

Find Dynamic Values via CSS Selectors

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Introduction

Next, we are going to look at some Advanced CSS Selector Values.

Cheat Sheet

Let's walkthrough the nth-child syntax, Parent-Child Relationship syntax, and 2 matching patterns. The nth-child syntax is pseudo class used for indexing. A pseudo-class is a keyword preceded by a colon and added to the end of a CSS Selector. The Parent-Child Relationship is all about a direct relationship between elements. We match part of a pattern using a symbol and some of the Attribute Value. Pattern matching is good for dynamic values.

Demo

Our first example, will combine the nth-child and Parent-Child Relationship. I'm going to reload the page because I added some values in this table. We are going to inspect Linda Anderson. Just like with our XPath example, we are going to start with the table tagname. Table has 2 children thead and tbody: thead forms the header and tbody forms the body containing all of the rows and data: tr defines each row and td defines data in each cell. We write the tagName table, 2 brackets, AttributeName id, equals, 2 single quotes, AttributeValue resultTable with a capital 'T'. Now, we need tbody which has a direct relationship with table. Table is the parent. Therefore, we write, angle bracket tbody. Next, is the row and Linda Anderson is on 1, 2, 3 – 4th row. A child of tbody is tr so we write another angle bracket then tr. Here is the pseudo-class nth-child. We write colon nth hyphen child parenthesis 4. Finally, we have the data. Which cell is Linda Anderson? Let's count. The checkbox is considered data in a cell. 1, 2, 3, 4. Last, we write another pseudo-class for nth-child, angle bracket, td, colon, nth, hyphen, child, parenthesis 4. There it is Linda Anderson.

Know what, you can go to W3 Schools for a reference. W3 Schools CSS Selectors, dot class selector. Now, let's look at the CSS Selectors. Here's a list of many CSS Selectors. Our next AUT will be yahoo.com. Inspect this Sponsored element. We see the u tag has an id attribute. However, the value for id is dynamic. It will change after reloading the page. Right now, it ends with 1364. Reload, inspect again, and now it ends with 985. Therefore, copying the selector from DEV Tools will not work and cause our Test Script to fail the next time it executes. There are many elements on this page with a dynamic value. How do we find dynamic values using a CSS Selector? Our cheat sheet shows some of the symbols for matching a pattern: starts-with, every element with a particular substring.

Go back to our AUT. We can write the value it starts-with TagName u, 2 brackets, id, caret symbol, equal, 2 single quotes, yui. There it is. We can also match a substring of the AttributeValue which is some of the characters. Replace the caret with an asterisk. And we still have our element That's it for CSS Selectors and this series that include Relationship Between HTML, WebElements, and DOM, using 6 of the 8 Selenium Locators To Find WebElements, Create Our Own Customized XPath Values, and Create Our Own Customized CSS Selector Values. The Cheat Sheet and Transcript will be available at <https://tinyurl.com/SeleniumLocatorsForWebElements> and github at RexJonesII/Selenium4Beginners.