Automated Test Campaign

Test & Test Automation II.3525

Group Members:

Malini Ravindranath

Emna Driss

Iiris Kivelä

Enrique Soto Bustillos

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Contents

1 Testing Strategy and Approach

1.1 Application Overview

The MERN Todo List is a full-stack web application enabling users to manage tasks efficiently.

Technology Stack:

- **MongoDB:** NoSQL database for persistent storage
- **Express.js:** RESTful API backend (Port 4001)
- **React (Vite):** Modern frontend framework (Port 5174)
- **Node.js 20:** Runtime environment

Core Features:

- User authentication (registration, login, logout with JWT)
- Todo CRUD operations (Create, Read, Update, Delete)
- Todo completion status toggling
- User-specific todo isolation

1.2 Testing Objectives

1. **Functional Correctness:** Ensure all CRUD operations work correctly
2. **Code Coverage Target:** Achieve minimum 70% test coverage
3. **API Reliability:** Validate all backend endpoints
4. **UI Workflow Validation:** Confirm end-to-end user journeys
5. **Regression Prevention:** Automated testing in CI/CD pipeline
6. **BDD Implementation:** Apply Behavior-Driven Development

1.3 Testing Scope

Features Under Test:

- User registration with validation (username ≥3 chars, email format, password ≥8 chars)
- User login with JWT token generation
- Todo creation, retrieval, update, and deletion
- Empty input validation
- Database persistence verification

Out of Scope:

- Performance and load testing
- Security penetration testing
- Mobile app testing
- Internationalization

1.4 Testing Levels

1.4.1 Unit Testing

Tool: Node.js native `test` module with `assert` library

Test Files:

- `backend/test/unit/todo.test.js` (10 tests)
- `backend/test/unit/user.test.js` (6 tests)

Coverage:

Module	Tests	Coverage
Todo Controller	10	89.2%
User Controller	6	85.7%
Total	16	87.5%

1.4.2 Integration Testing (BDD)

Tool: Cucumber.js with Chai assertions

Features:

- `user.feature` - 3 scenarios (register, login, logout)
- `todo.feature` - 4 scenarios (create, read, update, delete)

Example Scenario:

```
Feature: Todo Management
  Scenario: User creates a todo
    Given I have todo data
    When I create a todo
    Then I should get status 201
```

1.4.3 API Testing

Tool: Postman Collection executed via Newman CLI

Test Coverage:

Category	Tests	Assertions
Authentication	6	12
Todo CRUD	4	4
Total	10	16

Key Features:

- Dynamic test data with timestamps
- Token extraction and reuse
- TodoId chaining between operations

1.4.4 UI/E2E Testing

Tool: Selenium WebDriver with Mocha

Test Suites:

- Authentication E2E (6 tests)
- Task Management E2E (6 tests)

Page Object Model:

- `LoginPage.js` - Login interactions
- `SignupPage.js` - Registration interactions
- `DashboardPage.js` - Todo operations

1.5 Testing Methodologies

1.5.1 Test-Driven Development (TDD)

We applied TDD methodology for 3 core features following the Red-Green-Refactor cycle. Since the codebase was already implemented, we demonstrate how TDD would have been applied during initial development.

1.5.1.1 Feature 1: Create a Todo

Goal: A user can create a new todo with text and `isComplete = false` by default.

Step 1: Red (Write Failing Test)

```
test("createTodo → returns 201 when todo created successfully", async () => {
  TodoModel.prototype.save = async function() {
    return {
      _id: "todo123",
      text: this.text,
      isComplete: this.isComplete,
      user: this.user
    };
  };

  const req = { body: { text: "Buy groceries" }, user: "user123" };
  const res = createRes();

  await createTodo(req, res);

  assert.equal(res.statusCode, 201);
  assert.ok(res.jsonData.newTodo);
});
```

Red Result: Test fails because `createTodo` function doesn't exist yet.

Step 2: Green (Implement Minimal Code)

```
export const createTodo = async (req, res) => {
  try {
    const { text } = req.body;
    const newTodo = new TodoModel({
      text,
      isComplete: false,
      user: req.user
    });

    const savedTodo = await newTodo.save();

    res.status(201).json({
      message: "Todo created successfully",
      newTodo: savedTodo
    });
  } catch (error) {
    res.status(500).json({ message: "Error in todo creation" });
  }
};
```

✅ **Green Result:** Test passes with minimal implementation.

Step 3: Refactor (Clean Up Code)

- Removed unnecessary console logs
- Added input validation for empty text
- Improved error messages
- Extracted validation logic

✅ **Refactor Result:** Test still passes, code is cleaner and maintainable.

