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# Test Driven Automation with pyATS

A simplified approach to network automation

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BRKCRT-2013



#### Cisco Webex App

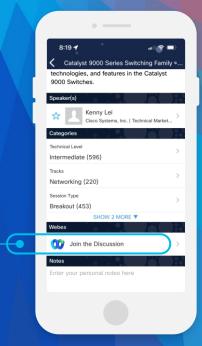
#### Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

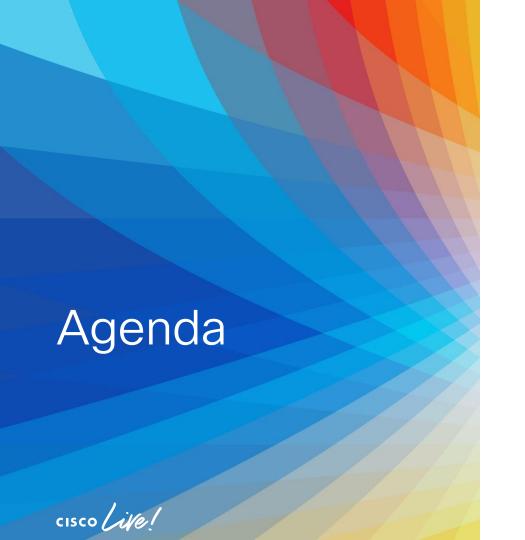
#### How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
- 2 Click "Join the Discussion"
- 3 Install the Webex App or go directly to the Webex space
- 4 Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until June 9, 2023.



https://ciscolive.ciscoevents.com/ciscolivebot/#BRKCRT-2013



- Introduction
- Test Driven Development
- Cisco pyATS
- State Testing
- Configuration Testing
- A Sample TDA Workflow
- Conclusion

# Introduction





#### John Capobianco

Cisco Learning and Certifications - Training Bootcamps

- 20+ years in IT
- Introduced to network automation at Cisco Live 2015
- Ansible (2015 2019)
  - Self-published "Automate Your Network" on Amazon (2019)
  - Please contact me on socials to get your PDF copy after this session
- pyATS / Python (2019 present)



#### The "old way"

Some assumptions

- Design Build Test
- Manual processes
- Testing occurs at the end of the delivery cycle
- Testing is done against very large complex topologies
- Little to no instrumentation
- Reactive





Encouraging simple designs and inspiring confidence

- Software development process
- Convert requirements into test cases
- Three rules to TDD You Are NOT Allowed To:
  - 1. Write any production code unless it is to make a failing unit test pass
  - 2. Write any more of a unit test than is sufficient to fail (and compilation failures are failures)
  - 3. Write any more production code than is sufficient to pass the one failing unit test.

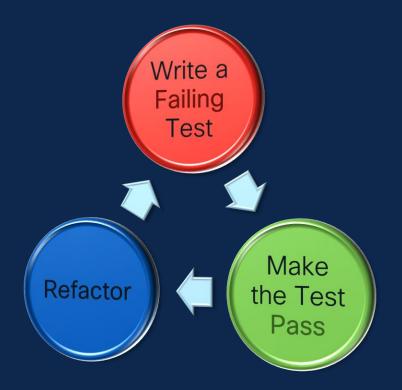


Important figures in TDD

- Kent Beck credited with "rediscovering" the technique
  - Creator of "extreme programming"
  - One of the original 17 signatories on the "Agile Manifesto"

- Robert C. Martin ("Uncle Bob")
  - Programmer, speaker, teacher from cleancoder.com
  - Provided the concise set of TDD rules







Important figures in TDD

- Add a Test
- 2. Run all tests. The new test should fail.
- 3. Write the simplest code that passes the new test.
- 4. All tests should now pass.
- 5. Refactor as needed; repeating the testing cycle after each refactor to ensure refactoring quality.
- 6. Add a Test...



