Hands-On Web UI Testing

Andrew Knight DjangoCon 2019

I'm Pandy. I love testing.



AutomationPanda.com



Quick Poll:

Developers?
Testers?
Other Roles?

Web UI testing can be hard. Let's make it easy. We have **3.5 hours**.

Agenda

- 1. Learning About Web UI Testing
- 2. Writing Our First Test
- 3. Initializing Selenium WebDriver
- 4. Defining Page Objects
- 5. Finding Locators for Elements
- 6. Making WebDriver Calls
- 7. Configuring Multiple Browsers
- 8. Handling Race Conditions
- 9. Running Tests in Parallel
- 10. Adding More Tests

Test Project Setup

Clone the test project and follow the README's setup instructions:

```
git clone https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing.git
```

Requirements:

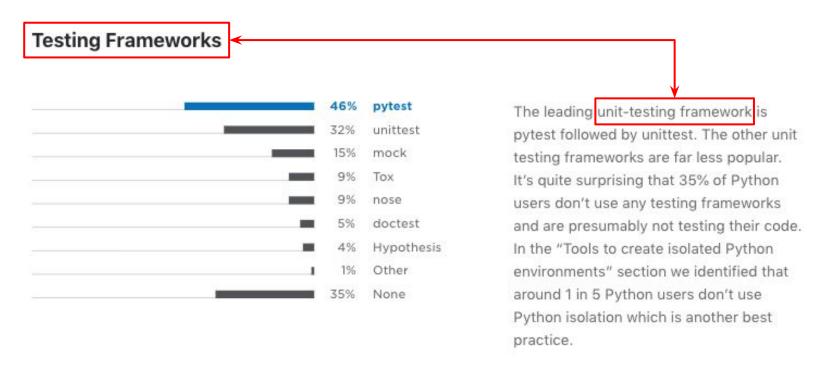
- Git
- Python 3.7 or higher
- Pipenv ("pip install pipenv")
- Google Chrome and ChromeDriver
- Mozilla Firefox and geckodriver

Learning About Web UI Testing

How would you define "testing"?

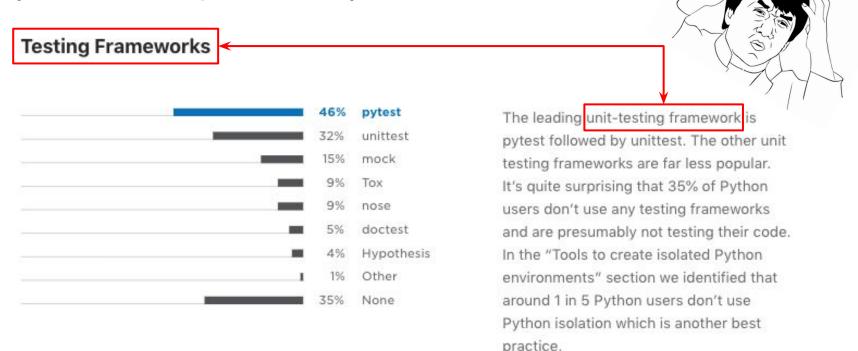
Major misconception: unit testing == all testing

Python Developers Survey 2018:



Source: https://www.jetbrains.com/research/python-developers-survey-2018/

Python Developers Survey 2018:



Source: https://www.jetbrains.com/research/python-developers-survey-2018/

There is a difference between testing **code** and testing **features**.

There is a difference between testing code and testing features.

WHITE BOX

Is the code written to do expected things?

"Unit" or "Subcutaneous"

There is a difference between testing code and testing features.

WHITE BOX

Is the code written to do expected things?

