How Can I Automate Stuff?

A guide for the beginner on making their testing life easier

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Goals

How to start in automation

• It's can be more than just testing

Share some of my stories

• Share some of yours too!

What do you really need to accomplish?
Don’t Let Me Down

What we won’t talk about here

Build a test automation framework
Learn how to program
Teach you how to use Selenium.

Come Together

What are the goals? What’s the plan?
• You must know what the end game is

How can automation help out?
• Not just in testing, but in setup as well

Treat it like a software project
• Come up with an initial design
• Divide and conquer
Come Together

Examples of automation helping out
- Push out web builds
- Seed test data
- Manipulate log files
- Drive browsers
- Full acceptance and regression testing
- Load testing
- Performance testing

Get Back

Candidates for the “Do not automate” pile
- Cost/time savings will not appear
- When the script maintenance cost will be too high
- A really complex one-off test scenario
- Obscure edge cases
- Unstable user interface in use
- Testing tools unavailable or difficult to use
Help!

Learning is a process
• Smart searches on your favorite search engine.
• Ask your peers

Experience is gained only by trying
• Success AND failure is part of this journey
• When blocked, try a different approach

Old Brown Shoe

Find the tool that fits the best
• Quick Ruby/Watir-webdriver demo
• Unittest location
Old Brown Shoe

Don’t neglect other resources in your toolbox
• Other scripting languages like Python or VBA
• SQL
• Shell languages such as Bash or Powershell
• Excel or CSV files
• Other people

Long and Winding Road

Other places to learn from
• Programming Books
• Development blogs
• OpenCourseWare
• Classes
• Peers
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Some of my experiences
- Thomson Financial
- Switchboard
- Compli

You can learn how to automate
- What’s the goal? Write it down!
- Experiment with several techniques
- Try out different tools
- Comment your scripts/solutions
- Find out what works for you

The End
The End

Communicate with and learn from your peers
• Validate ideas with others
• Collaborate when possible
• User forums are a great source of information
• Let people know where you are at
• Get a different perspective on trouble spots

The End

Enjoy the journey
and
Have fun!
Thank you!

Questions/Comments?

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