#### Best practices

- Keep the unit small
- General test structure
  - Setup, execution, validation, cleanup
- Always test a known state
- Limit, or eliminate, dependencies between tests
- Complex is fine, complicated is not
- "All-knowing" tests



- Engineering teams at Microsoft and IBM concluded
  - "pre-release defect density of four projects decreased between 40% and 90% relative to similar projects that did not use TDD practice"
    - <u>Realizing-Quality-Improvement-Through-Test-Driven-Development-Results-and-Experiences-of-Four-Industrial-Teams-nagappan\_tdd.pdf (microsoft.com)</u>



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#### **Studies**

- Department of Computer Science at North Carolina State University experiment
  - "92% of developers believed that TDD yields higher quality code, 79% thought it promoted simpler design, and 71% thought the approach was noticeably effective"
  - "56% of the professional developers believed it was difficult to get into a TDD mindset, while 23% claim the lack of upfront design phase is the reason for this difficulty. 40% believed the adoption of TDD was difficult."
    - An Initial Investigation of Test Driven Development in Industry



Applying to Network Automation

- Direct mapping of business requirements of the network to test cases
- Easily applied in practice to network automation
- Network state and network configurations can be tested
- Intent can be enforced
- CI/CD pipelines can be established



# Cisco pyATS







**Business Logic** 

Integration

- · XPRESSO, Ansible, RobotFramework
- · Jenkins, CI/CD pipelines, CLI, other tooling, etc

Genie Libs

- · Parsers, Feature/Protocol Models
- · Reusable Testcases: Triggers, Verifications

SDK & Library

Genie Library Framework

- Basis for agnostic automation libraries
- · Boilerplate library foundation & engine

Toolbox

pyATS Core Test Infrastructure

- Topology & Test definition
- Execution & Reporting



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# "Purpose gives meaning to action in the same way that structure gives meaning to data

David Amerland

Intentional: How to Live, Love, Work and Play Meaningfully



#### Cisco pyATS

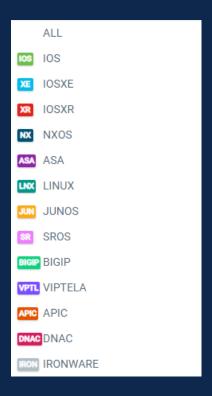
A brief history

- Lesson One: How to pronounce pyATS
- Python Automated Test Systems (pyATS)
- Cisco runs over 3 million tests internally monthly with pyATS
- General public availability in 2017
- Officially endorsed by the Cisco executive team
- Suitable for Agile, rapid development iterations, and NetDevOps



#### pyATS Supported Platforms

Not limited to Cisco





#### Wireless - WLC running IOS-XE

All standard IOS-XE parsers + new wireless parsers

#### suggested

- show cts wireless profile policy {policy}
- x show wireless client summary
- show wireless ewc-ap predownload status
- show wireless fabric summary
- show wireless management trustpoint
- show wireless mobility ap-list
- x show wireless multicast
- show wireless profile policy summary
- show wireless stats client delete reasons
- show wireless stats mobility

- show wireless client mac {mac\_address} detail
- show wireless cts summary
- show wireless fabric client summary
- show wireless fabric vnid mapping

- show wireless mobility summary
- show wireless profile policy detailed (policy\_name)
- show wireless stats ap join summary
- show wireless stats client detail



#### **Testbed**

- Used to establish connectivity to network devices
- Extensible for intentbased configurations
- Static
  - YAML file
- Dynamic

```
devices:
    4500:
      alias: '4500'
      type: 'switch'
      os: 'iosxe'
      platform: cat4500
      credentials:
        default:
          username: {{ your username }}
          password: {{ your password }}
      connections:
        cli:
          protocol: ssh
          ip: {{ your device IP }}
          arguments:
            connection timeout: 360
```

#### **Testbed**

#### Secret Strings

- Secret Strings can be used to encrypt entire testbed files or, more commonly, individual values such as the password.
  - Secret Strings pyATS Documentation (devnetcloud.com)

Follow the 8 steps to encrypt your password

 Represent your password as "%ENC{}" inside your testbed placing the encrypted string inside the curly braces



#### Testbed Example

Secret String used to encrypt password

```
# Snippet of your testbed.yaml
testbed:
    name: sampleTestbed
    credentials:
        default:
            username: admin
            password: "%ENC{gAAAAABdsgvwE1U9_3RTZsRnd4b113Es2gV6Y_DUnUE8
```



#### Testbed

Validation with linting

yamllint – Python package used to validate YAML files

pyATS validate testbed – built-it testbed validation command



# yamllint

```
™ testbed.yml X
home > johncapobianco > xxx testbed.yml
              alias: 'csr1000v-1'
                platform: isr
                        username: developer
                        password: C1sco12345
                        protocol: ssh
                        ip: sandbox-iosxe-latest-1.cisco.com
                        port: 22
                            connection timeout: 360
 PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL
(ciscolivestuff) johncapobianco@DESKTOP-EFDK79U:~$ yamllint testbed.yml
 testbed.yml
                     wrong indentation: expected 8 but found 6 (indentation)
                     syntax error: expected <block end>, but found '<block mapping start>' (syntax)
                     too many blank lines (1 > 0) (empty-lines)
```