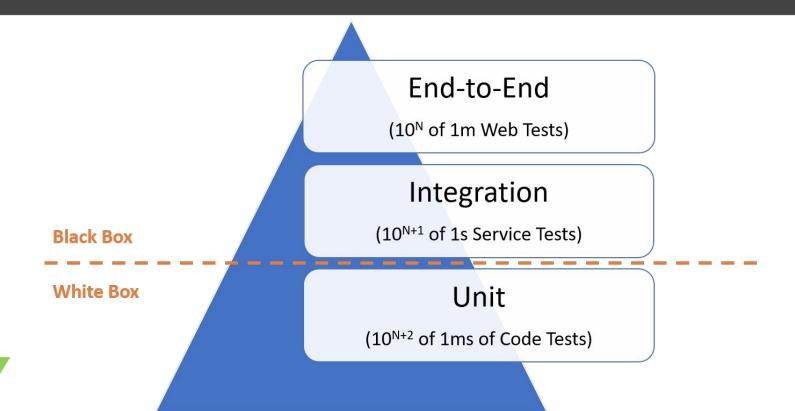
"Unit" or "Subcutaneous"

BLACK BOX

Does the product meet the requirements?

"Integration" or "End-to-End"

The Testing Pyramid



What is Web UI Testing?

Web UI testing is black box testing of a Web app through a browser.

- It is **feature testing** because it tests the app like a user.
- It is **end-to-end** because all parts are exercised together.

Modern Web apps can have many parts:

- Web UI front-end that displays in a browser (HTML, CSS, JavaScript)
- A service layer (like REST APIs)
- A persistence layer (like databases)
- Web servers and load balancers (like NGINX)
- Queues and workers (for heavy jobs)

Web UI Testing Pros and Cons

Pros

- End-to-end coverage
- Test like a user
- Visible results
- Catch obvious problems

Cons

- Complex to automate
- Slow to execute
- Prone to flakiness
- Root cause analysis is harder

What Makes a "Good" Web UI Test?

- It focuses on one main behavior
- It has a clear, step-by-step procedure
- It covers an important, core feature
- It sticks to a "happy" path or a basic error case
- It avoids redundant, pointless, or unimportant variations
- It cannot be covered by a lower-level test (unit, integration, API)

If the test fails, will people panic? And will they know what broke?

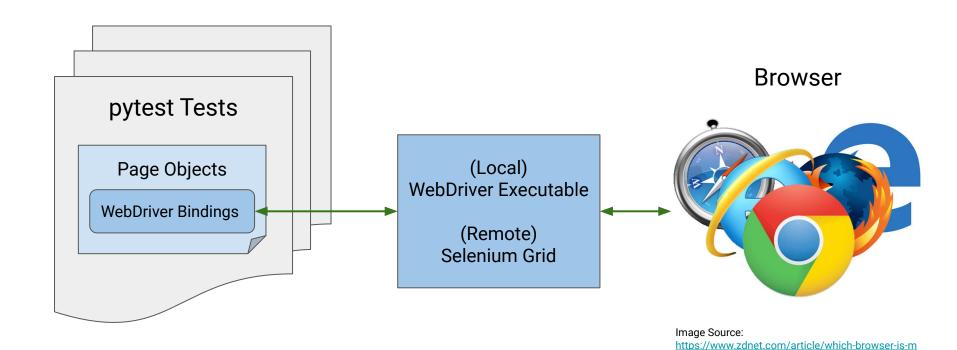
Since Web UI testing is expensive, focus on **ROI**.

Solution Sketch

Test automation is a special domain of software development.

Language	Python
Core Framework	pytest
UI Interactions	Page Object Pattern
Browser Automation	Selenium WebDriver

Solution Diagram



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ost-popular-on-each-major-operating-system/

Why Not Use Django Testing Tools?

Django provides an excellent testing client with a temporary database.

However, the Django test client has limitations:

- 1. It cannot do feature testing it can only do code testing.
- 2. It cannot test apps in a real browser.
- 3. It can be used only with Django, not with other types of Web apps.

Our solution can do <u>feature</u> testing in <u>real browsers</u> against <u>any Web app!</u>

Why Not Use Codeless Tools?

"Codeless" test automation tools enable users to automate tests without programming. They typically offer forms for steps and locators or record-and-playback scripting. Many include AI for predicting or fixing failures.

Codeless tools are great for testers who can't code. However:

- The tools can feel slow and clunky.
- The tests are not very customizable.
- Licenses typically cost a lot of money.
- Vendor lock-in happens.

Coded tools (like our solution) are a better alternative for those who can code!

