

# PAULINE MCHUGH

Senior QA Automation Engineer | SDET

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Senior QA Automation Engineer and SDET with 15+ years of experience building test automation, CI/CD pipelines, and quality programs across SaaS and financial services technology. Hands-on across UI, API, and performance testing, with a track record of embedding into engineering teams to upskill QA and engineers, establish best practices, and modernize testing with AI-augmented workflows. Comfortable across varied stacks—microservices, legacy systems, and AWS cloud. Certified Scrum Master.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Test Automation:** Selenium, Cypress, Playwright, Nightwatch.js, Browserstack, XCUITest

**API & Performance:** Postman, Mocha, Supertest, k6, jMeter, Locust

**Languages:** JavaScript/TypeScript, Python, SQL

**Cloud & CI/CD:** AWS (Lambda, EC2, RDS, S3, CloudWatch, GovCloud, CodeBuild), Jenkins, TeamCity, Git

**Tooling & Environments:** JIRA / JQL, Bash, PowerShell, Linux, macOS, Windows

**AI in QA:** Prompt engineering for test artifact generation; LLM-assisted failure triage and pattern recognition; AI-augmented script authoring and code review; evaluating AI tool fit and integrating AI workflows into existing QA processes (model-agnostic — applied across multiple LLM and coding-assistant tools).

## SELECTED RECENT PROJECTS

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- **Test data generation for tax and financial scenarios:** Built Faker.js-based generators for realistic tax and financial test data and used AI-assisted scripting to accelerate generator development.
- **Automation failure analysis:** Automated triage of test failures using LLM-assisted pattern recognition, cutting time spent investigating noisy or duplicate failures.
- **QA reporting dashboards:** Designed and automated dashboards for the QA Manager surfacing test run health, coverage, and trends—turning manual status reporting into a self-service view.
- **Internal AI-in-QA enablement:** Authored and delivered an internal presentation on practical AI applications across the QA lifecycle to drive adoption beyond my own team; provide ongoing 1:1 mentorship to peers on automation patterns and code review.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Senior Software Development Engineer in Test

Mar 2021 – Present

*SmartVault — Houston, TX (Remote)*

- Own automation strategy and execution across UI, API, and performance testing for a SaaS document management platform serving accounting and financial services firms.
- Designed and scaled an automation suite of 500+ UI and API tests; continuously expanded coverage as new microservices and features shipped.
- Architected AWS CodeBuild pipelines for daily test execution and reporting, integrating results into developer and QA workflows.
- Built an automated Build Verification Test (BVT) suite for production deployments, reducing manual smoke testing during rollouts and de-risking releases.
- Stood up a performance testing suite (k6) to validate scalability and support DevOps capacity planning.
- Authored API documentation supporting third-party integration partners.
- Drive adoption of AI-augmented QA practices across the team and mentor peers on automation patterns, code review, and testing fundamentals.

- Collaborate cross-functionally with engineering, product, and DevOps to assess automation readiness and prioritize what to automate first.

### **Senior Software Test Engineer / QA Manager**

Sep 2020 – Mar 2021

*Stellar Technology Solutions — Remote*

- Led the team's transition to Agile/Scrum and introduced QA best practices including test plan structure, defect management, and release readiness criteria.
- Acted as liaison between clients and engineering, translating business requirements into testable scenarios and acceptance criteria.

### **Quality Assurance Engineer / SDET**

Mar 2016 – Aug 2020

*TruQC — Remote*

- Spearheaded the design and rollout of an automated UI test suite using Nightwatch.js and Browserstack; scaled coverage from 5 to 100+ tests.
- Contributed iOS UI tests using XCUITest for the companion mobile app.
- Reviewed and improved test plans to ensure comprehensive coverage of system requirements across web and mobile.

### **Quality Assurance Consultant**

Jun 2008 – Dec 2015

*Quacon Testing Services — Houston, TX (Remote)*

- QA consultant for web projects across oil & gas, technology, and digital advertising sectors.
- Executed manual and automated cross-browser testing (Selenium IDE) and managed defect tracking in JIRA, Bugzilla, and SharePoint.
- Led QA for the Chevron annual report site project, coordinating across creative, dev, and client stakeholders.

## **EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS**

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**Bachelor of Science** — University of Houston, Houston, TX

**Certified Scrum Master (CSM)** — Scrum Alliance, April 2021