#### cisco live!

# pyats validate

```
™ testbed.yml X
home > johncapobianco > * testbed.yml
               platform: isr
                          username: developer
                       protocol: ssh
                        ip: sandbox-iosxe-latest-1.cisco.com
                       port: 22
                       connection timeout: 360
 PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL
(ciscolivestuff) johncapobianco@DESKTOP-EFDK79U:~$ pyats validate testbed testbed.yml
 Loading testbed file: testbed.yml
 YAML Lint Messages
           warning wrong indentation: expected 16 but found 18 (indentation)
            error trailing spaces (trailing-spaces)
   None : Type str expected, but <class 'NoneType'> was specified.
```

#### pyATS Command Line Interface (CLI)

Start using pyATS immeditely

- pyATS has a CLI!
- All you need is valid testbed file and either the parser or model you want to transform into structure JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)
- Python-free
- Faster and more efficient than logging into a device and running show commands
- Directly from IDE like VS Code

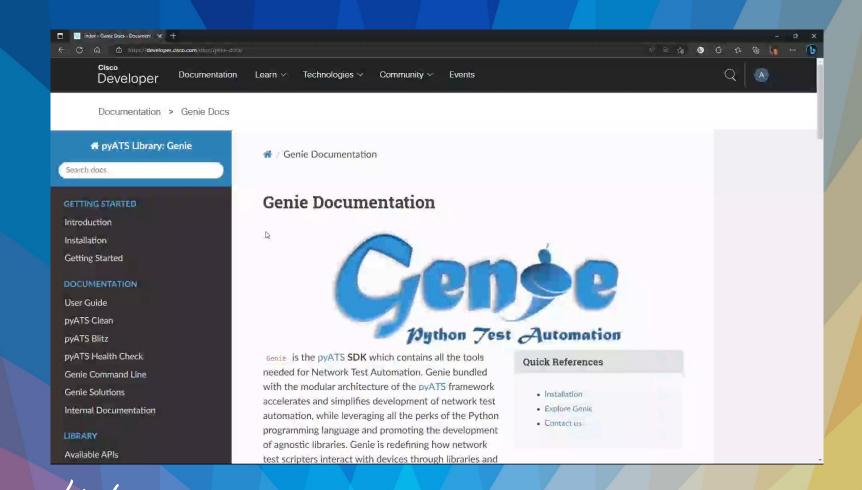


#### Parsers

- Parse show commands into JSON
- Platform specific
- Thousands available
- Online searchable library of parsers

#### Models

- Learn command
- Platform agnostic
- 32 available commands
- "Learn" everything about a specific networking object



#### pyATS Ping

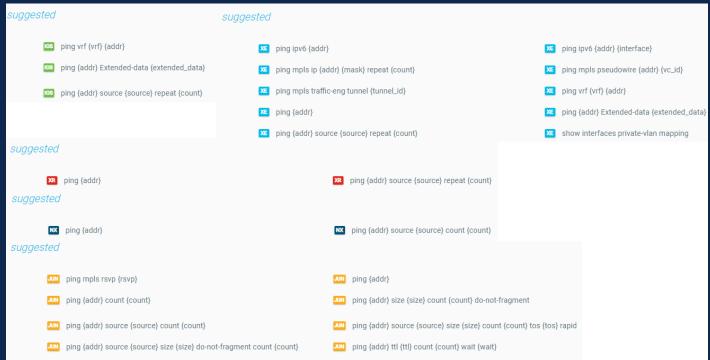
Test reachability and more





#### pyATS Advanced Ping

#### Unlimited potential





### pyATS Ping Schema (IOS-XE)

Testable keys and values

```
Doc
    parser for
          * ping {addr}
          * ping {addr} source {source} repeat {count}
          * ping vrf {vrf} {addr}
           * ping {addr} Extended-data {extended_data}
Schema
   'ping': {
     'address': <class 'str'>,
     'data_bytes': <class 'int'>,
     Optional (str) repeat: <class 'int'>,
     Optional (str) timeout_secs: <class 'int'>,
     Optional (str) source: <class 'str'>,
     Optional (str) result per line: <class 'list'>,
     'statistics': {
      'send': <class 'int'>,
       'received': <class 'int'>,
       'success rate percent': <class 'float'>,
       Optional (str) round trip: {
         'min ms': <class 'int'>,
         'avg ms': <class 'int'>,
         'max ms': <class 'int'>,
```