Writing Our First Test

Our Web App to Test



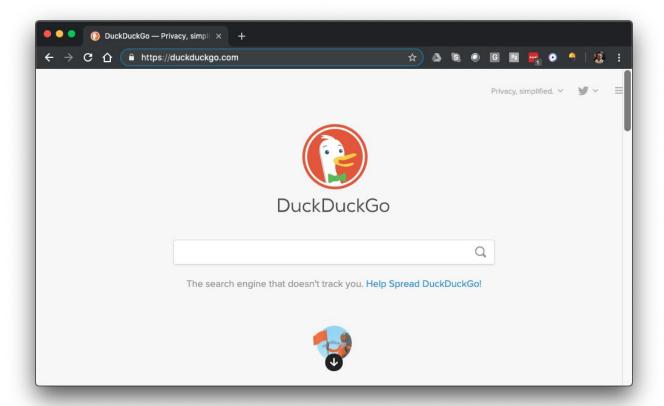
Everyone Do a Search!



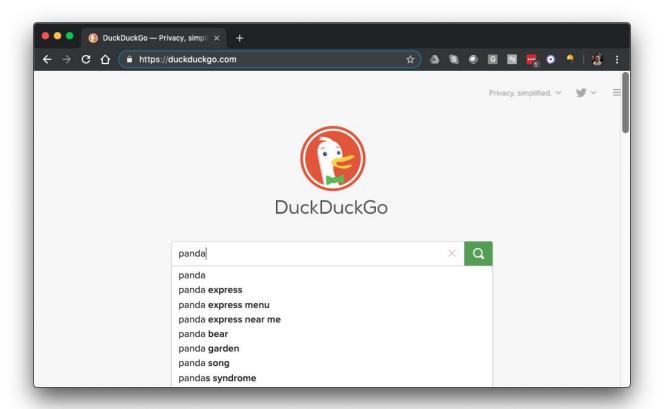
Let's write a basic Web test together!

Always write test steps <u>before</u> test code.