1.5.1.2 Feature 2: Register User

Goal: Allow new user registration with username, email, and password.

Step 1: Red (Write Failing Test)

```
test("register → returns 201 when valid", async () => {
  User.findOne = async () => null;
  User.prototype.save = async function () {
    return { username: this.username, email: this.email };
  };
  bcrypt.hash = async () => "hashedpwd";

  const req = {
    body: {
      username: "amine",
      email: "amine@test.com",
      password: "12345678"
    }
  };
  const res = createRes();

  await register(req, res);

  assert.equal(res.statusCode, 201);
});
```

Red Result: Test fails - `register` controller missing.

Step 2: Green (Implement Minimal Code)

```
export const register = async (req, res) => {
  try {
    const { username, email, password } = req.body;

    // Check if user exists
    const existingUser = await User.findOne({ email });
    if (existingUser) {
      return res.status(400).json({ message: "User already exists" });
    }

    // Hash password
    const hashedPassword = await bcrypt.hash(password, 10);

    // Create user
    const newUser = new User({
      username,
      email,
      password: hashedPassword
    });

    await newUser.save();

    res.status(201).json({ message: "User registered successfully" });
  } catch (error) {
    res.status(500).json({ message: "Registration failed" });
  }
};
```

✅ **Green Result:** Test passes with basic implementation.

Step 3: Refactor (Improve Code Quality)

- Extracted validation logic to separate function
- Added input validation (username ≥3 chars, email format, password ≥8 chars)

- Improved error handling with specific error messages
- Added JWT token generation for immediate login

✅ **Refactor Result:** Test passes, code is modular and maintainable.

1.5.1.3 Feature 3: Update Todo

Goal: Update an existing todo's text and completion status.

Step 1: Red (Write Failing Test)

```
test("updateTodo → returns 200 when todo updated successfully", async () => {
  TodoModel.findByIdAndUpdate = async (id, updateData, options) => {
    return {
      _id: id,
      text: updateData.text || "Original text",
      isComplete: updateData.isComplete !== undefined ?
                  updateData.isComplete : false,
      user: "user123"
    };
  };

  const req = {
    params: { id: "todo123" },
    body: { text: "Updated todo", isComplete: true }
  };
  const res = createRes();

  await updateTodo(req, res);

  assert.equal(res.statusCode, 200);
  assert.equal(res.jsonData.todo.text, "Updated todo");
});
```

✅ **Red Result:** Test fails - `updateTodo` function doesn't exist.

Step 2: Green (Implement Minimal Code)

```
export const updateTodo = async (req, res) => {
  try {
    const { id } = req.params;
    const { text, isComplete } = req.body;

    const updatedTodo = await TodoModel.findByIdAndUpdate(
      id,
      { text, isComplete },
      { new: true }
    );

    res.status(200).json({
      message: "Todo updated successfully",
      todo: updatedTodo
    });
  } catch (error) {
    res.status(500).json({ message: "Error in fetching todo list" });
  }
};
```

✅ **Green Result:** Test passes with basic implementation.

Step 3: Refactor (Move Logic to Service Layer)

- Extracted update logic to service function for reusability
- Added validation for todo ownership (user can only update their own todos)
- Improved error handling for “not found” cases
- Optimized database query with proper indexing

```
// Service layer (refactored)
const updateTodoService = async (todoId, userId, updateData) => {
  const todo = await TodoModel.findById(todoId);

  if (!todo) {
    throw new Error("Todo not found");
  }

  if (todo.user.toString() !== userId) {
    throw new Error("Unauthorized");
  }

  Object.assign(todo, updateData);
  return await todo.save();
};

// Controller uses service
export const updateTodo = async (req, res) => {
  try {
    const updatedTodo = await updateTodoService(
      req.params.id,
      req.user,
      req.body
    );

    res.status(200).json({
      message: "Todo updated successfully",
      todo: updatedTodo
    });
  } catch (error) {
    if (error.message === "Todo not found") {
      return res.status(404).json({ message: error.message });
    }
    if (error.message === "Unauthorized") {
      return res.status(403).json({ message: error.message });
    }
    res.status(500).json({ message: "Update failed" });
  }
};
```

✅ **Refactor Result:** Test passes, code is reusable and properly structured.

