

CSS Selectors

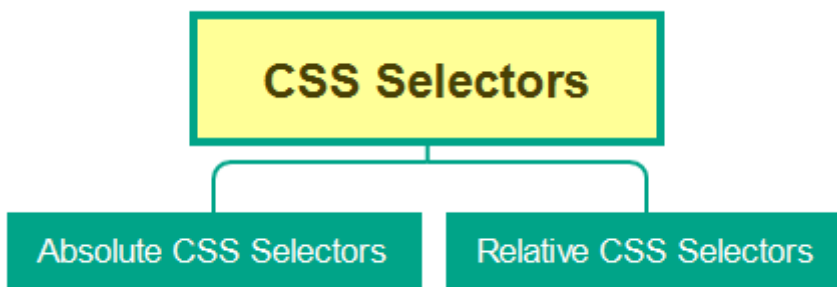
While locating the UI elements, CSS Selectors needs to be used as a priority over XPath Expressions.

The below are the reasons, why the CSS Selectors needs to be preferred over XPath Expressions:

- When compared to XPath Expressions, CSS Selectors locate the UI elements faster.
- Selenium may not be able to locate few UI elements using XPath Expressions, while executing the Automation scripts on Internet Explorer Browser.

Types of CSS Selectors:

CSS Selectors can be classified into the below two types:



Absolute CSS Selectors

Absolute CSS Selectors tries to locate the element from the root. i.e. complete path.

The below examples will help us in understanding the Absolute CSS Selectors:

Demo site :: http://compendiumdev.co.uk/selenium/basic_web_page.html

- html - locates the complete HTML code
- html > head - locates the head portion of HTML code
- html > head > title - locates the title portion of head section
- html > body - locates the body portion of HTML code
- html > body > p - locates all the p tags in the body portion
- html > body > p[id='para1'] - Locates p tag having id as 'para1'
- html > body > p[class='sub'] - Locate p tag having class as 'sub'
- html > body > p#para1 - Locates p tag having id as 'para1'
- html > body > p.sub - Locates p tag having class as 'sub'
- html > body > p[id='para1'][class='main'] - Locates p tag having id as 'para1' and class as 'main'

Note: Firepath don't have any option for generating Absolute CSS Selectors

Relative CSS Selectors

Relative CSS Selectors locates the elements directly, instead of locating from root.

The below examples will help us in understanding the Relative CSS Selectors:

Demo site :: http://compendiumdev.co.uk/selenium/basic_web_page.html

- html - locates the complete HTML code
- head - locates the head portion of HTML code
- title - locates the title portion of head section
- body - locates the body portion of HTML code
- p - locates all the p tags in the body portion
- p[id='para1'] - Locates p tag having id as 'para1'

- `p[class='sub']` - Locates p tag having class as 'sub'
- `p[id='para1'][class='main']` - Locates p tag having id as 'para1' and class as 'main'
- `p#para1` - Locates p tag having id as 'para1'
- `p.sub` - Locates p tag having class as 'sub'
- `p:first-child` - Locates the first p tag
- `p:last-child` - Locates the last p tag
- `p:nth-child(2)` - Locates the second p tag
- `p[id^='pa']` - Locates the p tags having id values starting with 'pa'
- `p[id$='1']` - Locates the p tags having id values ending with '1'
- `p[class^='m']` - Locates the p tags having class value starting with 'm'
- `p[class$='b']` - Locate the p tags having class value ending with 'b'

Using Firepath for generating Relative CSS Selectors

- Open Firebug and select 'Firepath' tab
 - Inspect 'Button2' button on the www.omayo.blogspot.com
 - If you feel that the CSS Selectors returned by Firepath is not good, you can use your above knowledge in creating good CSS Selectors on your own.
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