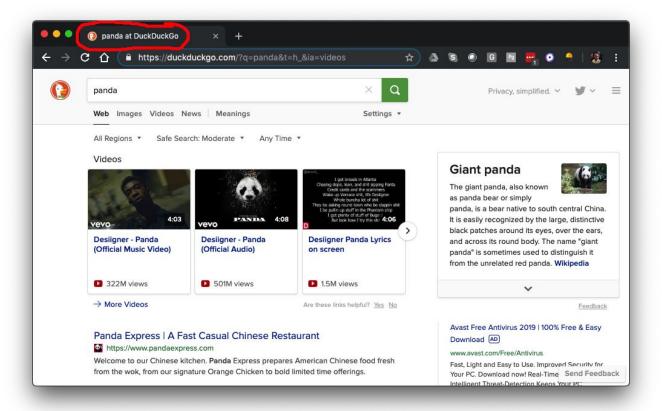
Step 1: Navigate to DuckDuckGo



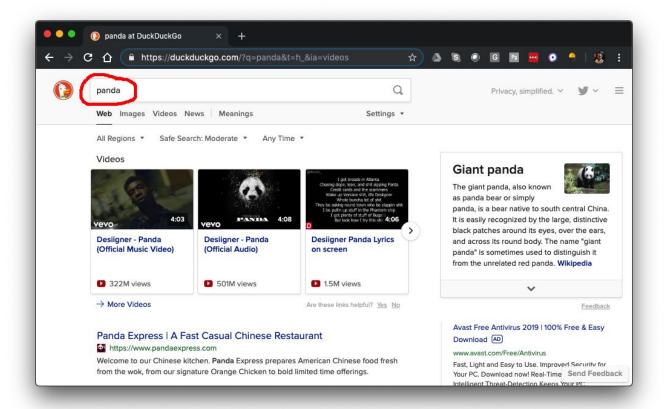
Step 2: Enter a search phrase



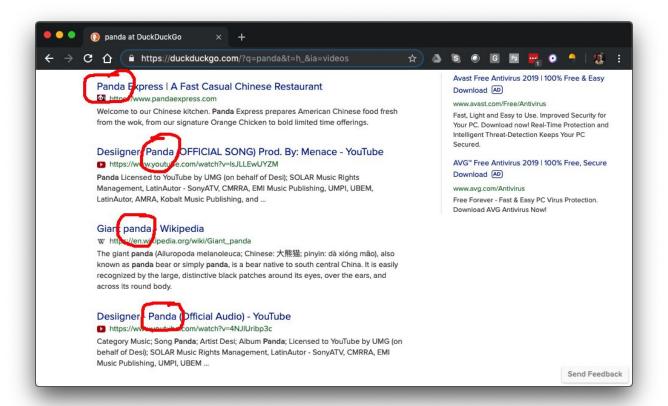
Step 3: Verify query in title



Step 4: Verify query on results page



Step 5: Verify results match query



Our First Test Case

Scenario: Basic DuckDuckGo Search

Given the DuckDuckGo home page is displayed

When the user searches for "panda"

Then the search result title contains "panda"

And the search result query is "panda"

And the search result links pertain to "panda"

Let's put this test into **pytest**.



About pytest

pytest is a mature full-featured Python testing tool that helps you write better programs.

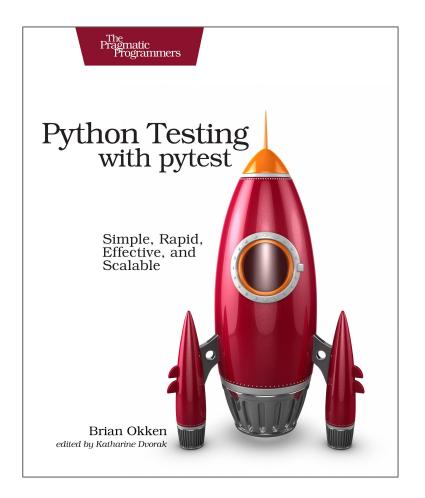
pytest: helps you write better programs

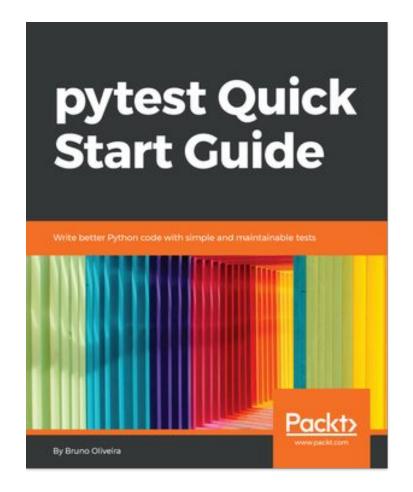
The pytest framework makes it easy to write small tests, yet scales to support complex functional testing for applications and libraries.

An example of a simple test:

```
# content of test_sample.py
def inc(x):
    return x + 1

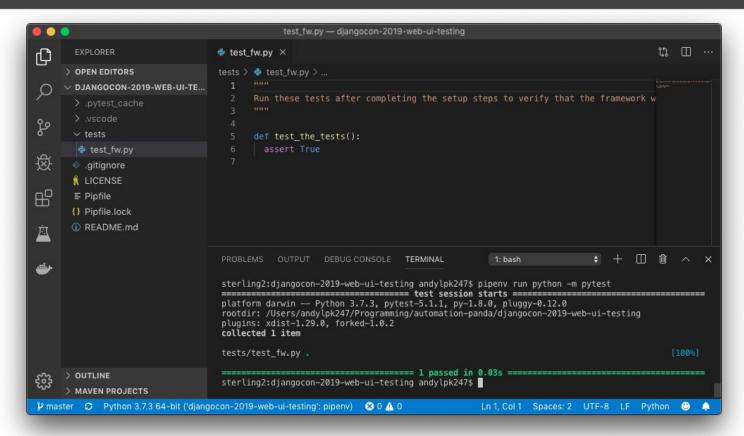
def test_answer():
    assert inc(3) == 5
```





pipenv install pytest

pytest in Our Project



Hands-On Time!