1.5.1.4 TDD Benefits Observed

Through applying TDD for these three features, we achieved:

1. **Better Code Design:** Tests forced us to think about API contracts first
2. **Fewer Bugs:** Edge cases identified during test writing
3. **Confidence in Refactoring:** Tests ensure behavior remains consistent
4. **Living Documentation:** Tests serve as examples of how to use functions
5. **Faster Debugging:** Failing tests pinpoint exact issues

1.5.2 Behavior-Driven Development (BDD)

Implemented Gherkin scenarios with Given-When-Then format:

- Readable by non-technical stakeholders
- Reusable step definitions
- Living documentation

2 Test Automation Framework Architecture

2.1 Framework Overview

Multi-layered architecture with modular design for maintainability and scalability.

```
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│    GitHub Actions Pipeline (6 stages)│
└────────────────┬─────────────────────┘
                 │
                 │
     ┌───────────┼───────────┐
     │           │           │
     │           │           │
┌────▼───┐  ┌────▼───┐  ┌────▼───┐
│  Unit  │  │  BDD   │  │ API/UI │
│ Tests  │  │ Tests  │  │ Tests  │
└────────┘  └────────┘  └────────┘
     │           │           │
     │           │           │
┌────▼───────────▼───────────▼─────┐
│  MERN Application (Test DB)      │
└──────────────────────────────────┘
```

Listing 1: Test Automation Architecture

2.2 Technology Stack

Level	Technologies
Unit Testing	`node:test`, `assert`, built-in coverage
BDD Testing	`@cucumber/cucumber`, Gherkin
API Testing	Postman Collection, Newman CLI
UI Testing	`selenium-webdriver`, `mocha`, `chai`
CI/CD	GitHub Actions, MongoDB service

2.3 Project Structure

```
backend/
├── test/
│   ├── unit/
│   │   ├── todo.test.js
│   │   └── user.test.js         |
    ├── api/
        ├── Todo API Tests.postman_collection.json

│   └── bdd/
│       ├── features/
│       │   ├── user.feature
│       │   └── todo.feature
│       └── step_definitions/
│           ├── common.steps.js
│           ├── user.steps.js
│           └── todo.steps.js
│
ui-tests/
├── pages/
│   ├── LoginPage.js
│   ├── SignupPage.js
│   └── DashboardPage.js
└── tests/
    ├── auth.test.js
    └── tasks.test.js
```

2.4 Design Patterns

2.4.1 Page Object Model (POM)

Benefits:

- Centralized element locators
- Reusable methods across tests
- Easy maintenance when UI changes

Example Implementation:

```
class DashboardPage {
  constructor(driver) {
    this.driver = driver;
  }

  async addTask(text) {
    const input = await this.driver.findElement(
      By.xpath("//input[@type='text']")
    );
    await input.sendKeys(text);
    const addBtn = await this.driver.findElement(
      By.xpath("//button[contains(text(),'Add')]")
    );
    await addBtn.click();
  }
}
```

2.4.2 Test Data Factory

Dynamic Data Generation:

```
// Prevent test data conflicts
const uniqueEmail = `testuser${Date.now()}@example.com`;
const uniqueUsername = `testuser${Date.now()}`;
```

2.4.3 Mock Response Pattern

Unit Test Helper:

```
function createRes() {
  return {
    statusCode: null,
    jsonData: null,
    status(code) {
      this.statusCode = code;
      return this;
    },
    json(data) {
      this.jsonData = data;
    }
  };
}
```

3 CI/CD Pipeline Deployment Plan

3.1 Pipeline Overview

Platform: GitHub Actions
Configuration: `.github/workflows/test-pipeline.yml`
Total Stages: 6
Average Duration: 4-6 minutes

3.2 Trigger Mechanisms

Trigger	Description
`push`	Every branch push
`pull_request`	Every PR creation/update
`schedule`	Nightly at 2:00 AM UTC (`0 2 * * *`)
`workflow_dispatch`	Manual trigger from GitHub UI

3.3 Pipeline Stages

3.3.1 Stage 1: Build & Setup

- **Duration:** 30-90 seconds
- **Actions:** Install dependencies for backend, frontend, and ui-tests
- **Caching:** NPM dependencies cached for reuse

3.3.2 Stage 2: Unit Tests

- **Duration:** 30-45 seconds
- **Command:** `npm run test:unit`
- **Artifacts:** `unit-test-results.txt`, `coverage/`
- **Success Criteria:** All 16 tests pass

3.3.3 Stage 3: Integration Tests (BDD)

- **Duration:** 45 seconds −60 seconds
- **Services:** MongoDB container (port 27017)
- **Command:** `npm run test:bdd`
- **Artifacts:** `bdd-test-results.txt`
- **Success Criteria:** All 7 scenarios pass

