



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

- Its can be more than just testing

Share some of my stories

- Share some of yours too!

What do you really need to accomplish?



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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.



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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



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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



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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



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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



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Old Brown Shoe

Find the tool that fits the best

- Quick Ruby/Watir-webdriver demo
- Unittest location



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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

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Long and Winding Road

Other places to learn from

- Programming Books
- Development blogs
- OpenCourseWare
- Classes
- Peers

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Long and Winding Road

Some of my experiences

- Thomson Financial
- Switchboard
- Compli



The End

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

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

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The End

**Enjoy the journey
and
Have fun!**

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Thank you!

Questions/Comments?

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