Finish the setup steps for the tutorial project.
Then, complete **Tutorial Instructions Part 1** in the README.
Take 5 minutes.

https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing

Our First Test in Comments

```
def test_basic_duckduckgo_search():
```

```
# Given the DuckDuckGo home page is displayed
# TODO
# When the user searches for "panda"
# TODO
# Then the search result title contains "panda"
# TODO
# And the search result query is "panda"
# TODO
# And the search result links pertain to "panda"
# TODO
raise Exception("Incomplete Test")
```

```
Project Tree:
.
tests
test_search.py
```

Setting Up Selenium WebDriver

Selenium WebDriver

The selenium package is the Selenium WebDriver implementation for Python.

It sends Web UI commands from test automation code to a browser.

WebDriver can handle every type of Web UI interaction.

The best practice is to make all WebDriver calls from page object methods.

Full API Documentation:

https://selenium-python.readthedocs.io/api.html

pipenv install selenium

WebDriver Instances

Every test case should have its own WebDriver instance.

- One test → one WebDriver → one browser
- Test case independence

WebDriver initialization and quitting should be handled with a pytest fixture.

- Any test can use a fixture for setup and cleanup
- Always quit the WebDriver (not close)
- Otherwise, drivers and browsers can become zombie processes!

Which Browser Type?



Source: https://www.color-management-guide.com/images/icc-profile-internet/intro-web-browsers.jpg

WebDriver Fixture

```
import pytest
import selenium.webdriver
@pytest.fixture
def browser():
 # This browser will be local
 # ChromeDriver must be on the system PATH
  b = selenium.webdriver.Chrome()
 b.implicitly_wait(10)
 yield b
 b.quit()
```

```
Project Tree:
.
tests
conftest.py
test_search.py
```

Using the Fixture

def test_basic_duckduckgo_search(browser):

```
# Given the DuckDuckGo home page is displayed
# TODO
# When the user searches for "panda"
# TODO
# Then the search result title contains "panda"
# TODO
# And the search result query is "panda"
# TODO
# And the search result links pertain to "panda"
# TODO
raise Exception("Incomplete Test")
```

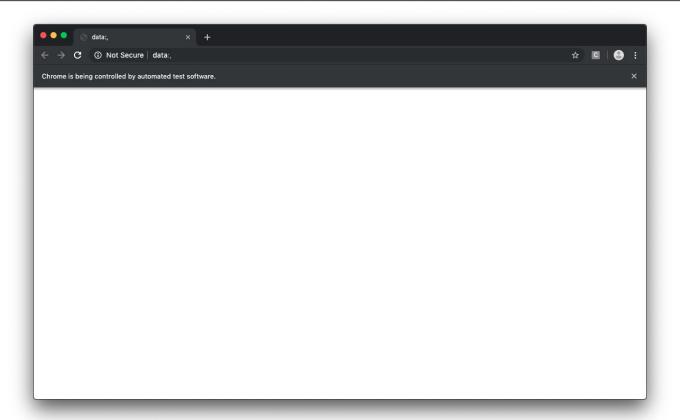
```
Project Tree:
.
tests
conftest.py
test_search.py
```

Hands-On Time!

Complete **Tutorial Instructions Part 2** in the README. Take 5 minutes.

https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing

WebDriver-Controlled Chrome



Defining Page Objects

What is a Page Object?

A page object is an object representing a Web page or component.

- It has *locators* for finding elements on the page.
- It has interaction methods that interact with the page under test.

Each Web page or component under test should have a page object class.

- Page objects encapsulate low-level Selenium WebDriver calls.
- That way, tests can make short, readable calls instead of complicated ones.

Our Pages Under Test

DuckDuckGo Search Page

- Load the page
- Search a phrase

DuckDuckGo Result Page

- Get the result link titles
- Get the search input value
- Get the title

Page Object Class Stubs

```
class DuckDuckGoSearchPage:
                                              class DuckDuckGoResultPage:
 def __init__(self, browser):
                                                def __init__(self, browser):
    self.browser = browser
                                                  self.browser = browser
  def load(self):
                                                def result_link_titles(self):
                                                  return []
    pass
  def search(self, phrase):
                                                def search_input_value(self):
                                                  return ""
    pass
                                                def title(self):
                                                  return ""
```

Adding Page Object Calls to the Test

```
def test_basic_duckduckgo_search(browser):
  search_page = DuckDuckGoSearchPage(browser)
  result_page = DuckDuckGoResultPage(browser)
 # Given the DuckDuckGo home page is displayed
  search_page.load()
 # When the user searches for "panda"
  search_page.search("panda")
 # Then the search result title contains "panda"
  assert "panda" in result_page.title()
 # And the search result query is "panda"
  assert "panda" == result_page.search_input_value()
 # And the search result links pertain to "panda"
  for title in result_page.result_link_titles():
    assert "panda" in title.lower()
```

Hands-On Time!

