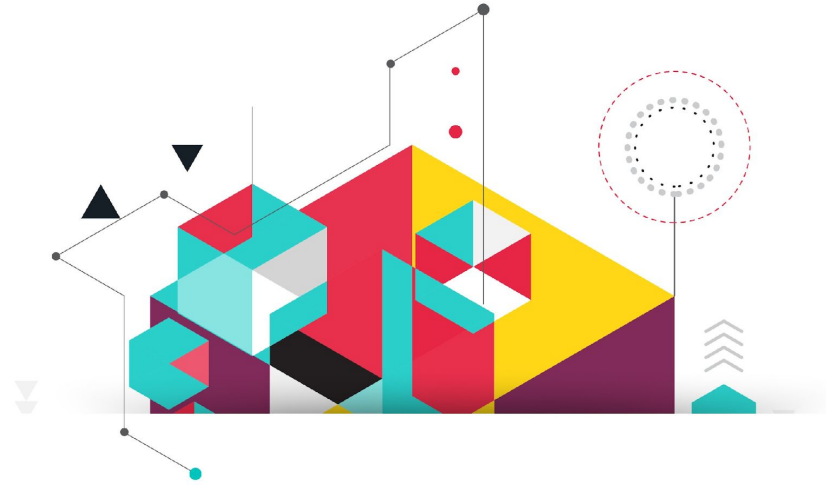


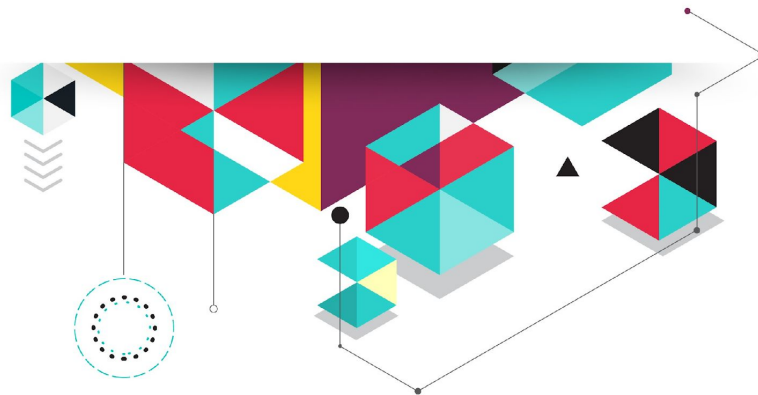


## LESSON 6 – SELECTORS – RECAP

# Overview



In this chapter we addressed one of the most important parts in UiPath automation: **selectors**. These xml strings contain properties that uniquely define a specified element.



# Takeaways

- Interfaces are built by using **containers**, nested one inside the other.
- You can think of a **selector** as a path to the required UI element, starting from the root container and all the way to our target.
- A **selector** contains 2 types of information: the element type and one or more of its attributes.
- When automatically building a **selector**, UiPath tries to use only the first and last container but it also adds intermediate ones only needed.
- Selectors should be constructed in such a way that they point to only one element in the environment. If a robot finds multiple possible matches for a selector, it uses the first one it encounters – usually the topmost one.
- A **partial selector** is very similar to a **full selector**, the only difference being that it has its top level window extracted into a **container** like **AttachWindow** or **OpenApplication**.

# Takeaways

- **Basic recording** generates **full selectors** while **Desktop recording** generates only **partial** ones.
- You can build **dynamic selectors** using the 2 available **wildcards**: **question mark (?)** takes the place of a single character and **asterisk (\*)** that replaces any number of characters or by using variables.
- Use **Attach to live element** to update an existing selector to also match a 2<sup>nd</sup> element.
- Use the selector's **idx** property to get a certain occurrence of an element that is found multiple times.
- Anchor Base activity and Select Relative Element in UiExplorer can be very useful to build reliable automations when the selectors might not be very stable.

# Best practices



Avoid using the **idx** attribute if its value is larger than 2, unless you don't have other options. Always try to add other attributes to make sure the selector is stable.



When it's likely that you will have interference from other applications and windows it's best to use partial selectors.

# Useful links



[About Selectors](#)

[UiPath Explorer](#)

