



Advanced UFT 12 for Test Engineers Cookbook

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Using the Description object

The [Description](#) object is one of UFT's reserved objects, like the [Environment](#) and [Reporter](#) object. Basically, the [Description](#) object resembles a dictionary object with key-value pairs, which defines the properties and values by which the target TO or objects (see the *Using child objects* recipe), should be identified. Similar to the OR feature, the [Description](#) object also allows for regular expressions as property values. The following table shows regular expression samples of character property values:

User	To match character
<code>\w</code>	This represents a word character
<code>\W</code>	This represents a nonword character
<code>\d</code>	This represents a decimal digit
<code>\D</code>	This represents a nondecimal digit
<code>\s</code>	This represents a whitespace character
<code>\S</code>	This represents a nonwhitespace character

The [Description](#) object comes in handy in situations where the runtime object is dynamically built by the application, or when more complex criteria need to be applied to ascertain the identity of a TO among a collection of otherwise identical objects (for example, refer to the *Identifying elements based on anchors* recipe in [Chapter 2, Testing Web Pages](#)). Another application of the [Description](#) object is to get such a collection of objects and perform checkpoints to verify the values of specific properties.

Getting ready

Please ensure that the Internet Explorer application is open on Google.

How to do it...

We will identify the input query [WebEdit](#) object using a [Description](#) object. In [Action](#), we will put the following code:

```
Set desc=Description.Create
desc("html tag").value="INPUT|input"
desc("html tag").RegularExpression = true
desc("name").value="q"

set oQuery=Browser("title:=Google").Page("title:=Google").WebEdit(desc)

With oQuery
    If .exist(0) Then
        .highlight
    End If
End With
Set oQuery=nothing
Set desc=nothing
```



How it works...

We address the [WebEdit](#) parent objects using inline descriptions (refer to the *Using Descriptive Programming inline* recipe), and then target [WebEdit](#) using the [desc Description](#) object, which is used to identify the object using the property-v value pairs. UFT returns a valid reference to the runtime object, exactly as it would if we used a TO stored in OR. Next, we check if the object reference exists and use the undocumented [highlight](#) method, which flashes a rectangle for a brief time around the target TO.