Complete **Tutorial Instructions Part 3** in the README. Take *10 minutes*.

https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing

Finding Locators for Elements

Web Elements

An element is a "thing" on a Web page, like a button, label, or text input.

Tests interact with elements in three steps:

- 1. Wait for the target element to appear
- 2. Get an object representing the target element
- 3. Send commands to the element object

Locators

Locators are queries that find elements on a page.

There are many types:

- By.ID
- By.NAME
- By.CLASS_NAME
- By.CSS_SELECTOR
- By.XPATH
- By.LINK_TEXT
- By.PARTIAL_LINK_TEXT
- By.TAG_NAME

Want to learn more?
Take a free course online!

Test Automation University: Web Element Locator Strategies

Example ID Locator

Element:

```
<button id="django_ok">OK</button>
```

Locator:

```
(By.ID, "django_ok")
```

Example CSS Selector Locator

Element:

```
<button class="django_ok">OK</button>
```

Locator:

```
(By.CSS_SELECTOR, "button.django_ok")
```

Example XPath Locator

Element:

<button>OK</button>

Locator:

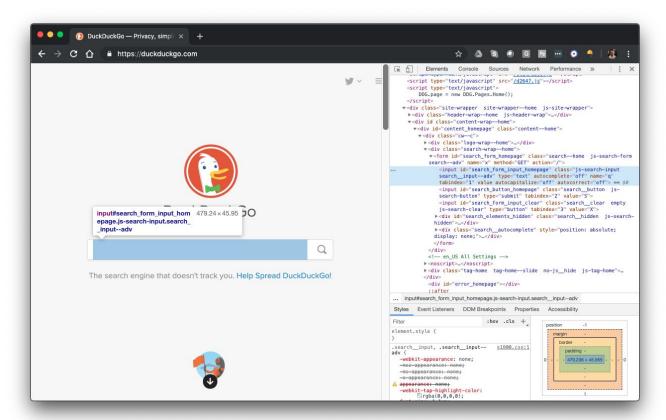
(By.XPATH, "//button[text()='OK']")

Elements Needed for our Test

- 1. The search input on the DuckDuckGo search page
- 2. The search input on the DuckDuckGo results page
- 3. The result links on the DuckDuckGo results page

Finding Elements to Write Locators

Use Chrome DevTools!



Adding Locators to Page Objects

```
from selenium.webdriver.common.by import By
class DuckDuckGoSearchPage:
  SEARCH_INPUT = (By.ID, 'search_form_input_homepage')
  def __init__(self, browser):
    self browser = browser
  def load(self):
    pass
  def search(self, phrase):
    pass
```

Hands-On Time!

Complete **Tutorial Instructions Part 4** in the README. Take *15 minutes*.

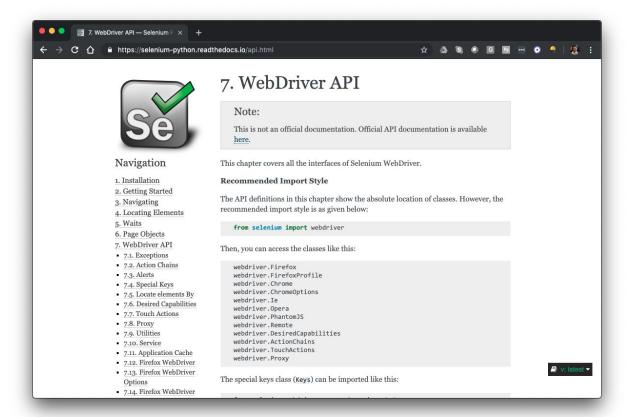
https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing

The Result Page Object

```
from selenium.webdriver.common.by import By
class DuckDuckGoResultPage:
 RESULT_LINKS = (By.CSS_SELECTOR, 'a.result_a')
  SEARCH_INPUT = (By.ID, 'search_form_input')
  def __init__(self, browser):
    self.browser = browser
  def result_link_titles(self):
    return []
  def search_input_value(self):
    return ""
  def title(self):
    return ""
```

Making WebDriver Calls

The Docs



Some calls are simple.

