

KARTHIK VAKKALAGADDA

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

SDET with 6+ years building test automation and quality infrastructure across Web, Mobile, and API platforms. Architect of PLATE, an enterprise CI/CD and QA platform integrating automated regression suites, Jira/Xray test management, Snowflake-based coverage and defect-trend reporting, and AI-assisted test generation. Hands-on across Java, Selenium, Appium, Rest Assured and Playwright, with ownership of GitLab CI/CD pipelines and BrowserStack execution. Also experienced in test planning, quality-metric definition and UAT coordination with business stakeholders, and increasingly focused on platform and developer productivity engineering.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Manual & Test Planning	Manual testing, test plan authoring, requirements gathering, quality metrics definition, UAT coordination, exploratory testing
Test Automation	Java, Selenium WebDriver, Appium, Rest Assured, Playwright, Maestro, Cucumber BDD, TestNG, Tosca
Test Management	Jira, Xray, qTest, Confluence, ReportPortal, test traceability & defect reporting
CI/CD & DevOps	GitLab CI/CD, BrowserStack, Docker, Gradle, secrets management, build/release pipelines
Data Validation	SQL, MongoDB, Snowflake — backend/API data integrity validation
Platforms	Web, Mobile, API, POS integrations (Micros, Infor, NCR, BrinkPOS)
Other Tools	Postman, Swagger, Figma, Contentful, Git

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

QA Lead — Inspire Brands (PLATE QA Platform / Sonic E2E)

Capgemini (Client: Inspire Brands) | Jan 2024 – Present | Atlanta, GA

- Architected and owned the PLATE enterprise QA automation platform as the primary, near-sole contributor, driving architecture across test orchestration, CI/CD, and Jira/Xray integration.
- Built AI-assisted QA tooling — including prompt-driven automation runners and EPIC/TE testcase generation — reducing manual test-authoring effort and increasing team-wide test coverage.
- Created Jira/Xray automation for test case generation, execution tracking, and status reporting, replacing manual test-management processes and improving traceability to business requirements.
- Built end-to-end CI/CD automation pipelines integrating BrowserStack execution, result reporting, and Slack/email notifications, accelerating release visibility across teams.
- Developed Snowflake-based dashboards for coverage and defect trend reporting, giving stakeholders clear, data-driven visibility into release readiness.
- Drove repository and domain restructuring (config registry, loader updates, security hardening) and standardized deployment flows across automation domains.
- Led knowledge-sharing sessions and mentored team members on reusable automation architecture, enabling team-wide onboarding and adoption.

E2E POS QA Engineer — Sonic POS & Digital Integration

Capgemini (Client: Inspire Brands) | May 2023 – Dec 2023 | Atlanta, GA

- Validated integrations between digital ordering platforms and POS systems (Micros, Infor) across ordering, payment, and pricing workflows, ensuring calculation accuracy before production release.
- Performed backend API testing with Rest Assured and validated data integrity using SQL and MongoDB, catching discrepancies before they reached live systems.
- Developed and maintained automated regression and smoke test suites across Web, Mobile, and API layers to support frequent release cycles.
- Gathered test requirements from stakeholders and authored detailed manual test plans for UAT cycles, defining quality metrics used to sign off on release readiness for in-store operations at scale.

QA Automation Engineer — Buffalo Wild Wings (BWW Choice)

Capgemini (Client: Inspire Brands) | May 2022 – Apr 2023 | Bengaluru, India

- Served as technical lead for a 4–6 person automation team, assigning work and setting technical direction for Web, Mobile, and API test coverage.
- Automated Web and Mobile features for in-store dining using Java, Selenium, Appium, and Cucumber BDD.

- Implemented API automation with Rest Assured and database validations with SQL.
- Integrated suites into GitLab CI/CD for rapid feedback and stable nightly runs; reported via ReportPortal and Jira.

QA Automation Engineer — Arby's & Buffalo Wild Wings

Capgemini (Client: Inspire Brands) | Jul 2020 – Apr 2022 | Bengaluru, India

- Acted as technical lead for a 4–6 person automation engineering team, assigning work, reviewing code, and setting direction across Web, Mobile, and API modules.
- Enhanced Java/Gradle framework for cross-platform execution; managed CI/CD schedules on GitLab and conducted code reviews for maintainable, scalable automation code.
- Prepared knowledge-transfer documentation and mentored team members to elevate QA effectiveness.

QA Automation Engineer — Retail & Care Applications

Capgemini (Client: T-Mobile) | Jan 2020 – Jun 2020 | Bengaluru, India

- Performed manual and automated testing of desktop, web, mobile, and API applications for retail and care operations using Tosca and Appium (Java).
- Validated APIs with Postman; tracked and resolved defects in Jira in collaboration with development teams.

KEY PROJECTS & TOOLING

- PLATE QA Platform: Unified automation hub covering CI/CD, mobile execution (BrowserStack), Jira/Xray workflows, Snowflake reporting, and AI-powered prompt runners — built and maintained as primary architect.
- AI-Assisted Test Generation: Prompt-driven runners for EPIC/TE testcase creation and Copilot skill libraries enabling team-wide throughput gains.
- Automation Utilities: Health-check scripts, Gherkin-to-Jira importer, and custom Xray/Snowflake dashboards for coverage and defect trends.

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
- AWS Generative AI Essentials
- Tricentis: Tosca L1, TQL, qTest Specialist, RPA Specialist
- Harvard ManageMentor — Harvard Business School

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Technology, Electronics and Communication Engineering

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing, Jabalpur, India — 2019