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PlaywrightDocsAPI
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Trace viewer

Introduction

Playwright Trace Viewer is a GUI tool that lets you explore recorded Playwright traces of your tests meaning you can go back and forward through each action of your test and visually see what was happening during each action.

You will learn

- How to record a trace
- How to open the HTML report
- How to open and view the trace

Recording a Trace

By default the playwright.config file will contain the configuration needed to create a `trace.zip` file for each test. Traces are setup to run `on-first-retry` meaning they will be run on the first retry of a failed test. Also `retries` are set to 2 when running on CI and 0 locally. This means the traces will be recorded on the first retry of a failed test but not on the first run and not on the second retry.

playwright.config.ts
```
import { defineConfig } from '@playwright/test';
export default defineConfig({
  retries: process.env.CI ? 2 : 0, // set to 2 when running on CI
  // ...
  use: {
    trace: 'on-first-retry', // record traces on first retry of each test
  },
});
```

To learn more about available options to record a trace check out our detailed guide on Trace Viewer.

Traces are normally run in a Continuous Integration(CI) environment, because locally you can use UI Mode for developing and debugging tests. However, if you want to run traces locally without using UI Mode, you can force tracing to be on with `--trace on`.

```
npx playwright test --trace on
```

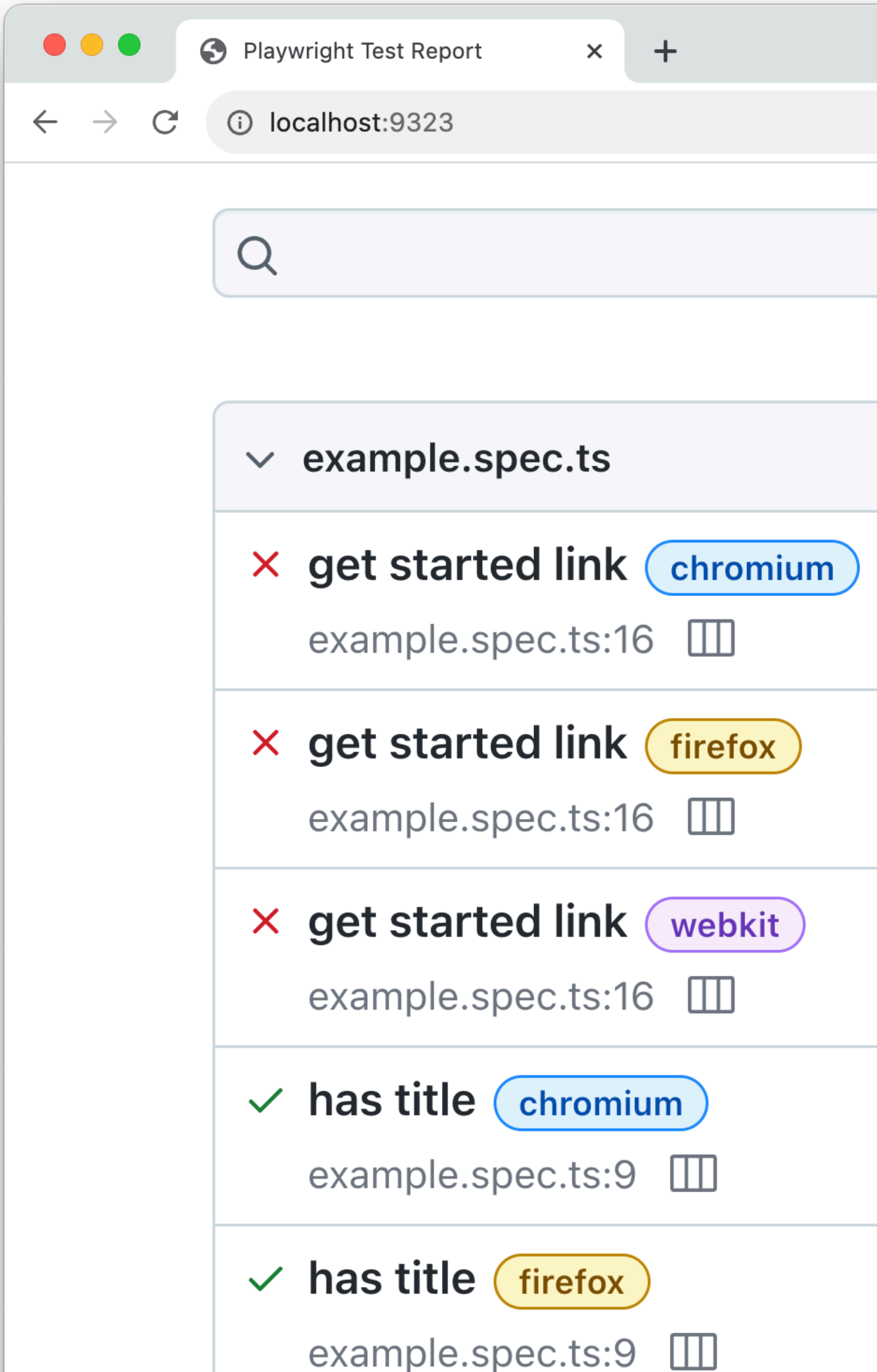
Opening the HTML report

The HTML report shows you a report of all your tests that have been ran and on which browsers as well as how long they took. Tests can be filtered by passed tests, failed, flakey or skipped tests. You can also search for a particular test. Clicking on a test will open the detailed view where you can see more information on your tests such as the errors, the test steps and the trace.

```
npx playwright show-report
```

Opening the trace

In the HTML report click on the trace icon next to the test name file name to directly open the trace for the required test.