Getting a Page's Title

class DuckDuckGoResultPage:

```
def title(self):
   return self.browser.title
```

Many calls interact with **elements**.

Entering a Search Phrase

class DuckDuckGoSearchPage:

```
# The locator
SEARCH_INPUT = (By.ID, 'search_form_input_homepage')
def search(self, phrase):
  # Finding the target element
  search_input = self.browser.find_element(
      *self.SEARCH_INPUT)
  # Sending a command to the element
  search_input.send_keys(phrase + Keys.RETURN)
```

Common WebDriver Calls

For WebDriver:

- current_url
- find_element
- find_elements
- find_element_by_*
- get
- maximize_window
- quit
- refresh
- save_screenshot
- title

For Elements:

- clear
- click
- find_element*
- get_attribute
- get_property
- is_displayed
- location
- send_keys
- size
- text

Hands-On Time!

Complete **Tutorial Instructions Part 5** in the README. Take *15 minutes*.

https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing

A Successful Test Run

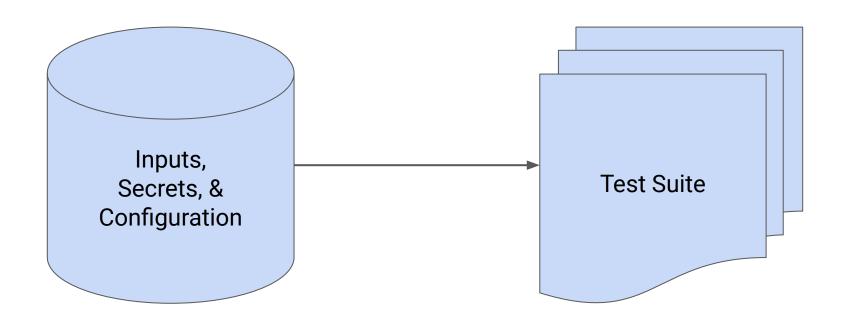
```
djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing — -bash — 93×21
[sterling2:djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing andylpk247$ pipenv run python -m pytest
platform darwin -- Python 3.7.3, pytest-5.1.2, py-1.8.0, pluggy-0.12.0
rootdir: /Users/andylpk247/Programming/automation-panda/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing
plugins: xdist-1.29.0, forked-1.0.2
collected 1 item
tests/test search.py .
                                                                  [100%]
              sterling2:djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing andylpk247$
```

Configuring Multiple Browsers

Again: Which Browser Type?



Source: https://www.color-management-guide.com/images/icc-profile-internet/intro-web-browsers.jpg



Don't hard-code inputs, secrets, or config into code! Don't commit secrets to source control, either!

Reading Inputs

Ways to pass inputs into test automation:

- Config files (JSON, YAML, INI, CSV, etc.)
- Encrypted files
- Environment variables
- Key management service (AWS KMS, Azure KeyVault)
- custom command line arguments for pytest

For Python, JSON config files are the easiest solution.

- JSON is readable and hierarchical
- The json module is part of the standard library
- The json module can parse a .json file into a dictionary in one line

Why Not Parametrize Browser Choice?

In pytest, a test can be parametrized with sets of inputs. A test could be parametrized to run once for each in a list of browser types.

However, browser choice is an aspect of testing.

- In theory, every test should run on every supported browser.
- Parametrizing every test case would be duplicative.
- To run different browsers, simply launch multiple test suite runs.