#### pyATS Traceroute

Test traffic paths and flows

- xE traceroute
- traceroute ipv6 {address}
- traceroute mpls traffic-eng tunnel (tunnelid)
- traceroute {addr} source {addr2} no-resolve

- traceroute mpls ipv4 {address} {mask}
- traceroute {addr} no-resolve



#### pyATS Traceroute

Test traffic paths and flows

```
'traceroute': {
 Any (str) *: {
   'hops': {
    Any (str) *: {
      'paths': {
        Any (str) *: {
          'address': <class 'str'>,
          Optional (str) asn: <class 'int'>,
          Optional (str) name: <class 'str'>,
          Optional (str) probe_msec: <class 'list'>,
          Optional (str) vrf in name: <class 'str'>,
          Optional (str) vrf out name: <class 'str'>,
          Optional (str) vrf_in_id: <class 'str'>,
          Optional (str) vrf out id: <class 'str'>,
          Optional (str) label_info: {
            Optional (str) label_name: <class 'str'>,
            Optional (str) exp: <class 'int'>,
            Optional (str) MPLS: {
              'label': <class 'str'>,
              'exp': <class 'int'>,
          Optional (str) mru: <class 'int'>,
          1,
        },
      Optional (str) code: <class 'str'>.
  Optional (str) timeout_seconds: <class 'int'>,
   Optional (str) name_of_address: <class 'str'>,
   'address': <class 'str'>,
  Optional (str) vrf: <class 'str'>,
  Optional (str) mask: <class 'str'>.
```



#### pyATS Dir

#### Test directories





#### pyATS Dir Schema (IOS-XE

Testable keys and values

```
'dir': {
 'dir': <class 'str'>,
 Any (str) *: {
   Optional (str) files: {
     Any (str) *: {
       Optional (str) index: <class 'str'>,
       Optional (str) permissions: <class 'str'>,
       'size': <class 'str'>.
       Optional (str) last modified date: <class 'str'>,
       },
   Optional (str) bytes total: <class 'str'>,
   Optional (str) bytes free: <class 'str'>,
```



#### pyATS Blitz

Python-free, YAML-based, quick triggers

- pyATS has a Python-free implementation known as Quick Triggers or Blitz
- Structured text (YAML) defines configuration and verification tasks
- Rapid adoption of automation
- No programming experience or expertise required
- Nice on-ramp from Ansible



#### pyATS Blitz

```
# Template of a blitz testcase
# Name of the testcase
Testcase1:
    # Leave this as is for most use cases
    source:
        pkg: genie.libs.sdk
        class: triggers.blitz.blitz.Blitz
    # Field containing all the sections
    test_sections:
        # Section name - Can be any name, it will show as the first section
        # of the testcase
        - section_one:
            - ">>>> <ACTION> <<<<"
            - ">>>> <ACTION> <<<<"
            - ">>>> <ACTION> <<<<"
        - section two:
            - ">>>> <ACTION> <<<<"
            - ">>>> <ACTION> <<<<"
```



#### pyATS jobs

Python implementation

- pyATS jobs are made up of two files:
  - A python script with the pyATS logic
  - A job file (also Python)

 The job file abstracts and assists in loading the testbed file as well as establishing a connection between the Python script and the pyATS framework

