What are Plugins?

Plugins are basically software that adds extra functionality over the existing ones in a software application. They enable apps and programs to take on new capabilities without getting completely modified. Plugins are also known as **add-on**s, **extensions,** or **modules**. They are integrated into the software to provide additional functionalities.

Example: If you are using a web browser, you can install an ad-blocker plugin that will help you get rid of the unwanted ads you get while surfing the web.

What is Appium Plugins?

Plugins offer various ways to extend or modify Appium's behaviour. They are *completely optional* and are not needed for standard automation functionality, but you may find them to be useful for more specialised automation workflows.

Official Plugins:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Plugins | Installation Key | Description |
| Execute Driver | Execute-driver | Run entire batches of commands in a single call to the Appium server. |
| Images | Images | Image matching and comparison features. |
| Relaxed Caps | Relaxed-caps | Relax Appium's requirement for vendor prefixes on capabilities. |
| Universal XML | Universal-xml | Instead of the standard XML format for iOS and Android, use an XML definition that is the same across both platforms. |

Others Plugins

These plugins are not maintained by the Appium team and can provide additional functionality:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Plugins | Installation Key | Description | Supported By |
| AltUnity | --source=npm appium-altunity-plugin | Target Unity games and apps for automation with a new context, via the AltUnityTester framework. | HeadSpin |
| Device Farm | --source=npm appium-device-farm | Manage and create driver session on connected android devices and iOS Simulators. | @AppiumTestDistribution |
| OCR | --source=npm appium-ocr-plugin | Find elements via OCR text. | @jlipps |
| Reporter | --source=npm appium-reporter-plugin | Generates standalone consolidated html report with screenshots. Reports can be fetched from appium server, without worrying about heavy. lifting such as screenshot capturing, report generation etc. | @AppiumTestDistribution |