

# Exploratory Testing Foundations

Maaret Pyhäjärvi

v. 2.3 (2024-08-04)



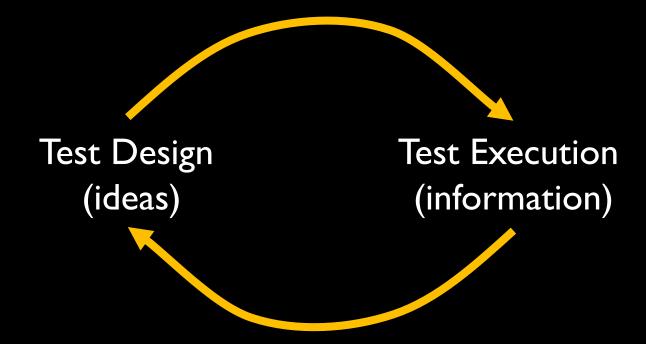


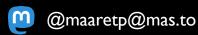


# Optimizing the value of testing



# Learning





# Exploratory Testing the Verb

**INPUT** 

Doing Testing

OUTPUT





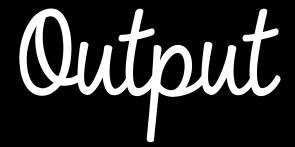
# Input

#### Tester

Domain knowledge
Requirements and specifications
Testing knowledge
Miscellaneous knowledge







Better tester

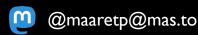
Coverage

Information incl. defects and change requests

Documentation: Strategy

Documentation: Tests





### Course Outline

Chapter 1:Test target and our options for exploring

Chapter 2: Self-management basics on setting yourself

constraints

Chapter 3: The moment of first impression

Chapter 4: Recognizing and learning a domain

Chapter 5: Recognizing functionality

Chapter 6: Recognizing data

Chapter 7: Recognizing application and execution

environment

Chapter 8: Documenting in a mindmap

Chapter 9: pytest the very basics

Chapter 10: Documenting as skeleton test automation

Chapter II: Playwright library and CSS selectors on web

pages

Chapter 12: Documenting as executable test automation

Chapter 13:Why this is not about any specific tool

Chapter 14: Use of time

Chapter 15: Coverage

Chapter 16: Test Strategy

Chapter 17: Full results and reproducing from customer

feedback

Chapter 18: Closing remarks

### Course Outline

Section 1:

Section II:

Section III:

4-13

Section IV:

Options for Exploring

Control through Choices

Documenting (with Automation)

Extending with Function, Data,

**Environment and Domain** 

Use of time and coverage



## Test Target and Our Options for Exploring

Chapter I

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This test target is from collections of <u>Alan Richardson</u>, <u>eviltester</u>, a brilliant exploratory tester.

#### E-Primer an e-prime checking tool

Do you want to write without using the verb "to be"?

Do you want to master e-prime?

Use our online tool to check your writing.

- Word Count:
- Discouraged Words:
- Possible Violations:

Text:		
Check For F-Prime		

## Stop-and-Think: Options for Exploring

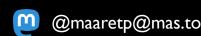
What would you do first, and soon after you get started?

List all things that come to your mind about how you could test this. What would you start from? What you would not do?



# Options for Exploring

Research the Domain
Use test target with a constraint



### Self-management Bazics on Setting Yourself Constraints

Chapter 2



### Charters

#### Charter template

- target: where you're exploring
- resources: what you're using/how you're exploring
- information: what question you want to answer

Elizabeth Zagroba's concise template adapted from Elizabeth Hendrickson's template

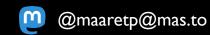




# Choose Your Own Constraint

Deliberately excluding perspectives!

Never Be Bored!



#### Explore with Intent

INTENT

Mission

Charter

Other Charters

Details

LEARNINGS



# Stop-and-Think: Charters, Constraints, Intent

You're approaching the moment of first impression. How do you want to frame your moment of first impression?

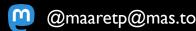


### The Moment of First Ampression

Chapter 3

# Options Expire

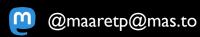
Capture First Impression
Borrow someone else's First Impression
Timing of feedback changes reaction to it!



