

Taiko

A Code-First Approach

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Introduction

Taiko is a JavaScript-based Domain Specific Language (DSL) for automatically driving your web browser just like a typical user does. If a user goes to your website, clicks on a link, fills in some form fields, and clicks the "submit" button, you can script up that behavior in Taiko and replay it in a reliable, automated way.

Installation and Configuration

Installing Taiko couldn't be easier. It's a single command: `npm install -g taiko`. But there's plenty more that you can do to configure and customize Taiko once it's installed.

Installing Taiko

```
$ npm install -g taiko

/Users/scott/.nvm/versions/node/v12.14.1/bin/taiko ->
/Users/scott/.nvm/versions/node/v12.14.1/lib/node_modules/
  taiko/bin/taiko.js

> taiko@1.0.7 install
/Users/scott/.nvm/versions/node/v12.14.1/lib/node_modules/taiko
> node lib/install.js

Downloading Chromium r724157 - 117.6 Mb [=====] 100%
0.0s

> taiko@1.0.7 postinstall
/Users/scott/.nvm/versions/node/v12.14.1/lib/node_modules/taiko
> node lib/documentation.js

Generating documentation to lib/api.json
+ taiko@1.0.7
added 73 packages from 114 contributors in 50.835s
```

When you install Taiko, notice that you get a known-compatible version of Chromium installed as well. Chromium is an open-source, bare-bones web browser that, as you might've guessed by the name, is the core of the Google Chrome browser. Interestingly, Chromium is also the foundation of the Opera browser, the Microsoft Edge browser, and many others. Chromium-based browsers make up roughly two-thirds of the browser market, so using Chromium with Taiko covers the widest possible swath of typical web users.

Running the Taiko REPL

```
$ taiko

Version: 1.0.7 (Chromium:81.0.3994.0)
Type .api for help and .exit to quit

> openBrowser()
  ↵ Browser opened
> goto('wikipedia.org')
  ↵ Navigated to URL http://wikipedia.org
> click('Search')
  ↵ Clicked element matching text "Search" 1 times
> write('User (computing)')
  ↵ Wrote User (computing) into the focused element.
> press('Enter')
  ↵ Pressed the Enter key
> click('Terminology')
  ↵ Clicked element matching text "Terminology" 1 times
> closeBrowser()
  ↵ Browser closed
> .exit
```

The Taiko REPL (Read Evaluate Print Loop) is an interactive terminal shell that allows you to experiment with a live browser. When you type `openBrowser()`, a browser window should open on your computer. When you type `goto('wikipedia.org')`, you should end up on the Wikipedia website.

The Taiko REPL is the perfect way to experiment with Taiko whether you are brand new to the DSL or an experienced user. Once you are confident that your code works (because you've just watched it work), you can save it and run it outside of the REPL, either manually or as a part of your automated CD pipeline.

Saving Code from the Taiko REPL

```
$ taiko

> openBrowser()
  ↵ Browser opened
> goto('wikipedia.org')
  ↵ Navigated to URL http://wikipedia.org
> closeBrowser()
  ↵ Browser closed
> .code

const { openBrowser, goto, closeBrowser } = require('taiko');
(async () => {
  try {
    await openBrowser();
    await goto('wikipedia.org');
  } catch (error) {
    console.error(error);
  } finally {
    await closeBrowser();
  }
})();

// If you provide a filename,
//   .code saves your code to the current directory
> .code visit-wikipedia.js
```

At any point in the Taiko REPL, you can type `.code` to see what the JavaScript will look like once you run your Taiko code outside of the REPL. Notice that this is modern asynchronous JavaScript — every command will `await` completion before moving on to the next step.

If you'd like to save this code for running outside of the REPL, simply provide a filename like `.code visit-wikipedia.js`. This will save the JavaScript code to the current directory.

Running Taiko Code Outside of the REPL

```
$ taiko visit-wikipedia.js  
  ↻ Browser opened  
  ↻ Navigated to URL http://wikipedia.org  
  ↻ Browser closed
```

When you type `taiko` without a filename, it launches the Taiko REPL. When you type `taiko visit-wikipedia.js`, it runs the Taiko commands in the file.

You might have noticed that typing `openBrowser()` in the Taiko REPL actually opens a browser that you can see. By default, running Taiko commands outside of the REPL runs the browser in "headless mode". This means that the browser isn't actually shown on screen, but its behavior in headless mode is identical to its behavior with a visible browser. This is ideal for running Taiko commands in an automated server environment where there most likely isn't a screen to display the progress.