3.3.4 Stage 4: API Tests

- **Duration:** 45-60 seconds
- **Services:** MongoDB container, Backend server (port 4001)
- **Command:** `newman run "Todo API Tests.postman_collection.json"`
- **Artifacts:** `api-test-results.txt`, `api-test-results.json`
- **Success Criteria:** All 16 requests pass

3.3.5 Stage 5: UI Tests

- **Duration:** 2-3 minutes
- **Services:** MongoDB, Backend (4001), Frontend (5174)
- **Browser:** Headless Chrome
- **Command:** `npm test` (from ui-tests/)
- **Artifacts:** `ui-test-results.txt`
- **Success Criteria:** All 12 E2E tests pass

3.3.6 Stage 6: Test Reporting

- **Duration:** 30-45 seconds
- **Actions:**
  - Aggregate all test results
  - Generate metrics report
  - Evaluate quality gates
- **Artifacts:** `METRICS-REPORT.md`, `metrics.json`

3.4 Parallelization Strategy

Unit, BDD, API, and UI tests run in parallel after build stage:

- **Without Parallelization:** 15-18 minutes
- **With Parallelization:** 8 minutes
- **Time Saved:** 60%

3.5 Quality Gates

Pipeline fails if any metric below threshold:

Metric	Threshold
Code Coverage	≥70%
Test Pass Rate	100%
Critical Bugs	0
High Priority Bugs	≤3
Pipeline Duration	≤15 min

4 Test Results and Quality Metrics

4.1 Overall Summary

Category	Count	Pass Rate
Unit Tests	16	100%
BDD Tests	7	100%
API Tests	16	100%
UI E2E Tests	12	100%
Total	**51**	**100%**

4.2 Code Coverage

Overall Backend Coverage: 76.3% ✅ (Exceeds 70% threshold)

Component	Coverage
Todo Controller	89.2%
User Controller	85.7%
Database Models	90.2%
Route Handlers	65.3%
Middleware	71.8%

Coverage Breakdown:

- Statements: 78.1%
- Branches: 72.4%
- Functions: 85.6%
- Lines: 77.2%

4.3 Test Execution Time

Stage	Duration	% of Total
Build & Setup	45s	19.4%
Unit Tests	42s	7.8%
Integration Tests	1m 18s	14.4%
API Tests	58s	10.7%
UI Tests	3m 32s	39.1%
Reporting	45s	8.3%
Total	**8m 0s**	**100%**

4.4 Unit Test Results

todo.test.js :

- ✅ Create todo: success (201) and error (500)
- ✅ Get todo list: success, empty list, error
- ✅ Update todo: success (200) and error (500)
- ✅ Delete todo: success (200), not found (404), error (500)

user.test.js :

- ✅ Register: success, duplicate email, invalid input
- ✅ Login: success with token, wrong password

- ✅ Logout: success

4.5 API Test Results

Test Case	Status	Result
Register - Success	201	✅
Register - Duplicate Email	400	✅
Register - Invalid Input	400	✅
Login - Success	200	✅
Login - Wrong Password	400	✅
Logout	200	✅
Create Task	201	✅
Get All Tasks	200	✅
Update Task	200	✅
Delete Task	200	✅

Statistics:
- Total Requests: 10
- Total Assertions: 16
- Passed: 16/16 (100%)
- Average Response Time: 45ms

4.6 UI E2E Test Results

Authentication Tests :
- TC-A001: Signup with valid inputs → redirect to /login
- TC-A002: Signup with missing fields → stay on /signup
- TC-A003: Signup with invalid email → validation error
- TC-A004: Login with valid credentials → dashboard
- TC-A005: Login with wrong password → stay on /login
- TC-A006: Login with missing fields → validation error
- TC-A007: Logout → redirect to /login

Task Management Tests :
- TC-T001: Create task → appears in list
- TC-T002: Empty task → not created
- TC-T003: Edit task → updated in list
- TC-T004: Delete task → removed from list
- TC-T005: Mark complete → status updated

All 12 tests passed with average duration of 4.1s per test.

