

Voter Card Generator Testing

The Voter Card Generator testing is difficult because the output of a particular generation will never be truly the same. We considered comparing the byte-code of the PDF-files but it turns out that they will always carry unique information such as timestamps and there is no way for us to explicitly set that with our PDF generation API of choice. It would be wrong not to test it just because of this, besides the Voter Card Generator contains some pretty advanced file grouping facilities. These are facilities which make heavy use of our DAO and LINQ in general but the execution of them can still fail.

We ended up with a compromise consisting of a bunch of unit tests that will; insert some dummy data into the database, set up an entire Voter Card Generator sub-system, run a specific type of generation and then clean up the database. The assertions at the end of the tests will check quantity and naming of the output file. Sadly, it is required for human inspection to fully verify the actual contents of the files.