Our Config File

```
{
   "browser": "Chrome",
   "implicit_wait": 10
}
```

```
Project Tree:
  pages
    — __init__.py
    — result.py
    └── search.py
  tests
    — conftest.py
    test_search.py
  - config.json
```

Reading the Config File

```
import json
@pytest.fixture
def config(scope='session'):
 # Read the file
 with open('config.json') as config_file:
    config = json.load(config_file)
 # Assert values are acceptable
  supported = ['Firefox', 'Chrome', 'Headless Chrome']
  assert config['browser'] in supported
  assert isinstance(config['implicit_wait'], int)
  assert config['implicit_wait'] > 0
 # Return config so it can be used
  return config
```

```
Project Tree:
   pages
     __ __init__.py
      -- result.py
    search.py
    tests
    conftest.py
      - test_search.py
   config.json
```

Updating the Browser Fixture

```
@pytest.fixture
def browser(config):
  if config['browser'] == 'Firefox':
    b = selenium.webdriver.Firefox()
  elif config['browser'] == 'Chrome':
    b = selenium.webdriver.Chrome()
  elif config['browser'] == 'Headless Chrome':
    opts = selenium.webdriver.ChromeOptions()
    opts.add_argument('headless')
    b = selenium.webdriver.Chrome(options=opts)
```

```
Project Tree:
    pages
     __ __init__.py
      - result.py
    search.py
    tests
    conftest.py
    test_search.py
    config.json
```

Headless browsers are great for test automation.

Hands-On Time!

Complete **Tutorial Instructions Part 6** in the README. Take 15 minutes.

https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing

Handling Race Conditions

How many people had test failures for **Firefox**?

Race Condition

When actors access the same resource at the same time without following an order of operations.

Race conditions can cause *flakiness* in any black box test.

Web UI Race Conditions

The most common race condition in Web UI test automation is **attempting to access an element before it appears on the page**.

To mitigate this race condition, always wait for the target element to appear before calling find_element* methods. The implicit wait setting in the browser fixture handles most cases automatically.

Our Test's Race Condition

Scenario: Basic DuckDuckGo Search

Given the DuckDuckGo home page is displayed

When the user searches for "panda"

Then the search result title contains "panda"

And the search result query is "panda"

And the search result links pertain to "panda"

Hands-On Time!

Complete **Tutorial Instructions Part 7** in the README. Take 15 minutes.

https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing

Our Corrected Test Steps

Scenario: Basic DuckDuckGo Search

Given the DuckDuckGo home page is displayed

When the user searches for "panda"

Then the search result query is "panda"

And the search result links pertain to "panda"

And the search result title contains "panda"

Running Tests in Parallel

Web UI tests are **slow**.

1 min

(typical Web UI test execution time)

Parallel Testing

Parallel testing is a great way to speed up test suites.

- Use pytest-xdist to add parallel testing to pytest.
- Avoid collisions (when tests access shared state).
- Locally limit the thread count to one Web UI test per processor/core.
- Use Selenium Grid to massively scale out parallel testing.

pipenv install pytest-xdist

python -m pytest -n 3

Hands-On Time!

Complete **Tutorial Instructions Part 8** in the README. Take *15 minutes*.

https://github.com/AndyLPK247/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing

Successful Parallel Tests

```
djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing — -bash — 90×21
sterling2:djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing andylpk247$ pipenv run python -m pytest -n 3
platform darwin -- Python 3.7.3, pytest-5.1.2, py-1.8.0, pluggy-0.12.0
rootdir: /Users/andylpk247/Programming/automation-panda/djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing
plugins: xdist-1.29.0, forked-1.0.2
gw0 [3] / gw1 [3] / gw2 [3]
                                                             [100%]
sterling2:djangocon-2019-web-ui-testing andylpk247$
```

Congrats!

You finished the tutorial.

Homework:

Do the *Independent Exercises*. Write more tests!

Resources

Test Automation University

- Web Element Locator Strategies
- Behavior-Driven Development with pytest-bdd
- Setting a Foundation for Successful Test Automation

Tutorials

- o TestProject: Web Testing Made Easy with Python, Pytest and Selenium WebDriver
- SmartBear CrossBrowserTesting: Hands-On UI Testing with Python
- PyOhio 2019: https://github.com/AndyLPK247/pyohio-2019-web-ui-testing

Automation Panda blog

- Testing page
- Python page