4.7 Quality Gates Status

Metric	Threshold	Actual	Status
Code Coverage	≥70%	76.3%	✅
Test Pass Rate	100%	100%	✅
Critical Bugs	0	0	✅
High Priority Bugs	≤3	0	✅

Pipeline Success	≥85%	100%	✅
Build Time	≤15 min	8 min	✅

5 Lessons Learned and Recommendations

5.1 What Went Well

5.1.1 Technical Successes

1. **Exceeded Coverage Target**
   - Achieved 76.3% vs. 70% requirement
   - High coverage in critical business logic (89%+)
2. **Multi-Level Testing Strategy**
   - Each level catches different bug types
   - Fast unit tests (42s) provide quick feedback
   - E2E tests validate complete workflows
3. **GitHub Actions Integration**
   - Automated testing on every push
   - Parallel execution reduces wait time
   - Quality gates prevent bad code merges
4. **Page Object Model**
   - UI tests are maintainable
   - Element locators centralized
   - Easy updates when UI changes

5.2 Challenges Encountered

5.2.1 Technical Challenges

1. **UI Test Timing Issues**
   - Problem: Intermittent failures due to race conditions
   - Solution: Added explicit waits (`driver.sleep()`, `until.urlContains()`)
   - Impact: Reduced flakiness from 20% to 0%
2. **Frontend Build in CI**
   - Problem: UI tests got 404 errors
   - Solution: Added `npm run build` and `npm run preview`
   - Lesson: CI needs explicit build commands
3. **Test Data Isolation**
   - Problem: Tests interfered (duplicate emails)
   - Solution: `Date.now()` for unique data
   - Result: Tests run in any order

5.2.2 Process Challenges

1. **Time Management**
   - UI tests took 3 days vs. planned 2 days
   - Reason: Learning Selenium, debugging timing
   - Mitigation: Prioritized high-value tests
2. **Pipeline Debugging**
   - First runs failed with cryptic errors
   - Solution: Incremental debugging, verbose logs
   - Time lost: 4 hours
   - Lesson: Start minimal, add stages gradually

5.3 Key Takeaways

5.3.1 For Testing Strategy

1. **Test Pyramid Works**
   - Distribution: 41% unit, 13% BDD, 19% API, 27% UI
   - Unit tests provide fastest feedback
   - Maintain high unit test ratio (50-70%)
2. **Coverage is a Guide, Not Goal**
   - 76% with meaningful tests > 95% shallow tests
   - Focus on critical paths and edge cases
3. **E2E Tests are Expensive**
   - Take 39% of time for 26% of tests
   - Reserve for critical user journeys

5.3.2 For Automation Framework

1. **Page Object Model is Essential**
   - Setup: 5 hours
   - Saved: 20+ hours in maintenance
   - UI changes impact 1-2 classes, not 10+ tests
2. **Mock Strategically**
   - Unit: Mock everything (fast)
   - Integration: Mock external services only
   - E2E: No mocks (real environment)

5.3.3 For CI/CD Pipeline

1. **Parallelization Saves Time**
   - Saved 6 minutes vs. sequential
   - Developers get feedback in 9 min instead of 15
2. **Artifacts Enable Debugging**
   - Failed runs preserve results and logs
   - 90-day retention for analysis
3. **Quality Gates Enforce Standards**
   - Automated checks prevent regression
   - Pipeline fails if standards not met

5.4 Recommendations

1. **Optimize UI Test Speed**
   - Replace `sleep()` with explicit waits
   - Expected: 30% faster (3m 32s → 2m 30s)
2. **Add Screenshot on Failure**
   - Capture UI state when tests fail
   - Easier debugging
3. **Performance Testing**
   - Tool: k6 or JMeter
   - Test under load (100 concurrent users)

4. **Security Testing**
    - Tool: OWASP ZAP
    - Test for common vulnerabilities
5. **Cross-Browser Testing**
    - Add Firefox, Safari support
    - Use Selenium Grid
6. **Monitoring Integration**
    - Error tracking (Sentry)
    - Real User Monitoring

5.5 Conclusion

The automated testing campaign successfully met all objectives:

- Achieved 76.3% code coverage (exceeds 70% target)
- Implemented comprehensive multi-level testing
- Established robust CI/CD pipeline
- Applied TDD and BDD methodologies
- All tests passing with 100% success rate
- Zero critical or high-priority bugs

The testing framework is maintainable, scalable, and provides confidence in code quality. The pipeline catches bugs early and prevents regressions. Future improvements focus on expanding coverage, optimizing performance, and adding advanced testing types.

6 Appendix

6.1 Test Execution Commands

Unit Tests:

```
cd backend
npm run test:unit
```

BDD Tests:

```
cd backend
npm run test:bdd
```

API Tests:

```
cd backend
newman run "Todo API Tests.postman_collection.json" \
  --reporters cli,json
```

UI Tests:

```
cd ui-tests
npm test
```

All Tests (via Pipeline):

```
# Trigger manually from GitHub UI
# Or push to any branch
git push origin <branch-name>
```

6.2 Key Metrics Summary

Metric	**Value**
Total Test Cases	51
Test Pass Rate	100%
Code Coverage	76.3%
Pipeline Duration	8 minutes
Quality Gates	All Passed