If you'd like to see the browser when running Taiko commands outside of the REPL, type `taiko --observe visit-wikipedia.js`. The `--observe` command-line flag, in addition to showing the browser, also inserts a 3 second (3000 millisecond) delay between steps to make them easier to observe. If you'd like to adjust this delay, use the `--wait-time` command-line flag — `taiko --observe --wait-time 1000 visit-wikipedia.js`.

Getting Command-Line Help

```
$ taiko --help

Usage: taiko [options]
        taiko <file> [options]

Options:
  -v, --version                                output the version number

  -o, --observe                                 enables headful mode and runs
                                                script with 3000ms delay by
                                                default. pass --wait-time
                                                option to override the default
                                                3000ms

  -l, --load                                    run the given file and start the
                                                repl to record further steps.

  -w, --wait-time <time in ms>                runs script with provided delay

  --emulate-device <device>                  Allows to simulate device
                                                viewport.
                                                Visit https://github.com/getgauge/taiko/blob/master/lib/devices.js
                                                for all the available devices

  --emulate-network <networkType>            Allow to simulate network.
                                                Available options are GPRS,
                                                Regular2G, Good2G, Regular3G,
                                                Good3G, Regular4G, DSL,
                                                WiFi, Offline

  --plugin <plugin1,plugin2...>              Load the taiko plugin.

  --no-log                                     Disable log output of taiko

  -h, --help                                    display help for command
```

There are a number of command-line flags that affect Taiko at runtime. --observe and --wait-time allow you to see the browser as the Taiko commands are performed. (Normally, Taiko runs in "headless mode" at the command-line.)

You can use --emulate-device and --emulate-network to simulate smartphone usage.

--load allows you to preload the Taiko REPL with commands stored in a file.

--plugin allows you to load Taiko plugins that extend native behavior.

Run Taiko in an Alternate Browser

```
$ TAIKO_BROWSER_PATH=/Applications/Opera.app/Contents/MacOS/Opera  
taiko visit-wikipedia.js  
  
- Browser opened  
- Navigated to URL http://wikipedia.org  
- Browser closed
```

When you install Taiko, it ships with a known-good version of Chromium — one that won’t auto-update and inadvertently break your tests. But you might want to use Taiko to drive an alternate Chromium-based browser, like Google Chrome, Opera, or Microsoft Edge. To do so, simply create a `TAIKO_BROWSER_PATH` environment variable that contains the path to the browser you’d like Taiko to use.

NOTE

Taiko uses the Chrome DevTools Protocol (CDP) to communicate with the browser. This is the same protocol that the Google Chrome DevTools use, as well as Lighthouse (for reporting) and Puppeteer (a similar tool to Taiko written by Google). As of this writing, neither Firefox nor Safari support CDP-based communications. For an alternate way to drive non-CDP browsers, look at the WebDriver^[1] W3C initiative.

Emulate a Smartphone

```
$ taiko --observe
  --emulate-device 'iPhone X'
  --emulate-network 'Regular3G'
  visit-wikipedia.js

¬ Browser opened with viewport iPhone X
¬ Device emulation set to iPhone X
¬ Set network emulation with values "Regular3G"
¬ Navigated to URL http://wikipedia.org
¬ Device emulation set to iPhone X
¬ Browser closed
```

When you run Taiko on your desktop computer, it opens a desktop browser and runs at full network speed. If you'd like Taiko to emulate a different kind of device, use the `--emulate-device` and `--emulate-network` command-line flags.

To find the available values for these flags, type `taiko --help`.

For a better understanding of what these flags do, you can look at the JavaScript files that supply the values in `devices.js`^[2] and `networkConditions.js`^[3] on GitHub^[4].

Here is the code for iPhone X device emulation:

```
'iPhone X': {
  userAgent:
    'Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; CPU iPhone OS 11_0 like Mac OS X)
AppleWebKit/604.1.38 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/11.0 Mobile/15A372
Safari/604.1',
  viewport: {
    width: 375,
    height: 812,
    deviceScaleFactor: 3,
    isMobile: true,
    hasTouch: true,
    isLandscape: false,
  },
},
```

The emulation code sets a device-specific User-Agent string, and adjusts the size and characteristics of the screen.

Here is the code for Regular3G network emulation:

```
Regular3G: {
  offline: false,
  downloadThroughput: (750 * 1024) / 8,
  uploadThroughput: (250 * 1024) / 8,
  latency: 100,
} ,
```

The emulation code throttles download and upload speeds, as well as adding some artificial latency. :imagesdir: ./browser

[1] <https://www.w3.org/TR/webdriver2/>

[2] <https://github.com/getgauge/taiko/blob/master/lib/data/devices.js>

[3] <https://github.com/getgauge/taiko/blob/master/lib/data/networkConditions.js>

[4] <https://github.com/getgauge/taiko>

Working with the Browser

In this chapter, you'll learn how to open and close a browser, open and close tabs, and take a screenshot.