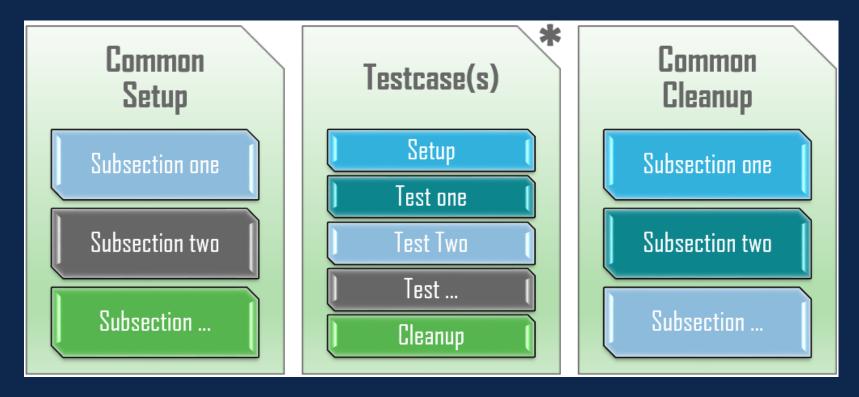


#### pyATS job file

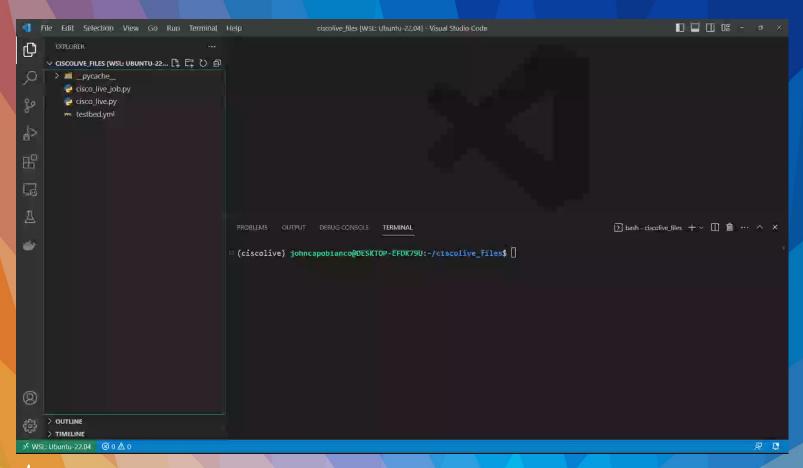
```
import os
from genie.testbed import load
def main(runtime):
    # -----
   # Load the testbed
    # -----
   if not runtime.testbed:
       # If no testbed is provided, load the default one.
       # Load default location of Testbed
       testbedfile = os.path.join('intent_SSH.yaml')
       testbed = load(testbedfile)
    else:
       # Use the one provided
       testbed = runtime.testbed
   # Find the location of the script in relation to the job file
   testscript = os.path.join(os.path.dirname( file ), 'bubo SSH.py')
   # run script
    runtime.tasks.run(testscript=testscript, testbed=testbed)
```



#### pyATS scripts







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#### pyATS Log Viewer

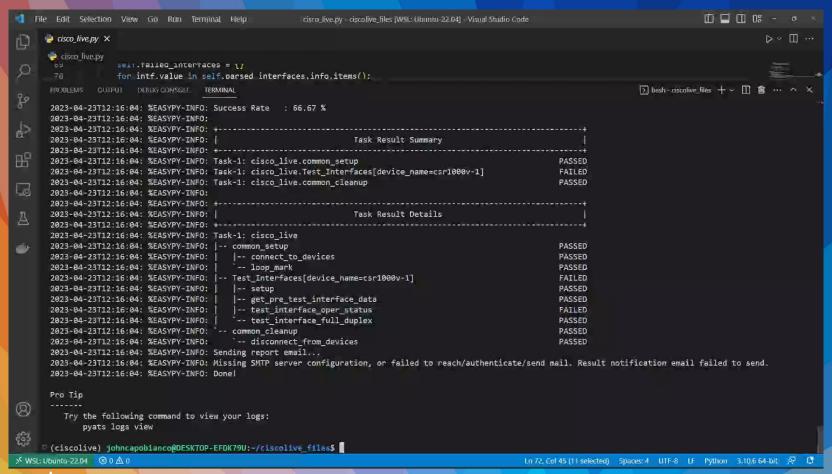
Built-in Enriched HTML Log Viewer

 At the end of a pyATS job you can launch an interactive enriched HTML page to review your logs beyond the CLI recap

Big advantage over other network automation frameworks

Historical view of local jobs





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#### pyATS WebEx Integration

Built-in WebEx communication

pyATS can send the log summary to WebEx dynamically

- Options that can be appended to pyATS job commands
  - --webex-token WebEx Bot token
  - --webex-space WebEx Space ID to send notification to
  - --webex-email Email of specific user to send notification to



#### pyATS - CLI vs API

#### Other ways to connect

- In addition to SSH CLI based operation pyATS has several. connectors that extend it's capability to various APIs
  - REST Connector
    - NXOS
    - NSO
    - DNAC
    - IOS-XE RESTCONF
    - APIC
    - CML
    - BigIP
    - vManage
    - DCNM
    - · Nexus Dashboard



