

A test framework is an experiment.

The Vision

- ✦ Functional tests are *atomic*, scoped to specific areas of functionality. You need a bunch of these atomic tests to adequately examine the functionality of web sites and APIs.
- ✦ End-to-end tests look at paths through areas of functionality. E2E tests play connect-the-dots with the atomic functional tests.
- ✦ E2E tests are best when written on a layer of abstraction above the atomic functional tests: combine reasonable sequences of atomic functional test interactions into abstractions that model business processes or “chunks” of flow.
- ✦ Combine application wrappers and abstraction models to make E2E tests easier to define and conceptualize.

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I want to reinforce this point: a test framework is an experiment.

I'm not going to reveal any deep secrets, but the combination of elements is non-obvious. The concepts are simple, and once you build one test framework in this pattern, you can build subsequent versions very quickly.

Premature concretization is your enemy, and optimization is not your friend, yet.