

ANNUAL SOFTWARE TESTING SYMPOSIUM

TALK: BASIC POSTMAN API TESTING

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#STS18

Denver, Colorado, USA 28 August 2018 Arnold.miller0@gmail.com

BASIC POSTMAN API TESTING

Presenter: Arnold Miller, Senior Software QA-Tester

 Lessons learned using the basic Postman API tool to automate ReST API messages (micro services) validation along with manual checking the API supported Web, Mobile, other applications.

First, Basic (Free) Postman API features

- Second, API Request/Response checks
- Third, Runner and Command Line Execution
- Fourth, Web spot checks of API Failures
- Fifth, Conclusion and Summary



POSTMAN API OVERVIEW

- Postman API, https://www.getpostman.com, Java Script internet based testing tool that automates building, sending, receiving and evaluating ReST API messages (Plus)
 - Able to export to file system and Import from file system (Plus)
 - Developers use and like more than cURL command line (Plus)
 - Internet documents, videos, training and support (Plus)
- Newman, https://www.npmjs.com/package/newman, command line tool to execute Postman API tests with JUNIT results for CI/CD (Jenkins, TeamCity, Scripts) tool integration (Plus)

VALIDATE API AND WEB OVERVIEW

- Public SaaS ReST API messages and supported Web App.
- Web App: http://www.dishanywhere.com/
- Provide Dish Network subscribers with Shows and Movies videos for on demand watching. Along with
 - Promote up-sales and new customers
 - Subscriber's Guide and Network Information
 - Subscriber's DVR Remote Recording and Watching on demand
 - Sport Team and League Information
- The Dish Network on-demand ReST APIs controls about 90% of what this Web App and similar Mobile App displays, along with providing data to other applications.

SAMPLE WEB SITE



POSTMAN API REQUEST GROUPS (PLUS)

- API requests grouped in Collections, Folders, Sub-Folders
- These all have Description, Authorization, Pre-requests Script, Test Script and Requests
- Collection: Top level group also has Variables
 - Request (Send, Request, Get Response)
 - Folder: Next Level group
 - Request (Send, Request, Get Response)
 - Sub-Folders: Next level groups
 - Request (Send, Request, Get Response)



COLLECTION, FOLDER, SUB-FOLDER

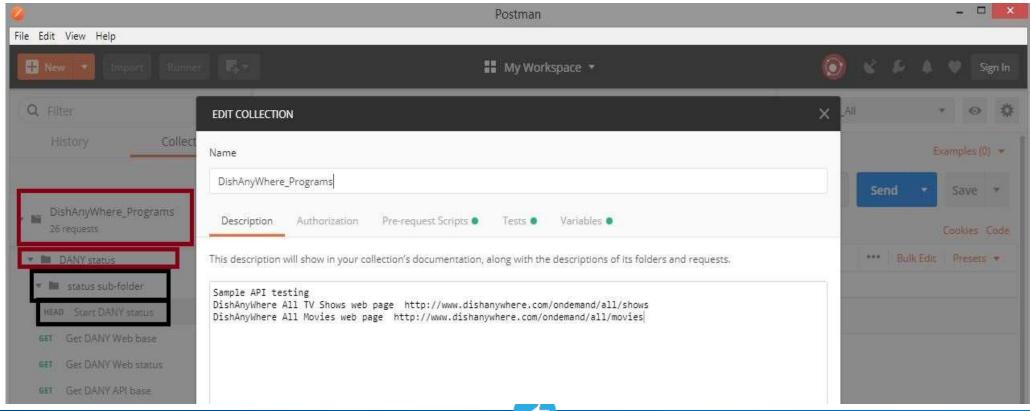
Collection: DishAnyWhere_Programs

Folder: DANY status

Sub: status sub-folder

Req: HEAD Start DANY status

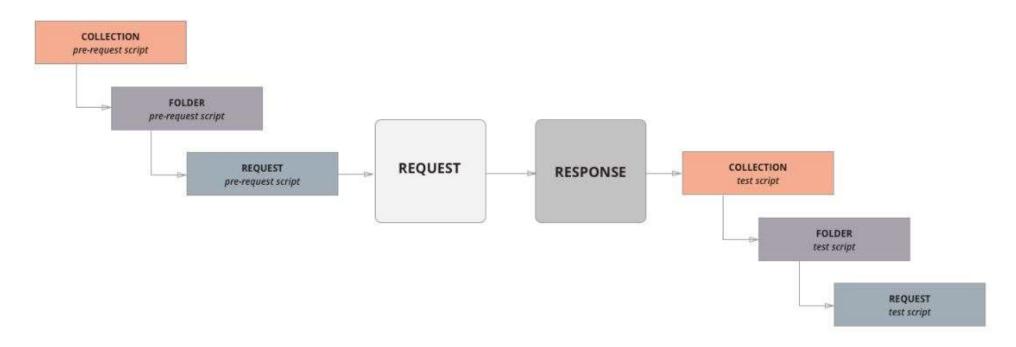
Req: Get DANY Web base



POSTMAN SCRIPT EXECUTION ORDER

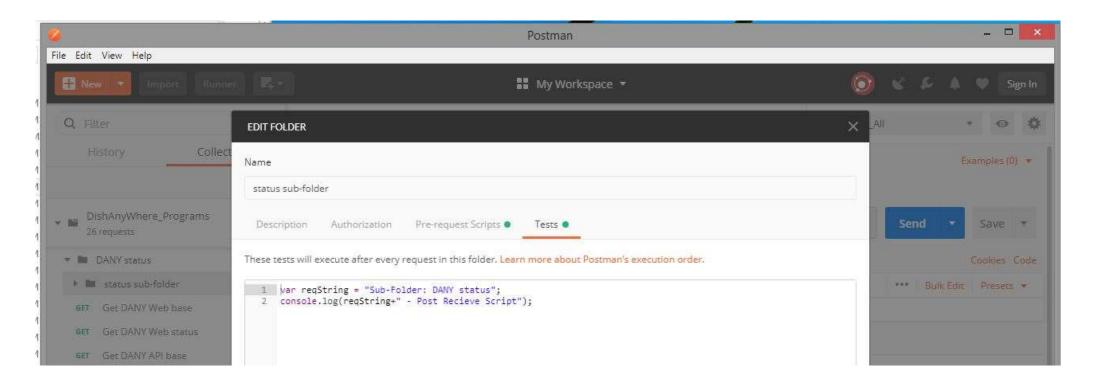
Per Request Script Execution Order:

https://www.getpostman.com/docs/v6/postman/scripts/intro_to_scripts



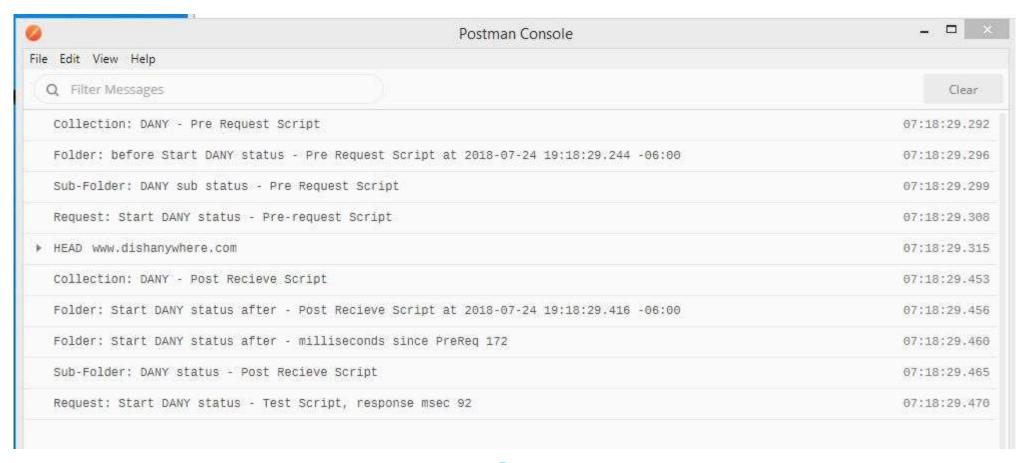
SUB-FOLDER TEST SCRIPT

PLUS: console.log(<string>) sends <string> to Postman Console



POSTMAN OUTPUT CONSOLE (PLUS)

- Besides console.log(<string>) also has
 - Request: Method, URL, Path, Query parameters
 - Request Headers; Response Headers; Response Body

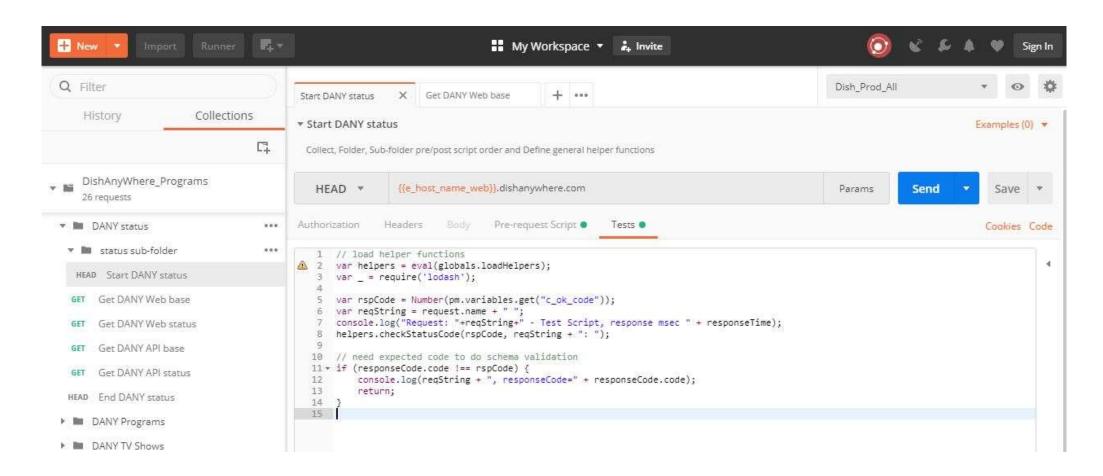


API REQUEST AREA

Method, URI, arguments

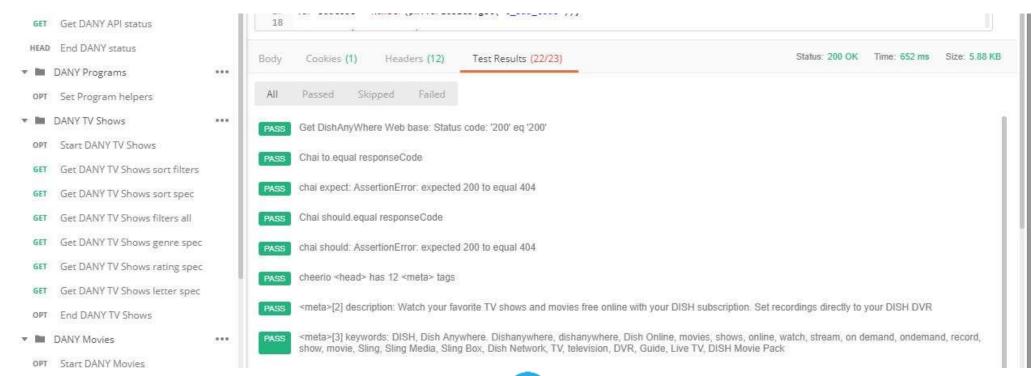
TESTINGMIND CONSULTING

Authorization, Headers, Body, Pre-request script, Tests script



API RESPONSE AREA

- Response Body display in different formats: HTML, XML, JSON, Text.
 - Default format based on response header: Content Type value
- Response Cookies, Headers
- Response Test Results
 - Each test compare result with output tests with AssertionError when False
 - Via tests[<output string>] = <Boolean>



API SCRIPT VARIABLES (PLUS)

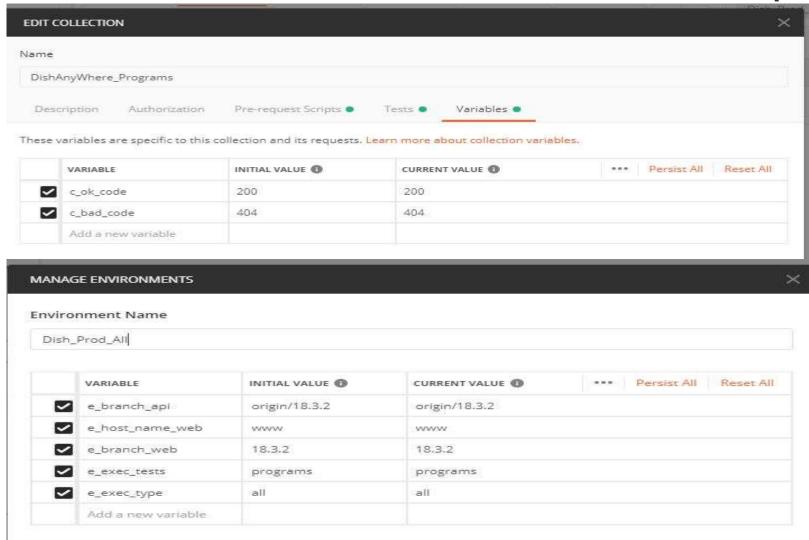
API Script Variables and their priority

https://www.getpostman.com/docs/v6/postman/environments_and_globals/variables

- Global, Collection, Environment: String type (Minus)
 - Store via to-string functions; Use via from-string functions
- Global: share values between Pre-Request and Test scripts
- Collection: Initial value via Collection Set,
 - Only in its Collection (folders, subfolders and request)
- Environment: Initial set via Environment. (Minus)
 - Have multiple Environments for different test execution types
- Local: Any JavaScript types only in its Pre-Request or Test script
- Data: only Execution Iteration via Runner or Command Line



INITIAL VARIABLE VALUES (PLUS)



GENERATE CODE SNIPPETS (PLUS)

Generate API Request Code Snippets

- Uses current variable key values
- Formats: HTTP, cURL, C#, Java, JavaScript, PHP, Python, Ruby

Request: Get DANY Web base

```
GET {{e_host_name_web}}.dishanywhere.com
```

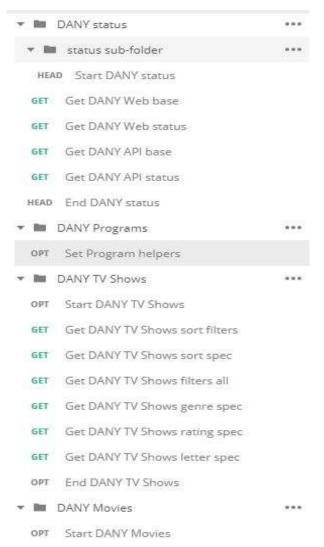
```
curl -X GET \
  http://www.dishanywhere.com \
  -H 'Cache-Control: no-cache' \
  -H 'Postman-Token: dba1dab9-7204-4585-ad49-
59b094e11f08'
```

REQUEST EXECUTION ORDER (PLUS)

https://www.getpostman.com/docs/v6/postman/scripts/branching_and_looping

- Normal API Request order is linear from top to bottom Request in Collection, Folder, Sub-Folder
 - State-machine like execution order
 - Change this order via postman.setNextRequest(<request_name>)
 - Where <request_name> the name or ID of the subsequent request and the collection runner will take care of the rest
 - May be used in the pre-request or the test script. In case of more than one assignment, the last set value is used.
 - When postman.setNextRequest() is absent in a request, the collection runner defaults to linear execution and moves to the next request
 - Stop execution, when < request_name > is null

CHANGE EXECUTION ORDER (PLUS)



```
Request: Set Program helpers (Test Script)
// set next test group via environment variable
switch(environment.e exec tests.toLowerCase()) {
  case "status":
    postman.setNextRequest(null);
  break;
  case "movies":
    postman.setNextRequest("Start DANY Movies");
 break;
  case "programs":
    postman.setNextRequest("Start DANY TV Shows");
 break;
  case "shows":
    postman.setNextRequest("Start DANY TV Shows");
 break;
  default:
    postman.setNextRequest(null);
  break;
```

BUILT-IN JAVA SCRIPT PACKAGES (PLUS)

https://www.getpostman.com/docs/v6/postman/scripts/postman_sandbox_api_reference

- chai for BDD expect and should validation
 - Request: GET DANY Web base (Test Script)
- cheerio for HTML paring and validation
 - Request: GET DANY Web base (Test Script)
- lodash for numbers strings arrays and objects utilities
 - Request: GET DANY API base (Pre-Request Script, Test Script)
- momentum for date-time utilities
 - Folder: DANY status (Pre-Request Script, Test Script)
- tv4 for JSON schema validation
 - Helper Function: tv4 to define verify schema, pattern-validate functions
 - Request: Get DANY API base (Pre-Request Script, Test Script)



CREATE, USE COMMON FUNCTIONS

Helper functions definition via Set Global variables (Minus)

```
Request: Start DANY status (Pre-request script)
// define helper functions
postman.setGlobalVariable("loadHelpers", function loadHelpers() {
 let helpers = {};
 helpers.CompareSame = function testCompare(compString, compA, compB) {
    tests[compString + ": '" + compA + "' is '" + compB + "'"] = compA == compB; };
helpers.CompareEqual = function testEqual(compString, compA, compB) {
    tests[compString + ": '" + compA + "' is '" + compB + "'"] = compA === compB; };
// check response status code value
 helpers.checkStatusCode = function verifyStatusCode(
    statusCode, msqString = "") {
      helpers.CompareEqual (msgString + " Status code", responseCode.code, statusCode); };
 // ...additional helpers
   return helpers;
} + '; loadHelpers();');
```

CREATE, USE COMMON FUNCTIONS

Helper functions usage via eval Global variables (Minus)

```
Request: Start DANY status (Test script)
// load helper functions
var helpers = eval(globals.loadHelpers);
var _ = require('lodash');
var rspCode = Number(pm.variables.get("c_ok_code"));
var reqString = request.name + " ";
console.log("Request: "+reqString+" - Test Script, response msec " + responseTime);
helpers.checkStatusCode(rspCode, reqString + ": ");
```

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CHECK DISH WEB'S BRANCH RELEASE

GET http://www.dishanywhere.com/

Contain web html meta tag with release information

```
<meta content="Dish Anywhere" name="dany" data-branch="18.3.3" data-
hash=". . . ">
```

Request: Get DANY Web base (Test Script)

```
var webDataBranch = metaDanyHTML.attr('data-branch');
helpers.CompareSame("Web Deploy Branch: ", webDataBranch,
environment.e_branch_web);
postman.setGlobalVariable("g_Web_Branch", webDataBranch);
```

CHECK DISH WEB'S API URL PATH

GET <u>www.dishanywhere.com/health/config_check</u>

Contains web release/build information

```
"branch": "18.3.3", "hash": ". . . . ."

Contains URL for its ReST API messages (micro services) path

"radish_url": "http://radish.dishanywhere.com/",
```

Request: Get DANY Web status (Test Script)

```
var webBranch = globals.g_Web_Branch;
helpers.CompareSame(reqString + " branch:",respBody.git.branch,
webBranch);
...
var danyBaseURL = "http://" + environment.e_host_name_web +
".dishanywhere.com";
helpers.CompareSame(sesString + ".dany_base_url:",
session.dany base url, danyBaseURL);
```

CHECK DISH API BRANCH RELEASE

GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/health/config_check

Contains API release/build information

```
"branch": "origin/18.3.3", "hash": " . . . "
```

Request: Get DANY API status (Test Script)

```
var respBody = JSON.parse(responseBody);
var apiBranch = environment.e_branch_api;
helpers.CompareSame(reqString + " branch:", respBody.git.branch,
apiBranch);
```

DISH WEB PROGRAMS

Displays Subscriber viewable (unlocked) TV Shows or Movies

- GET http://www.dishanywhere.com/ondemand/all/shows
- GET http://www.dishanywhere.com/ondemand/all/movies
- Get Sort By Values (API Request)
 - GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/shows/sorts.json
 - GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/movies/sorts.json
- 2. Get Filter (Genres, Ratings, Starting Letters) Values (API Request)
 - GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/shows/filters.json
 - GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/movies/filters.json
- 3. Display Programs via specific Sort and Filter Value (API Request)



DISH API PROGRAMS SORTS

GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/shows/sorts.json

GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/movies/sorts.json

DISH API PROGRAMS FILTERS

GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/shows/filters.json

GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/movies/filters.json

DISH DISPLAY PROGRAMS

Display Programs via specific Sort and Filter Values (API Request)

Via Only by Sort Value

- GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/shows.json?sort=name
- GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/movies.json?sort=name

Via Only by Filter Genre Value

- GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/shows.json?genres=newscast
- GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/movies.json?genres=drama

Via Only by Filter Rating Value

- GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/shows.json?ratings=tvy7
- GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/movies.json?ratings=r

Via Only by Filter Starting Letter Value

- GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/shows.json?a-z=p
- GET http://radish.dishanywhere.com/v20/dol/movies.json?a-z=s



CHECK DISH API PROGRAMS

General API Response:

- Response Code Ok
- Positive item count (Allow Zero for special cases)
- Program General: (General TV Shows, Movies)
 - Name has positive length
 - Type is Program with Kind as Show or Movies via Request
 - Description at least 5 characters long
 - Rating array values same as Rating List of array values
 - Has at least 1 Genre
 - Has at least 1 Network (Channel)
- Specific Sort, Genre, Rating, Starting Letter (Specific Sort, Filter)
 - Sort: Items in request Order (only Title sorted request)
 - Genre: Each Item's Genre Array has the Filter Genre
 - Rating: Each Item's Rating Array has the Filter Rating
 - Starting Letter: Each item's Name begins with the Filter Letter



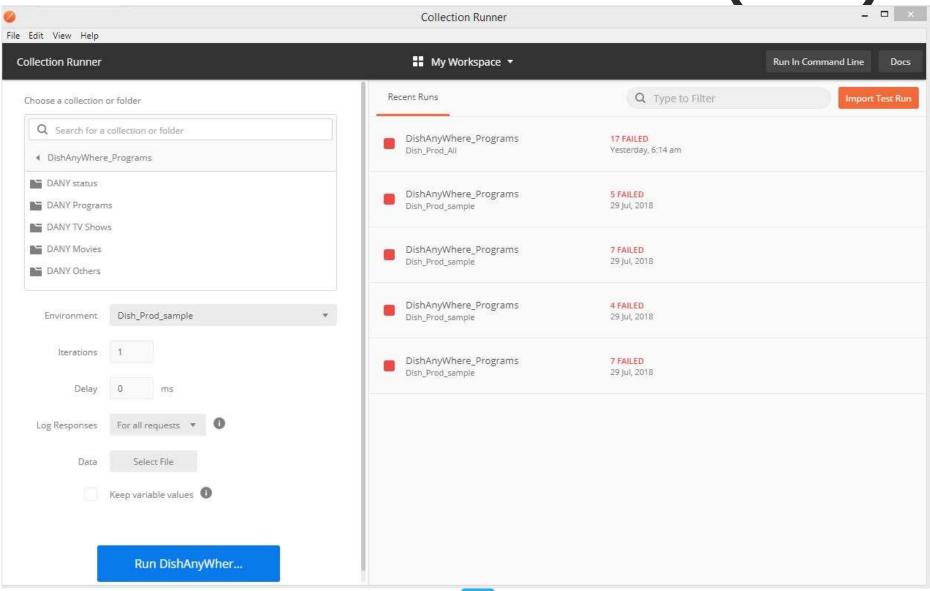
BASIC POSTMAN API TESTING

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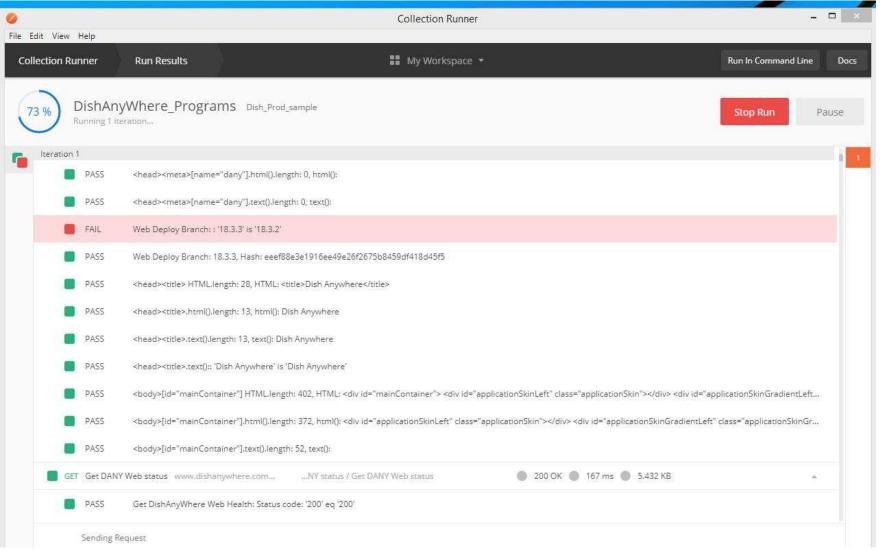
POSTMAN COLLECTION RUNNER (PLUS)

- Execute Collection, Folder, Sub-Folder Requests with a specific Environment with for N iteration and Data-file.
- Has Recent Runs with
 - Iteration counter
 - API Request
 - Pass/Failed Test Results
 - Filter for Passed, Failed or Both

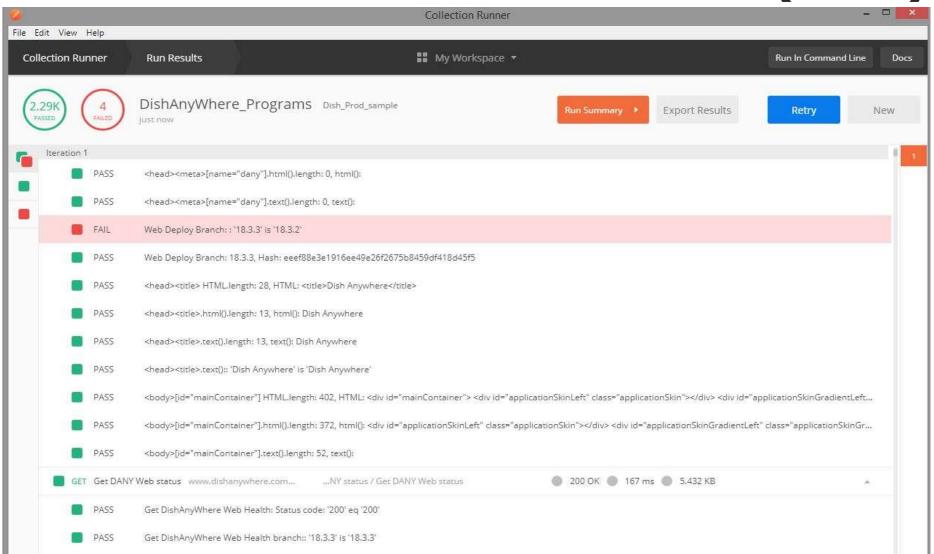
COLLECTION RUNNER: SETUP (PLUS)



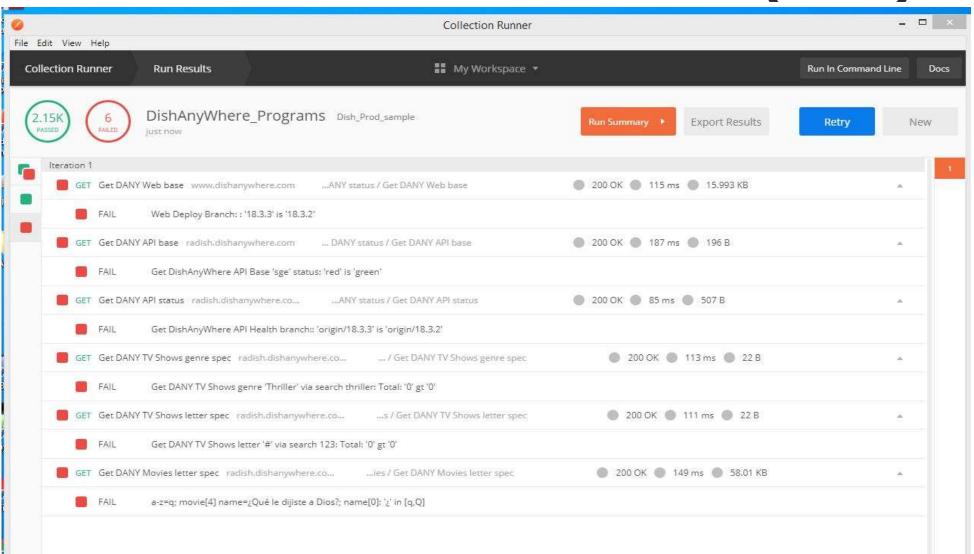
COLLECTION RUNNER: EXECUTING



COLLECTION RUNNER: DONE (PLUS)



COLLECTION RUNNER: FAIL (PLUS)



NEWMAN COMMAND LINE (PLUS)

Execute Collection Requests with a specific Environment generating reports (Unix/Linux Shell version)

```
newman run $postman_run -e $post_out_env -r junit,cli --timeout-request
$req timeout
```

Have Problem maintaining many Postman Environment files (Minus)

- Branch Build/Release ID (Web, API, tools)
- What APIs to test (Status, Shows, Movies, Networks)
- Where is API URL target (Production, Pre-Prod, Beta, SQA-test)
- Execution type (Smoke, Install, Feature, Regression)

Noticed: Postman Environment file are text editor JSON readable

```
"values": [
    {"enabled": true, "key": "e_branch_web", "value": "18.3.2", "type": "text"},
    {"enabled": true, "key": "e_branch_api", "value": "origin/18.3.2", "type": "text"},
    . . . ]
```



NEWMAN COMMAND LINE

Solution to maintaining many Postman Environment files (Plus)

Write program that inputs a Postman Environment file and CSV Key-Value pair file Outputs a Postman Environment File with changing any found Key's to have their pair value

```
Example CSV Key-Pair file
row, Variable, Value, Meaning
1,e_branch_web, 18.3.0, web version
2,e_branch_api,origin/18.3.0, api version

Output Postman Environment File
"values": [
    {"enabled": true, "key": "e_branch_web", "value": "18.3.0", "type": "text"},
    {"enabled": true, "key": "e_branch_api", "value": "origin/18.3.0", "type": "text"},
    . . . ]
```

Found easier to maintain many CSV Key-Pair files (Plus)



NEWMAN EXECUTING (PLUS)

Get DANY APT status 'Collection: DANY - Pre Request Script' 'Folder: before Get DANY API status - Pre Request Script at 2018-08-12 20:09:14.759 -06:00' GET radish.dishanywhere.com/health/config check [200 OK, 1.02KB, 124ms] 'Collection: DANY - Post Receive Script' 'Folder: Get DANY API status after - Post Receive Script at 2018-08-12 20:09:14.926 -06:00' 'Folder: Get DANY API status after - milliseconds since PreReq 167' Get DishAnyWhere API Health: Status code: '200' eq '200' 3. Get DishAnyWhere API Health branch:: 'origin/18.3.3' is 'origin/18.3.0'

NEWMAN SUMMARY RESULTS (PLUS)

Postman start at Sun, Aug 12, 2018 8:09:08 PM

	executed	failed
iterations	1	0
requests	6	0
test-scripts	19	0
prerequest-scripts	19	0
assertions	47	3
total run duration: 2s		
total data received: 19.23KB (approx)		
average response time: 134ms		

Postman ended at Sun, Aug 12, 2018 8:09:15 PM



NEWMAN FAILURE DETAILS (PLUS)

Used: dish chg vars.csv

```
Postman start at Sun, Aug 12, 2018 8:09:08 PM
   failure
                 detail
 1. AssertionError Web Deploy Branch: : '18.3.3' is '18.3.0'
                    expected false to be truthy
                    at assertion:14 in test-script
                    inside "DANY status / Get DANY Web base"
 2. AssertionError Get DishAnyWhere API Base 'sge' status: 'red' is 'green'
                    expected false to be truthy
                    at assertion: 3 in test-script
                    inside "DANY status / Get DANY API base"
 3. AssertionError Get DishAnyWhere API Health branch:: 'origin/18.3.3' is 'origin/18.3.0'
                    expected false to be truthy
                    at assertion:1 in test-script
                    inside "DANY status / Get DANY API status"
Postman ended at Sun, Aug 12, 2018 8:09:15 PM
```

NEWMAN JUNIT XML RESULT FILE (PLUS)

```
<testcase name="Web Deploy Branch: : '18.3.1' is '18.1.1'" time="0.282"</pre>
classname="JUnitXmlReporter.constructor">
 <failure type="AssertionFailure">
    <![CDATA[Failed 1 times.]]>
    <![CDATA[Collection JSON ID: fdeb44ba-76ea-424b-9a8c-39645bca44b9.]]>
    <![CDATA[Collection name: DishAnyWhere Programs.]]>
    <![CDATA[Request name: DANY status / Get DANY Web base.]]>
    <![CDATA[Test description: Web Deploy Branch: : '18.3.1' is '18.1.1'.]]>
    <![CDATA[Error message: expected false to be truthy.]]>
    <! [CDATA [Stacktrace: AssertionError: expected false to be truthy
at Object.eval sandbox-script.js:15:2).]]>
 </failure>
</testcase>
```

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API PROGRAMS SAMPLE FAILURES

Used: dish_progs_smp_vars.csv
Failures not reported on previous slides

```
Postman start at Sun, Aug 12, 2018 8:24:26 PM

# failure detail

3. AssertionError a-z=q; show[4] name=¿Quién Da Más?; name[0]: '¿' in [q,Q]

4. AssertionError a-z=q; show[5] name=¿Quién da más?; name[0]: '¿' in [q,Q]

5. AssertionError sort=name; movie[8] name=1 Message; desc.length: '0' ge '5'

6. AssertionError a-z=q; movie[4] name=¿Qué le dijiste a Dios?; name[0]: '¿' in [q,Q]

Postman ended at Sun, Aug 12, 2018 8:25:17 PM
```

API PROGRAMS ALL FAILURES

Postman start at Sun, Aug 12, 2018 8:29:44 PM

failure detail

04. AssertionError sort=name; show[1] name=10 Minute Solutions; desc.length: '0' ge '5'

05. AssertionError sort=name; show[3] name=100 Code; desc.length: '0' ge '5'

06. AssertionError sort=name; show[6].name > show[5].name: '12 Corazones' gt '12 Corazones'

07. AssertionError sort=name; show[6].search > show[5].search: '12_corazones_e1570408' gt '12_corazones_e32940'

08. AssertionError Get DANY TV Shows genre 'Thriller' via search thriller: Total: '0' gt '0'

11. AssertionError Get DANY TV Shows letter '#' via search 123: Total: '0' gt '0'

13. AssertionError a-z=1; movie[9] name= La Casa De Beatriz; name[0]: ' ' in [1,L]

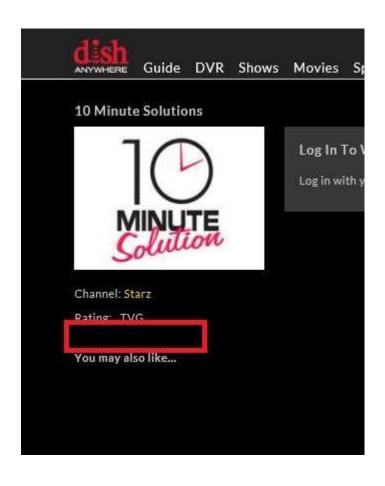
15. AssertionError Get DANY Movies letter '#' via search 123: Total: '0' gt '0'

Used: dish progs all vars.csv

Postman ended at Sun, Aug 12, 2018 8:34:03 PM

TV SHOW: 10 MINUTE SOLUTIONS

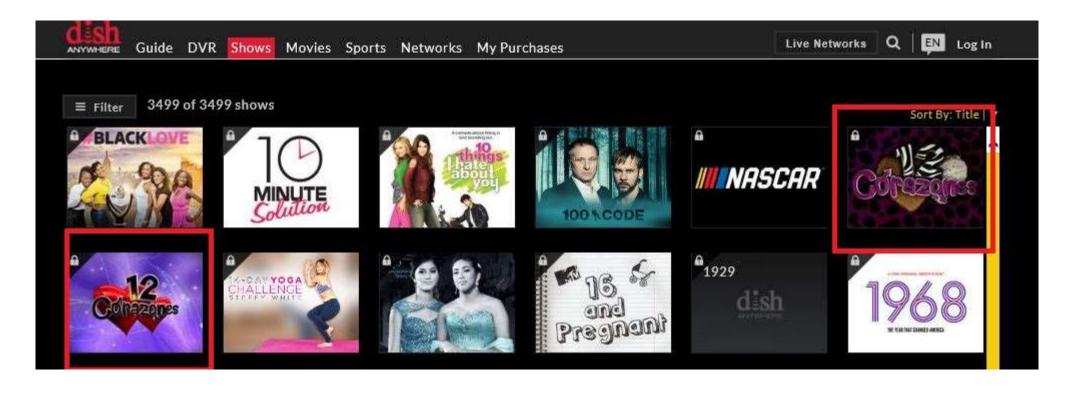
AssertionError sort=name; show[1] name=10 Minute Solutions; desc.length: '0' ge '5'





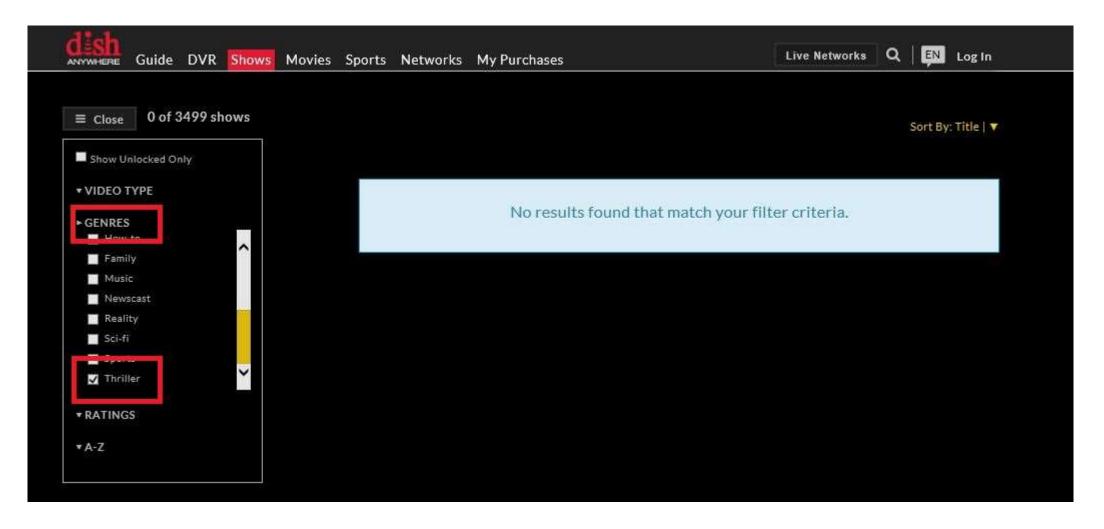
TV SHOW: '12 CORAZONES'

AssertionError sort=name; show[6].name > show[5].name: '12 Corazones' gt '12 Corazones' AssertionError sort=name; show[6].search > show[5].search: '12_corazones_e1570408' gt '12_corazones_e32940'



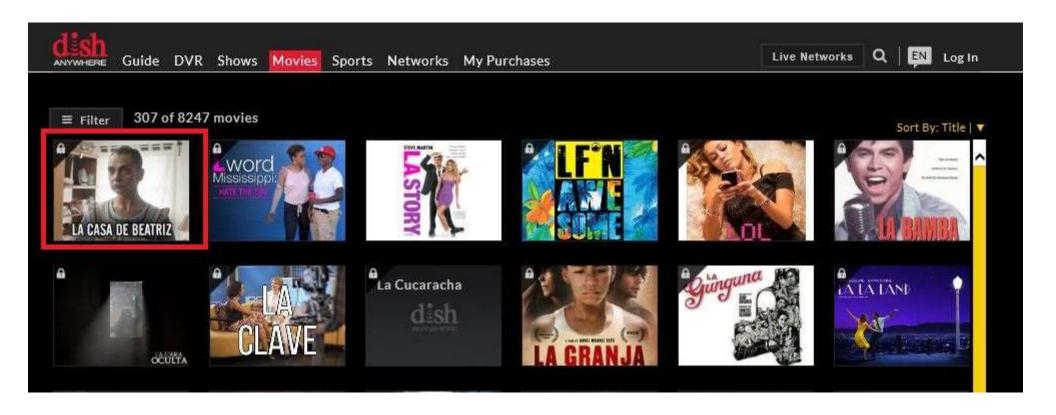
TV SHOW: GENRE THRILLER

AssertionError Get DANY TV Shows genre 'Thriller' via search thriller: Total: '0' gt '0'



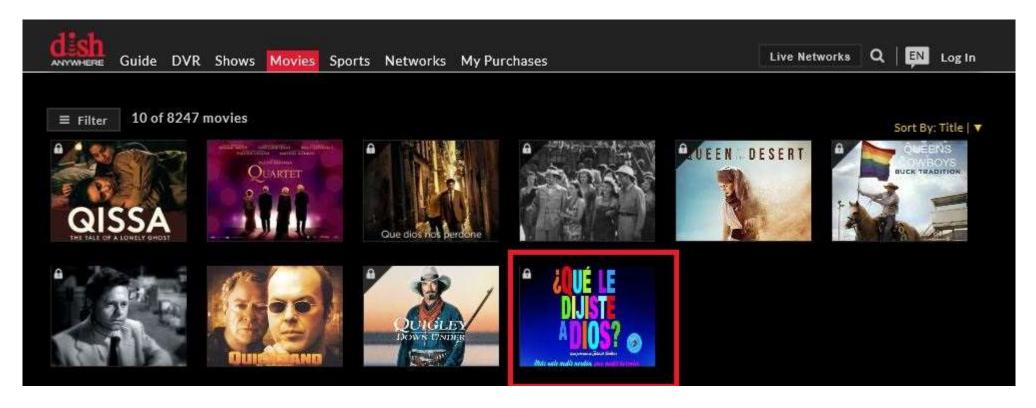
MOVIE: STARTS LETTER L

AssertionError a-z=1; movie[9] name= La Casa De Beatriz; name[0]: ' ' in [1,L]



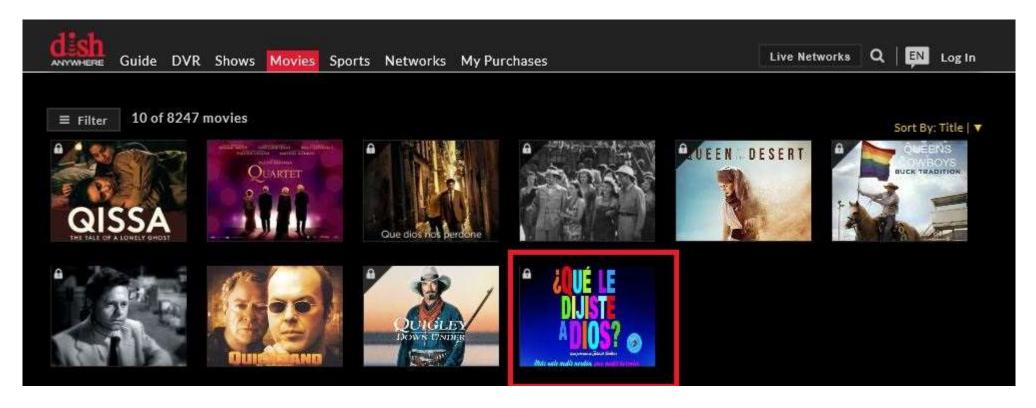
MOVIE: STARTS LETTER Q

AssertionError a-z=q; movie[4] name=¿Qué le dijiste a Dios?; name[0]: '¿' in [q,Q]



MOVIE: STARTS LETTER Q

AssertionError a-z=q; movie[4] name=¿Qué le dijiste a Dios?; name[0]: '¿' in [q,Q]



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BASIC POSTMAN API: PLUS

- Java Script: builds, sends, receives, evaluates API ReST messages
- Export to File System, Import from File System
- Developers use it and like more than cURL command line
- Internet documents, videos, training and support
- Command Line Execution tool
 - Console Output, Summary Results, Failure Details
 - Support Ci/CD Junit XML result format
 - Environment exported format supports variable value changes
- Groups API Requests in to Folder-like Hierarchy
- Support Output Console information
- Different variable types (Global, Environment, Collection, Local, Data)
 - Initialize Global, Environment, Collection variable values
- Generate Code Snippets in different languages
- State Machine Request Execution order with override ability
- Built-in Popular Java Script Node Packages
- Tool based Collection Execution: Results Pass, Fail summary



BASIC POSTMAN API: CONCLUSION

Minus:

- Global, Environment, Collection variable stored as string
 - Store via to-string functions (example: JSON.stringify, toString)
 - Use via from-string functions (example: JSON.parse, parseInt)
- Helper Variables that define common functions and libraries
 - Paid Versions support libraries and other shareable functions
 - Would like ability to load non-built-in Java Node Packages and personal packages
- Too Many Environments (group of Environment variables)
 - Convert Environment via CSV files before Command Line execution
 - Prefer many CSV files to many Environments

Conclusion:

- Overall Very Good Tool for API ReST testing
- Major problem: Helper Variables for common functions and libraries

DONE

Slides, Postman Collection, Shell Scripts, etc.

https://github.com/arnold-miller0/Postman-Denver-Aug-2018