Playwright Test Report

localhost:9323

example.spec.ts

✗ get started link chromium
example.spec.ts:16

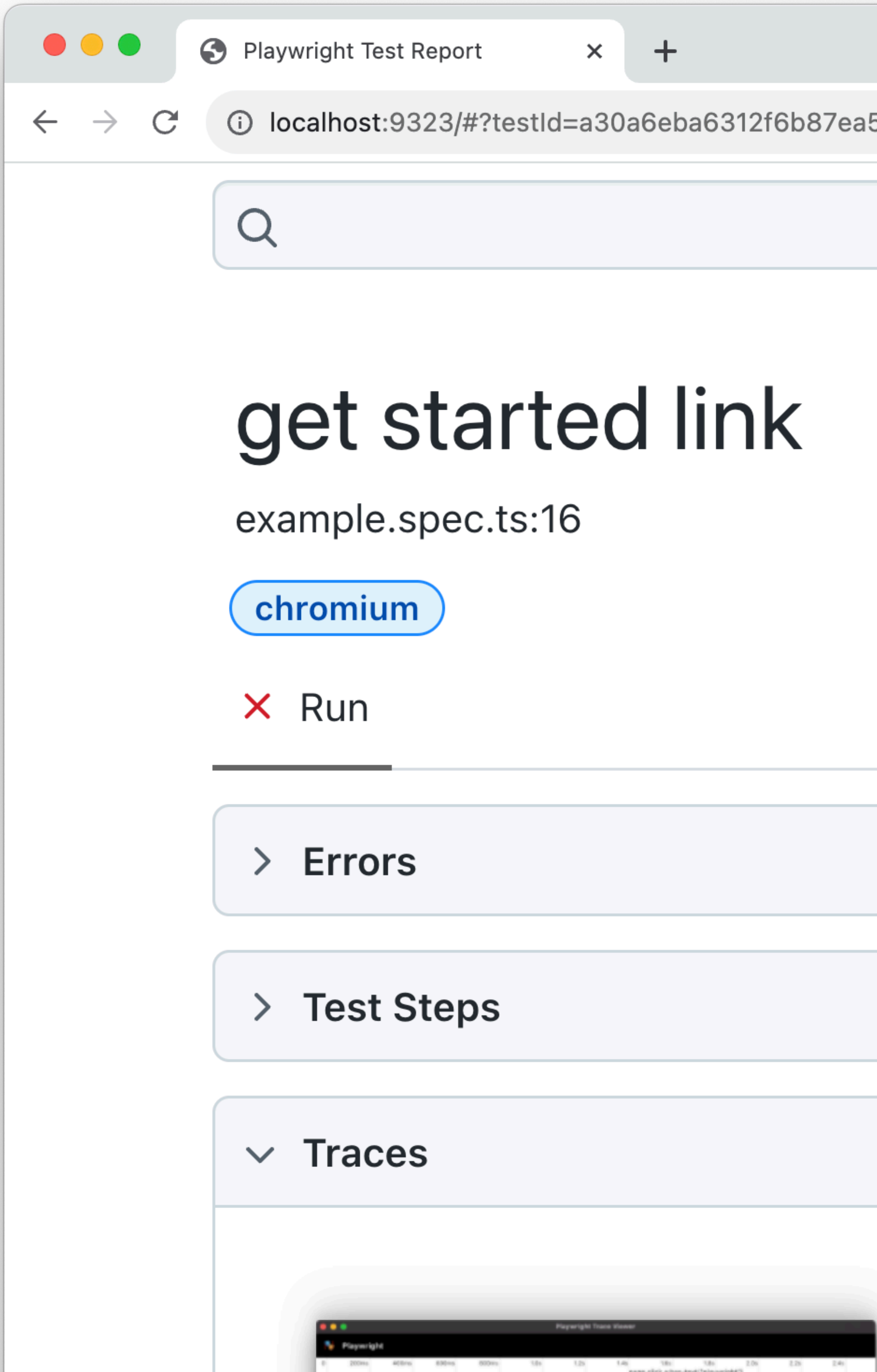
✗ get started link firefox
example.spec.ts:16

✗ get started link webkit
example.spec.ts:16

✓ has title chromium
example.spec.ts:9

✓ has title firefox
example.spec.ts:9

You can also click open the detailed view of the test and scroll down to the `'Traces'` tab and open the trace by clicking on the trace screenshot.