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#### pyATS - REST Connector

#### **Testbed**

pip install rest.connector

```
devices:
    csr1000v-1:
        alias: 'sandbox'
        type: 'router'
        os: 'iosxe'
        platform: csr1000v
        connections:
            rest:
                # Rest connector class
                class: rest.connector.Rest
                ip: sandbox-iosxe-latest-1.cisco.com
                port: 443
                credentials:
                    rest:
                        username: developer
                        password: C1sco12345
```



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#### pyATS - REST Connector

Job example

- pyATS job file is unchanged
- Use rest.<method>() to interact with the device's API

```
@aetest.test
def get_yang_data(self):
    # Use the RESTCONF OpenConfig YANG Model
    parsed_native = self.device.rest.get("/restconf/data/Cisco-IOS-XE-native:native")
    # Get the JSON payload
    self.parsed_json=parsed_native.json()
```



#### pyATS - Recording jobs

Simulate your testbed offline

- We can add --record <name of recording> to our job
  - · Capture the state / config of the device during this job
- Use the following command to playback the recorded data
  - Python3 -m unicon.playback.mock --recorded-data <name of recording>



#### pyATS - Mock Devices

Simulate your testbed offline

- Add --output <path/mock\_device.yml> to the recording to generate mock device from the output
- Inspect the mock device it will have the entire state as YAML
- From the command-line interface you can connect to the "CLI" of the mock device
  - mock\_device\_cli -os <os> --mock\_data\_dir <dir> --state connect
- From there you can run CLI commands!



#### Enhancing your pyATS experience

Optional Python libraries

- Rich
  - Add tables to your pyATS logging output
  - Includes colours
  - Available in pyATS log viewer output
- Tabulate
  - Add tables to your pyATS logging output
  - Alternative to Rich



#### Enhancing your pyATS experience

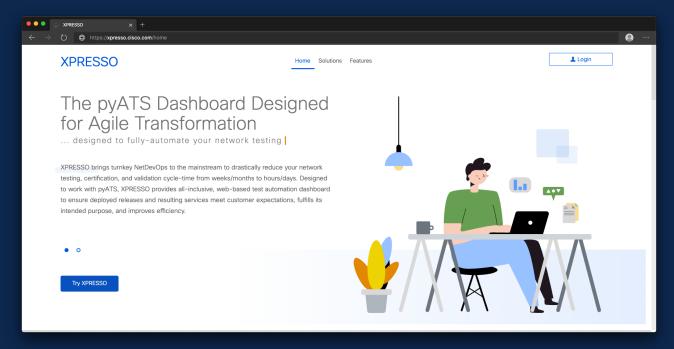
Optional Python libraries

- Requests
  - Make arbitrary API calls to outside APIs when a test passes / fails
    - ServiceNow
    - WebEx
- Various Python SDKs
  - COBRA for ACI
  - Meraki SDK
  - DNA Center Python SDK



#### xPresso

A Dashboard for orchestrating and scheduling pyATS jobs





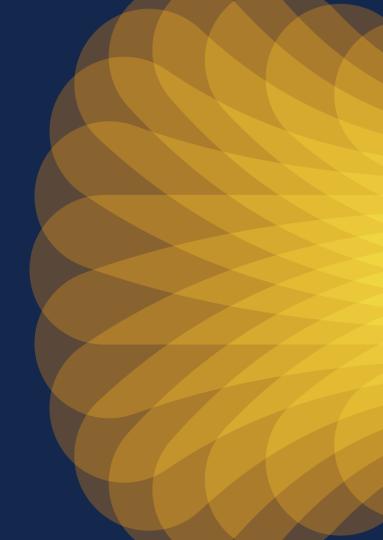
#### **xPresso**

A Dashboard for orchestrating and scheduling pyATS jobs

- Docker-based
- pyATS job-to-container conversion tool
- Schedule, orchestrate, monitor, reporting from pyATS jobs
- Integrates with Jenkins and other CI/CD
- DevNet Sandbox available
  - https://devnetsandbox.cisco.com/RM/Diagram/Index/756b58ba-15aa-4228-8a41-f94f684330e7?diagramType=Topology



