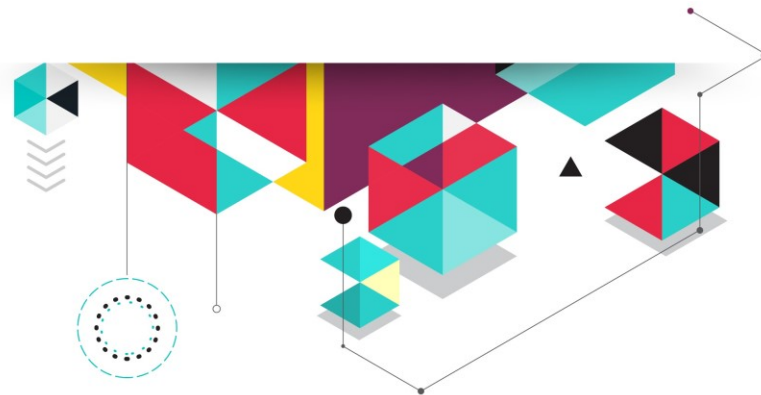




LESSON 6 – SELECTORS – RECAP





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.



- 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**.

- **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.
- Use **Attach to live element** to update an existing selector to also match a 2nd element.
- Use the selector's **idx** property to get a certain occurrence of an element that is found multiple times.

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 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](#)
[Selectors with Wildcards](#)
[Full versus Partial Selectors](#)
[UiPath Explorer](#)