Playwright Test Report

localhost:9323/#?testId=a30a6eba6312f6b87ea5

get started link

example.spec.ts:16

chromium

✗ Run

Errors

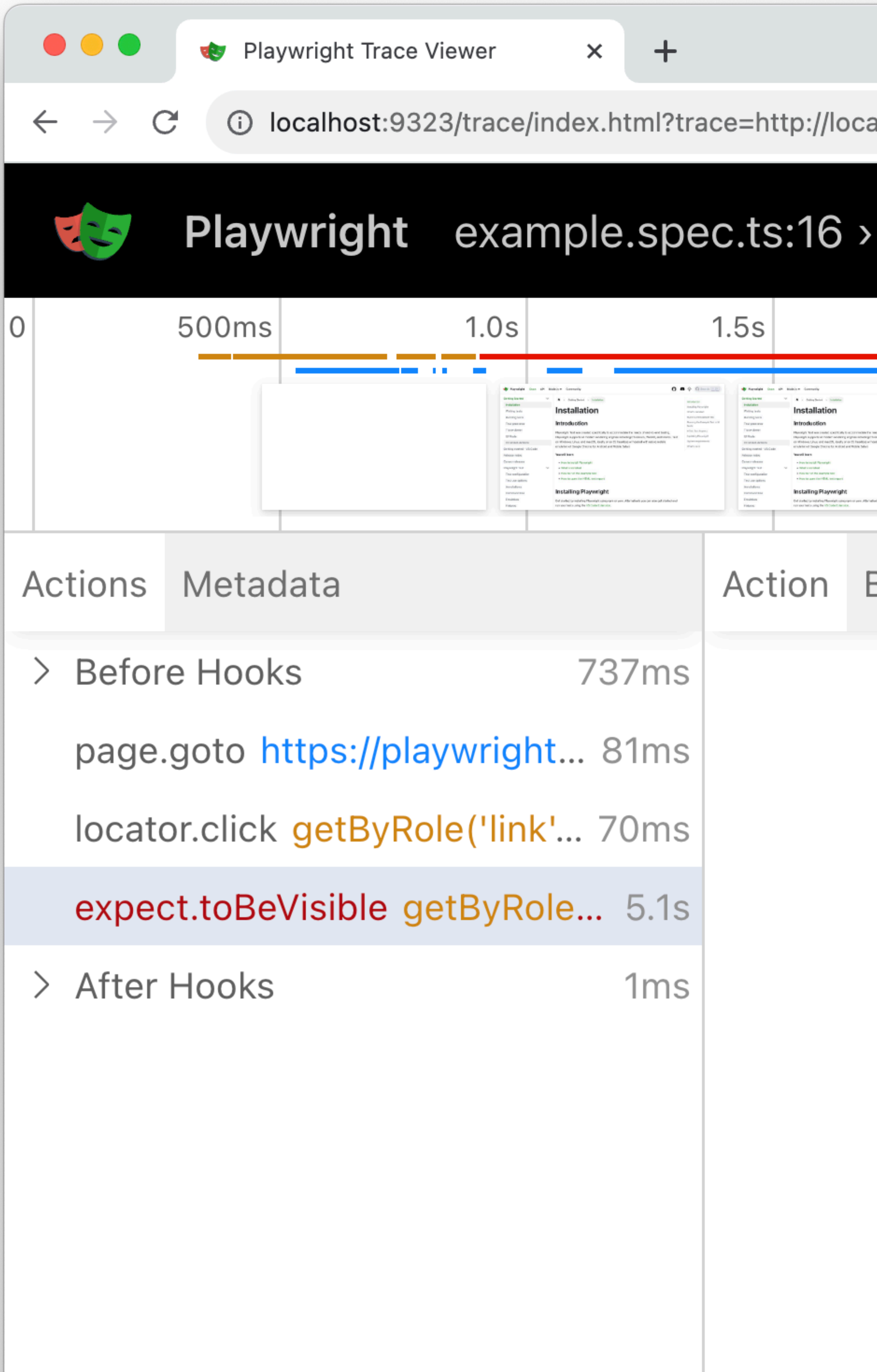
Test Steps

Traces

To learn more about reporters check out our detailed guide on reporters including the HTML Reporter.

Viewing the trace

View traces of your test by clicking through each action or hovering using the timeline and see the state of the page before and after the action. Inspect the log, source and network, errors and console during each step of the test. The trace viewer creates a DOM snapshot so you can fully interact with it and open the browser DevTools to inspect the HTML, CSS, etc.


Playwright Trace Viewer

localhost:9323/trace/index.html?trace=http://loca

Playwright example.spec.ts:16 ›

```
Before Hooks                          737ms
page.goto https://playwright...        81ms
locator.click getByRole('link'...      70ms
expect.toBeVisible getByRole...        5.1s
After Hooks                             1ms
```

To learn more about traces check out our detailed guide on Trace Viewer.

What's next

- Run tests on CI with GitHub Actions
- Learn more about Trace Viewer