#### State Testing



#### State Testing

Testing the operational state of the network

- Every test results in a Boolean pass or fail
- Using either parsed show commands or REST API JSON gather the state of the network
  - Interfaces
  - Routing
  - Neighbors
  - ACLs
  - You get the idea



#### State Testing

Testing the operational state of the network

- Primarily integers but could be strings
- Personal preferences:
  - I like to setup a threshold and test against it
  - == != => =< > <
  - Mathematical formulas ( + / \* )
  - Strings can also use "contains" or "in", for example



#### More personal preferences:

- I like to setup an empty flag
  - test\_failed = {}
- When a test fails I set this to a value
  - test failed = "Failed"
- At the end of my testing I evaluate this flag to ultimately pass or fail the test
  - if test\_failed:
     self.failed("This test failed")
     else
     self.passed("This test passed!"
- I always use Rich tables and log.info() to include the tables in my pyATS log view logs.



### Configuration Testing



#### Configuration Testing

Testing the configuration of devices

- Similar testing but using:
  - device.learn("config") (JSON)
  - device.parse("show running-config") (JSON)
  - RESTCONF API root (JSON)
  - device.execute("show run") (Raw CLI)



#### pyATS .configure()

Using pyATS to push configurations to a device

- pyATS .configure() can be used several ways to push configurations to a device
  - Static configurations
    - Single line device.configure("ntp server 192.168.1.1")
  - Jinja2 templated configurations
    - Jinja2 included in the pyATS framework and easily incorporated



#### Intent-based Configuration Management

Extending our Testbed to represent Intent

- Our testbed YAML files can be extended to include intent.
- Intent can then be tested
  - Compare intent-values in testbed against actual configuration or state
- Intent can be enforced
  - .configure() to push intent



#### Intent-based Configuration Management

Extending our Testbed to represent Intent

```
extends: testbed SSH.yaml
devices:
   csr1000v-1:
        custom:
            domain name: "lab.devnetsandbox.local"
            interfaces:
                GigabitEthernet1:
                    type: ethernet
                    description: "MANAGEMENT INTERFACE - DON'T TOUCH ME"
                GigabitEthernet2:
                    type: ethernet
                    description: "Network Interface"
                GigabitEthernet3:
                    type: ethernet
                    description: "Network Interface"
               Loopback100:
                    type: ethernet
                    description: "Created by Ansible"
               Loopback1010:
                    type: ethernet
                    description: "Network Interface"
                Loopback5201:
                    type: ethernet
                    description: "Added with RESTCONF082022"
                VirtualPortGroup0:
                    type: ethernet
                    description: "Virtual Port Group"
```



#### Differentials

.diff()

- pyATS can perform differentials with Linux-style +/- additions and removals between datasets
- Where we capture with device.parse or device.learn pre and post change into variables then perform a diff against them

```
@aetest.test
def diff_configs(self):
    diff = Diff(self.pre_chatgpt_change_config, self.post_chatgpt_change_config)
    diff.findDiff()
    print(diff)
```



A Sample Test Driven Automation Workflow



Capture Original Config and State Test Config and State Push templated config Capture New Config and State Test Config and State

> Perform Differential

> > #CiscoLive



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#### A Sample Test Driven Automation Workflow

- 1. Capture current configuration and state
- 2. Test configuration and state
- 3. Push templated configurations incorporating intent
- 4. Capture new configuration and state
- Test new configuration and state
- 6. Perform differentials
- 7. Optionally send reports or other 3<sup>rd party tools</sup>



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Attendees who fill out a minimum of four session surveys and the overall event survey will get **Cisco Live-branded socks** (while supplies last)!



Attendees will also earn 100 points in the **Cisco Live Challenge** for every survey completed.



These points help you get on the leaderboard and increase your chances of winning daily and grand prizes



# Continue your education

- Visit the Cisco Showcase for related demos
- Book your one-on-one Meet the Engineer meeting
- Attend the interactive education with DevNet, Capture the Flag, and Walk-in Labs
- Visit the On-Demand Library for more sessions at www.CiscoLive.com/on-demand



#### Thank you



# Let's go cisco live! #CiscoLive

## Cisco Live Challenge

Gamify your Cisco Live experience! Get points for attending this session!

#### How:

- Open the Cisco Events App.
- 2 Click on 'Cisco Live Challenge' in the side menu.
- 3 Click on View Your Badges at the top.
- 4 Click the + at the bottom of the screen and scan the QR code:





