

Behavior-Driven Python with `pytest-bdd`

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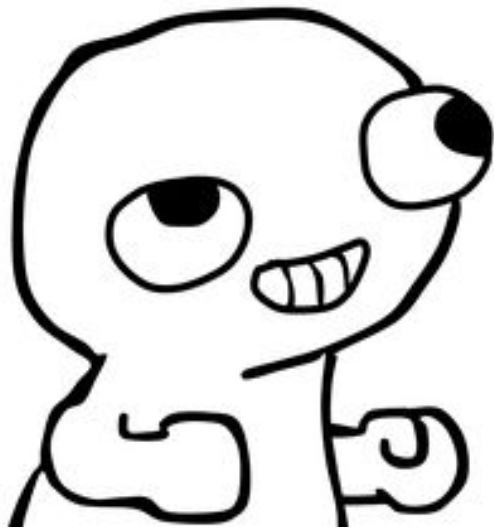
Who is Andy Knight?

- Software engineer and consultant
- Testing, automation, and BDD
- Lives in Raleigh, NC, USA
- Avid Pythoneer!

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Software Testing Attitude



VS



Software Testing Impetus



Software Testing Problems

1. What are we testing?
2. What do these steps mean?
3. Automation is slow to develop
4. Tests keep crashing in CI/CD



Behavior-Driven Development

What is a “Behavior”?

be·hav·ior

the way in which one acts or conducts oneself

In software, a **behavior** is how a feature operates. A behavior is defined as a scenario of inputs, actions, and outcomes. A product or feature exhibits countless behaviors.

- Submitting forms on a website
- Searching for desired results
- Saving a document
- Making REST API calls
- Running CLI commands

Specifying a Behavior

Add cucumbers to a basket:

GIVEN an initial state

Given the basket has 2 cucumbers

WHEN an action is taken

When 4 cucumbers are added to the basket

THEN verify outcomes

Then the basket contains 6 cucumbers



Behavior-Driven Development

Put behaviors first.

(In dev and in test.)

Why? Your users do.

Common Practices

- ✓ Three Amigos Meetings
- ✓ Example Mapping
- ✓ Specification by Example

The Goals of BDD

- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Automation

Test Automation

Behaviors are identified early in development using *plain-language* descriptions (Gherkin) that tell *what* more than *how*.

A BDD test framework separates test cases from test code. It will “glue” each step to a Python function to run it like a script.

⚠ This talk will focus on automation with **pytest-bdd**.



Start with pytest



About pytest

pytest is a mature full-featured Python testing tool that helps you write better programs.

pytest: helps you write better programs

The `pytest` framework makes it easy to write small tests, yet scales to support complex functional testing for applications and libraries.

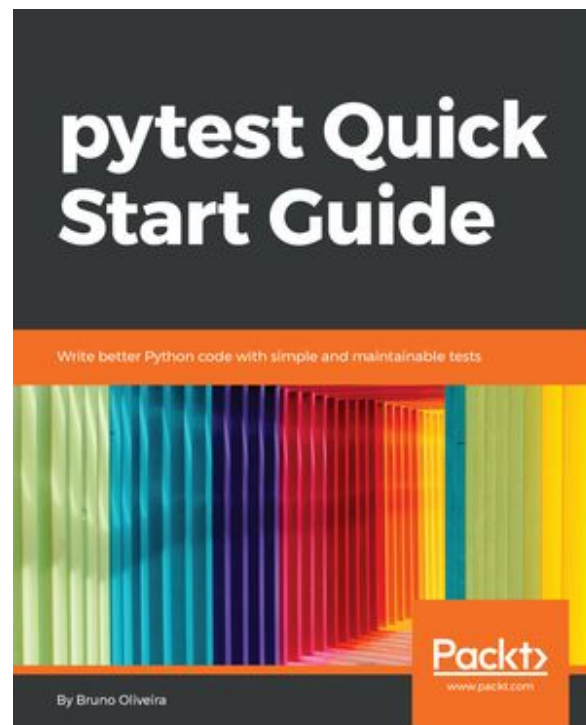
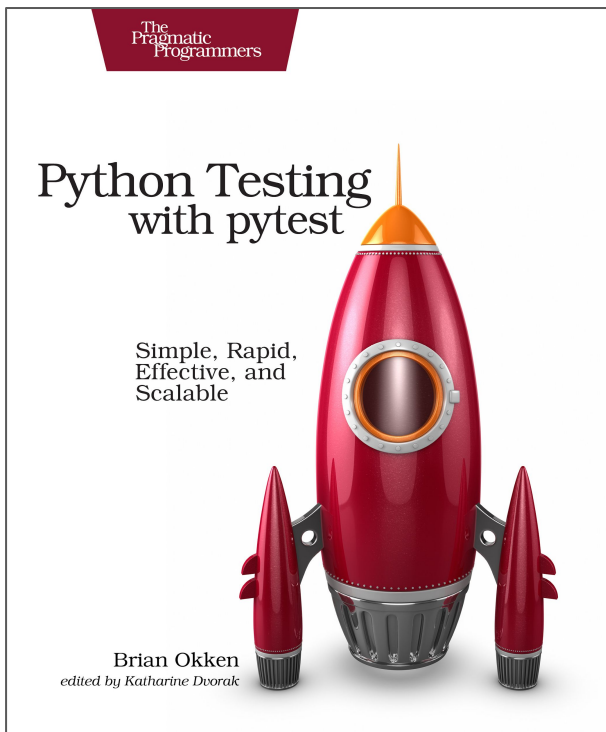
An example of a simple test:

```
# content of test_sample.py
def inc(x):
    return x + 1

def test_answer():
    assert inc(3) == 5
```

Screenshot taken from the pytest.org home page

Recommended pytest Books



Installing pytest-bdd

Two packages are needed:

```
pip install pytest
pip install pytest-bdd
```

Other packages may also be useful, such as:

```
pip install requests      # for REST API calls
pip install selenium      # for Web browser interactions
```

✓ Try using **pipenv**! It combines pip, Pipfile, and virtualenv.

Our First Gherkin Feature

@basket

Feature: Cucumber Basket

As a gardener,
I want to carry many cucumbers in a basket,
So that I don't drop them all.

@add

Scenario: Add cucumbers to a basket

Given the basket has 2 cucumbers	# GIVEN an initial state
When 4 cucumbers are added to the basket	# WHEN action is taken
Then the basket contains 6 cucumbers	# THEN verify outcomes

Our First Step Definitions

```
from pytest_bdd import scenarios, given, when, then
```

```
scenarios('../features/cuke_basket.feature')           # Specifies feature files for these steps
```

```
@given('the basket has 2 cucumbers')
```

```
def basket():
```

```
    return CucumberBasket(initial_count=2)           # Givens act like fixtures
```

```
@when('4 cucumbers are added to the basket')
```

```
def add_cucumbers(basket):
```

```
    basket.add(4)                                     # Get the given's value as an argument
```

```
# Steps can access and modify it
```

```
@then('the basket contains 6 cucumbers')
```

```
def basket_has_total(basket):
```

```
    assert basket.count == 6                         # It's the same basket here
```

```
# Use the same assertions as pytest
```

Recommended Directory Layout

my-project

```
|-- [product code]
|-- tests
|   |-- features
|       |-- cuke_basket.feature
|       |-- step_defs
|           |-- conftest.py
|           |-- test_cuke_basket.py
`-- [pytest.ini|tox.ini|setup.cfg]
```


Our Feature, Again

@basket

Feature: Cucumber Basket

As a gardener,
I want to carry many cucumbers in a basket,
So that I don't drop them all.

@add

Scenario: Add cucumbers to a basket

Given the basket has 2 cucumbers
When 4 cucumbers are added to the basket
Then the basket contains 6 cucumbers

Our Feature, Parametrized!

@basket

Feature: Cucumber Basket

As a gardener,
I want to carry many cucumbers in a basket,
So that I don't drop them all.

@add

Scenario: Add cucumbers to a basket

Given the basket has “2” cucumbers

When “4” cucumbers are added to the basket

Then the basket contains “6” cucumbers

Parametrized Step Definitions

```
from pytest_bdd import *
```

```
scenarios('../features/cuke_basket.feature')
```

```
@given(parsers.parse('the basket has "{initial:d}" cucumbers'))
```

Parse as an int

```
def basket(initial):
```

Pass it by name

```
    return CucumberBasket(initial_count=initial)
```

```
@when(parsers.parse('"{some:d}" cucumbers are added to the basket'))
```

```
def add_cucumbers(basket, some):
```

OK with fixtures

```
    basket.add(some)
```

```
@then(parsers.parse('the basket contains "{total:d}" cucumbers'))
```

```
def basket_has_total(basket, total):
```

```
    assert basket.count == total
```

Scenario Outlines

Feature: Cucumber Basket

Scenario Outline: Add cucumbers to a basket

Given the basket contains "<initial>" cucumbers

When "<some>" cucumbers are added to the basket

Then the basket contains "<total>" cucumbers

Examples: Cucumber Counts

initial	some	total	
0	3	3	
2	4	6	
5	5	10	

Extra Code for Scenario Outlines

```
from pytest_bdd import *

CONVERTERS = dict(initial=int, some=int, total=int)
scenarios('../features/cuke_basket.feature', example_converters=CONVERTERS)

@given('the basket has "<initial>" cucumbers')
@given(parsers.parse('the basket has "{initial:d}" cucumbers'))
def basket(initial):
    return CucumberBasket(initial_count=initial)

@when('"<some>" cucumbers are added to the basket')
@when(parsers.parse('"{some:d}" cucumbers are added to the basket'))
def add_cucumbers(basket, some):
    basket.add(some)

@then('the basket contains "<total>" cucumbers')
@then(parsers.parse('the basket contains "{total:d}" cucumbers'))
def basket_has_total(basket, total):
    assert basket.count == total
```

A Web Feature

Feature: DuckDuckGo Web Browsing

As a web surfer,
I want to find information online,
So I can learn new things and get tasks done.

Background:

Given the DuckDuckGo home page is displayed

Scenario: Basic DuckDuckGo Search

When the user searches for “panda”

Then results are shown for “panda”

Web Steps using Selenium WebDriver

```
import pytest
from pytest_bdd import *
from selenium import webdriver
from selenium.webdriver.common.keys import Keys
```

```
scenarios(' ../features/web.feature')
```

```
@pytest.fixture
```

```
def browser():
    b = webdriver.Firefox()
    b.implicitly_wait(10)
    yield b
    b.quit()
```

```
@given('the DuckDuckGo home page is displayed')
def ddg_home(browser):
    browser.get('https://duckduckgo.com/')
```

```
@when(parsers.parse('the user searches for "{phrase}"'))
def search_phrase(browser, phrase):
    search_input = browser.find_element_by_name('q')
    search_input.send_keys(phrase + Keys.RETURN)
```

```
@then(parsers.parse('results are shown for "{phrase}"'))
def search_results(browser, phrase):
    links_div = browser.find_element_by_id('links')
    assert len(links_div.find_elements_by_xpath('//div')) > 0
    search_input = browser.find_element_by_name('q')
    assert search_input.get_attribute('value') == phrase
```

Support Classes

Any Python packages or custom modules can be used with **pytest-bdd**. Use them to build a better framework! Major packages include *logging*, *requests*, and *selenium*.

Be sure to employ **good design patterns** as well. For example, use the Page Object Model or the Screenplay Pattern instead of raw WebDriver calls for Web tests. Step def code should be concise!



Running Tests

Use the **pytest** command from the project root directory to run features as tests:

run all tests

```
pytest
```

run a test module by path

```
pytest tests/step_defs/test_cuke_basket.py
```

filter tests by tag

```
pytest -k "basket"
```

```
pytest -k "service or web"
```

```
pytest -k "add and not remove"
```

The Power of `pytest`

Since **`pytest-bdd`** is a plugin, it can do everything **`pytest`** can do!

- BDD-style tests can be filtered and executed together with traditional tests
- Any fixtures can be used by step functions
- Scenario outlines can be parametrized using **`@pytest.mark.parametrize`**

Other plugins can work together with **`pytest-bdd`**:

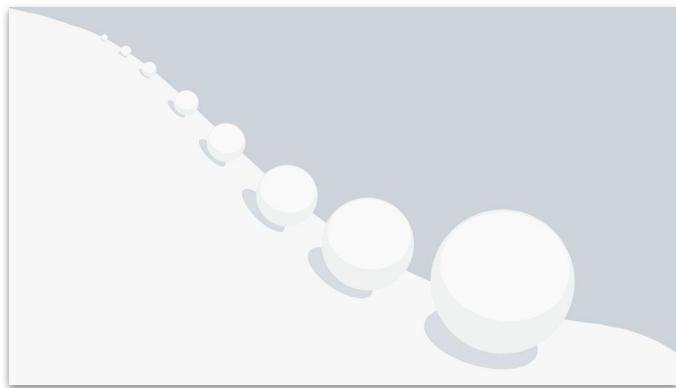
- Use **`pytest-cov`** for code coverage
- Use **`pytest-xdist`** for parallel execution
- Use **`pytest-django`** for Django integration

The Big Picture

Why Do Behavior-Driven Development?

The main benefits of BDD are better **collaboration** and **automation**.

- Everyone can contribute, not just programmers.
- Do things properly from the start.
- Step reuse creates a snowball effect.



Objections!

What people say:

- BDD adds a lot of overhead to the development process.
- I don't need Gherkin because Python is already readable and elegant.
- I don't need to write descriptive steps because nobody else reads my tests.
- Feature files just get in the way of coding.

My rebuttals:

1. How do you write tests for features? By describing them in plain language.
2. How do you structure your automation? For maximum reusability.

Some Advice

The Golden Gherkin Rule



Treat other readers as you would want to be treated.
Write Gherkin so that people will intuitively understand it.

1. Write short scenarios.
2. One scenario should focus on one behavior.
3. Reuse steps as much as possible.
4. Put shared steps in *conftest.py*.
5. Put common execution options in *pytest.ini*.
6. Don't use BDD frameworks for unit testing.

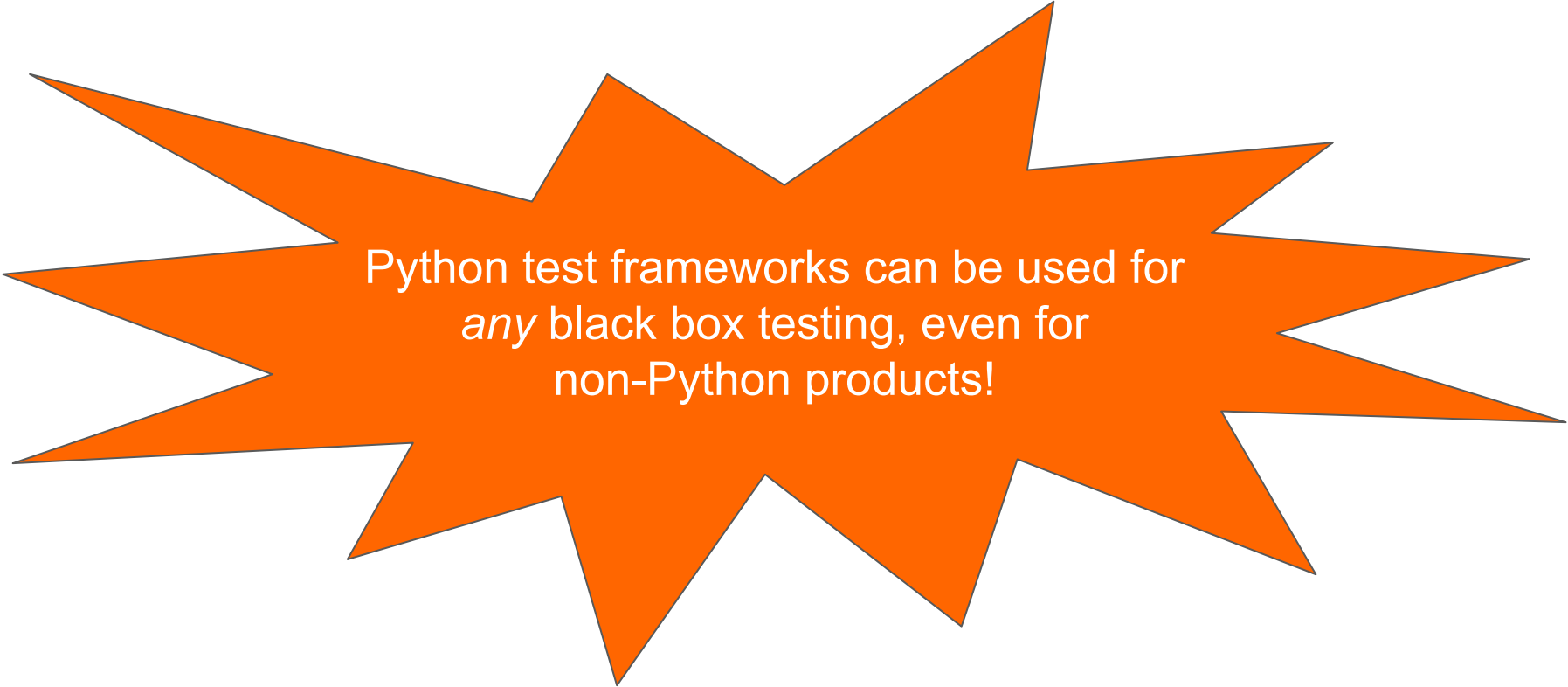
What about behave?

behave is another popular Python BDD test framework.

My current preference is pytest-bdd.

 A word cloud for the 'behave' framework. The word 'behave' is the largest and most central. Other words include 'scenario', 'step', 'given', 'outline', 'passed', 'tags', 'behavior', 'examples', 'wip', 'failed', 'design', 'setup', 'steps', 'feature', 'testing', 'specify', 'gherkin', 'driven', and 'tags'.	<p>Advantages of behave:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simpler step function implementation• Feature files are more like Cucumber
 The logo for 'pytest', featuring a stylized bar chart with four bars of increasing height in blue, green, yellow, and red, above the word 'pytest' in a blue sans-serif font.	<p>Advantages of pytest-bdd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can leverage the full strength of pytest• Uses pytest fixtures and plugins

Beyond Python



Python test frameworks can be used for
any black box testing, even for
non-Python products!

Resources

Twitter: **@AutomationPanda**

Blog: AutomationPanda.com

Check out the *Python*, *Testing*, and *BDD* pages on my blog.

Look for the “Python Testing 101: pytest-bdd” article.

See example code at <https://github.com/AndyLPK247/behavior-driven-python>.

Reach out through those channels to ask me questions.