Opening and Closing a Browser

```
> openBrowser()
  ↗ Browser opened
> closeBrowser()
  ↗ Browser closed
> .code
const { openBrowser, closeBrowser } = require('taiko');
(async () => {
  try {
    await openBrowser();
  } catch (error) {
    console.error(error);
  } finally {
    await closeBrowser();
  }
})();
```

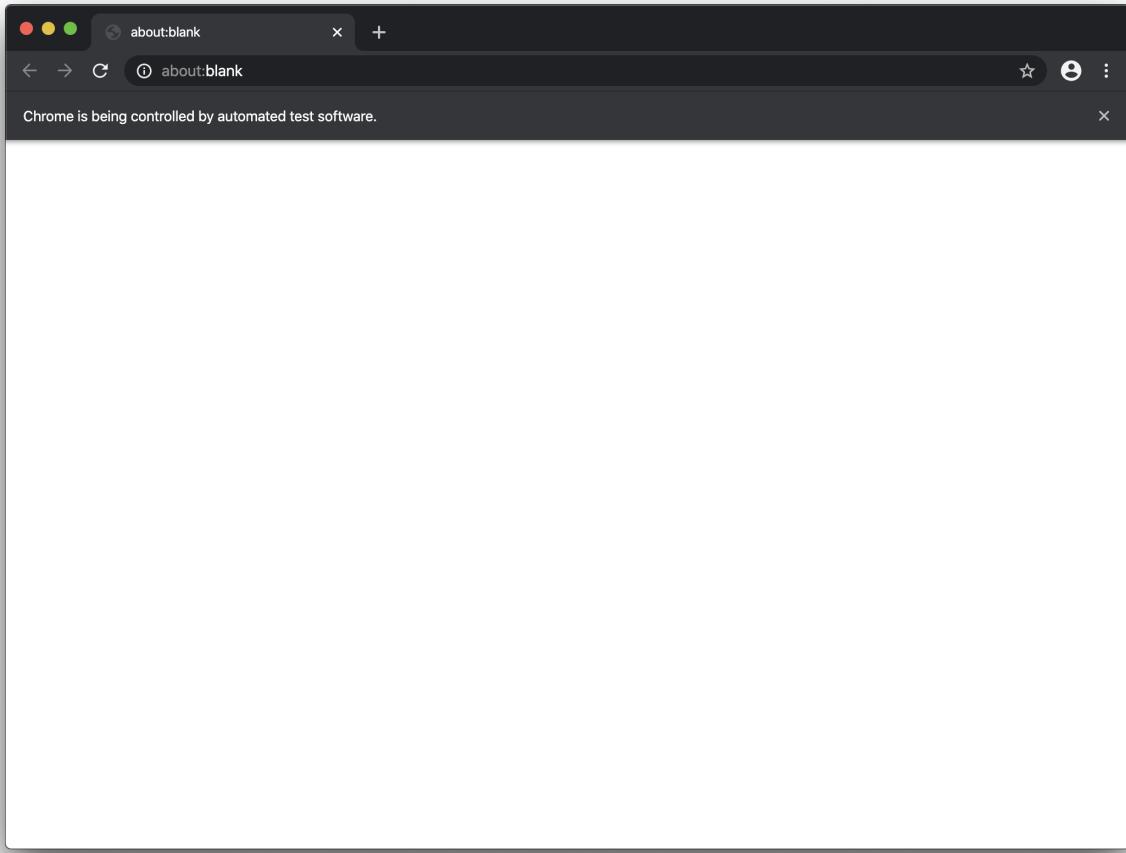


Figure 1. openBrowser opens a new browser window with a single empty new tab.

Every Taiko action assumes that you have an open, active browser window as the result of an `openBrowser` call. You'll also want to close the browser window at the end of your Taiko script by calling `closeBrowser`.

The `.code` output shows you one way to structure your code in a standard JavaScript `try/catch/finally` block. The `finally` block ensures that the browser window closes at the end of the script run, regardless of whether the run was successful (`try`) or encountered errors along the way (`catch`).

NOTE

All Taiko actions are asynchronous. When running Taiko in a script outside of the REPL, be sure to mark the function as `async` and precede each Taiko action with `await` to ensure that it has fully completed before the next Taiko action is called.