- Cut release sign-off time from **days to hours**, architected a parameterized CI pipeline serving multiple products with parallel execution across environments.
- Transformed the SDLC into an **agentic pipeline**: AI agents across test case generation, automation scripting, triage, and observability, with execution standards and guardrails I built for consistent, auditable outputs.
- Delivered load and performance testing (JMeter, Locust), mobile automation (Appium), and accessibility compliance checks, wired production monitoring to real-time Slack alerting.
- Caught a **decimal-precision bug in cross-chain token transfers** via computed assertions: a silent financial error on every transaction that manual testing would have missed, release held, fix shipped.
- Built **AI-powered automation across teams**: a customer-support agent that closes conversations without human intervention, HR OOO/sick-day reporting from calendar events, and Sales data-migration and follow-up flows.
- Mentored **5 QA engineers** and served as the bridge between QA, development, product, marketing, and management.

QA Automation Engineer · Unleash

Jun 2023 – Feb 2024

Feature management SaaS · acquired by Zendesk

- Inherited a **500+ test suite in full failure**, diagnosed root causes and restored CI pass rate from **0% to 94%** in 3 weeks.
- Created detailed test plans and 100+ integration and E2E test cases from scratch (Cypress/TypeScript), migrated reporting to Qase.io and wired the full pipeline through Azure Pipelines.
- Extended test coverage to **embedded environments**, validating app behavior under constrained runtime and hardware conditions beyond the standard web and API suites.
- As the **sole QA automation engineer**, owned test strategy end to end, from prioritizing coverage to deciding release readiness, and reported test coverage and release risk directly to engineering leadership.
- Validated feature-flag rollouts and A/B experiments across the full release lifecycle on the platform powering these workflows for enterprise teams.

QA Automation Engineer · Cymbio

Jan 2022 – May 2023

E-commerce automation platform · acquired by PayPal

- Built the company's **first automated test suite** from zero (Cypress/TypeScript) as the **first and only QA automation engineer**, with no existing playbook to inherit, grew coverage to 150+ tests across critical e-commerce and integration flows.
- Set up GitHub Actions CI on every pull request, holding a **95%+ pass rate**, 2,500+ contributions over 16 months. The suite ran untouched in production for **12+ months** after handoff.
- As the **sole QA automation engineer**, owned test coverage and release readiness end to end, from what to automate first to when a build was safe to ship, and **presented quality status directly to engineering leads**.

QA Automation Instructor · ATID · Elevation · Ness-Tech

Sep 2021 – Dec 2021

QA automation bootcamps

- Designed and delivered QA automation curriculum to **30+ engineers** across three programs: Selenium with TestNG (Java) and Pytest (Python), CI/CD, framework design, and real-world best practices.

Operations Manager · Bravo Communications

Feb 2018 – Apr 2021

E-commerce operations

- Managed multiple e-commerce stores end to end, owning sales, inventory, revenue, and expense analysis, **automating and optimizing business processes**, and building WordPress storefronts, the foundation for a later move into automation engineering.

QA LEADERSHIP & APPROACH

- **Shifted quality left:** ran requirement gap analysis, risk identification, and authored detailed test plans and scenario maps before development began, achieved zero bugs slipping to production undetected.
- **Drove risk-based release decisions:** weighed severity, real user volume, and reproducibility on every blocking call, and documented each accepted risk with PM sign-off, keeping “we decided not to block” and “we didn’t know” two different conversations.
- **Architected coverage around risk:** mapped suites to risk dimensions (semantic boundaries, gate interactions, encoding edge cases) so gaps surfaced before the audit, not after.
- **Shipped tests the same day as features:** accelerated scripting with AI, tested AI-driven features against behavioral boundaries, consistency within tolerance, and failure modes rather than exact output assertions.

OPEN SOURCE & SELECTED PROJECTS

- **Tuskr MCP** · github.com/Zapkid/tuskr-mcp
Built a Python MCP server that gives Cursor and AI agents direct access to Tuskr test management: read, search, and validate test cases from the IDE. Deployed for production agentic QA at DcentraLab and published to PyPI.
- **eBay Playwright Suite** · github.com/Zapkid/ebay-playwright-python
Built a Playwright + Python + pytest E2E suite against live ebay.com: implemented data-driven search/cart/pagination flows, session-replay auth, environment profiles, parallel execution (pytest-xdist), Allure reporting, and GitHub Actions CI.
- **Notch Automation Audit** · github.com/Zapkid/Notch-Automation-Audit
Designed and executed a Playwright + Pytest audit of an AI email triage system: authored 70 test cases across 14 suites covering sender, subject, body, and AI-reply gates. Applied QA directly to an AI-driven product.
- **QA Automation Showcase** · github.com/Zapkid/QA-Automation-Testing-Showcase
Developed multi-platform automation infrastructure (Selenium + TestNG, Java) covering Web, API, Mobile, Desktop, and Electron, with Page Object Model architecture and Allure reporting.

SKILLS

Test Automation: Playwright, Selenium, Cypress, Pytest, TestNG, Appium, Postman, REST-assured, Applitools, Allure

AI / LLM: Claude Code, Cursor, OpenAI, MCP SDK, LangChain, Chroma (RAG), Ollama, eval harnesses, agent guardrails

Languages: Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, Java, SQL, C#

CI/CD & Infra: GitLab CI, GitHub Actions, Azure Pipelines, Jenkins, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, GCP, Linux

Performance & Monitoring: JMeter, Locust, k6, Grafana, Datadog, Logz.io, Slack alerting

Security & Accessibility: OWASP ZAP, permission-boundary testing, encryption/decryption validation, axe DevTools, Lighthouse

Data & APIs: PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Redis, GraphQL, gRPC, WebSockets, REST

Test Management: Qase.io, Tuskr.io, TestRail, Jira, Linear, ClickUp

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Quality Assurance Test Automation, ATID Automation College, 2021 · Selenium, Appium, TestNG, Page Objects, REST-assured, DB testing, CI/CD with Jenkins

Blockchain Expert, BDCC (accredited by Israel's Information Technologies Chamber), Jun - Dec 2026

LinkedIn Learning: earned 16 certificates across testing, Python, JavaScript, SQL, and data analytics