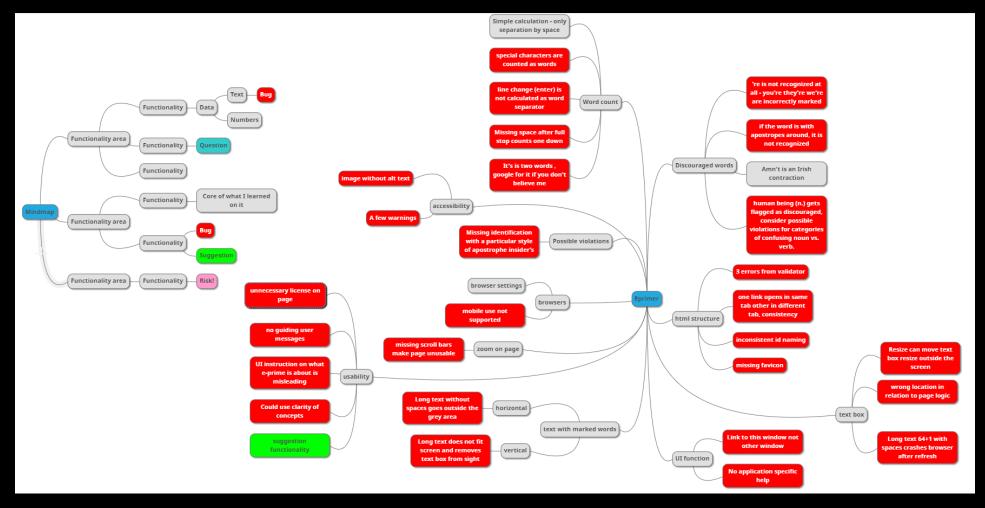
#### Let's Test

https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html

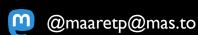


### Example: Test Results, Red is Bug



## Bugs are Conversation Starters

Bug is anything that might bug a user. You start conversations about defects and change requests.



# Recognizing and Learning a Lomain

Chapter 4

Conference Reference Inference





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Do you want to master e-prime?

Use our online tool to check your writing.

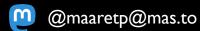
- Word Count: 9
- Discouraged Words: 3
- Possible Violations: 1

#### To be or not to be is Hamlet's dilemma

#### Text:

To be or not to be is Hamlet's dilemma

Check For E-Prime

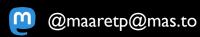


```
function inEPrimeOutputFormat(aWord){
    return '<span class="ep violation">' + aWord + "</span>";
function inPossibleEPrimeOutputFormat(aWord){
    return '<span class="ep warning">' + aWord + "</span>";
function isDiscouragedWord(aWord){
    var discouragedWords = new Array();
    discouragedWords['be'] = 'be';
    discouragedWords['being'] = 'being';
    discouragedWords['been'] = 'been';
    discouragedWords['am'] = 'am';
    discouragedWords["isn't"] = "isn't";
    discouragedWords["are"] = "are";
    discouragedWords["aren't"] = "aren't";
    discouragedWords["was"] = "was";
    discouragedWords["wasn't"] = "wasn't";
    discouragedWords["were"] = "were";
    discouragedWords["weren't"] = "weren't";
    discouragedWords["is"] = "is";
    discouragedWords["ain't"] = "ain't";
    discouragedWords["i'm"] = "i'm";
    discouragedWords["amn't"] = "amn't";
            return (discouragedWords[aWord.toLowerCase()]==aWord.toLowerCase());
```

#### Let's Test

https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

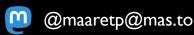
https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html



### Learning of Domain of E-Primer

Core Idea	Writing English language avoiding verb "be" in all its forms
Why?	Someone claims it had benefits, intellectual challenge
Examples	Used in sentences Listed examples
Sample texts	The Bible!





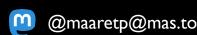
# Recognizing Functionality

Chapter 5



# Naming of Function

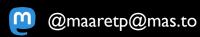
Functions in Code Expected Features Visible Features



#### Let's Test

https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

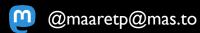
https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html



### Learning of Function of E-Primer

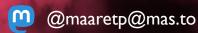
Input	Text field and button
Output	Three numbers, text area
Containers	Resizable text field, resizable browser window, page
Presentation	Fonts, text and element sizes, order of functions
Browser	Settings, zoom
Algorithm	Recognizing eprime



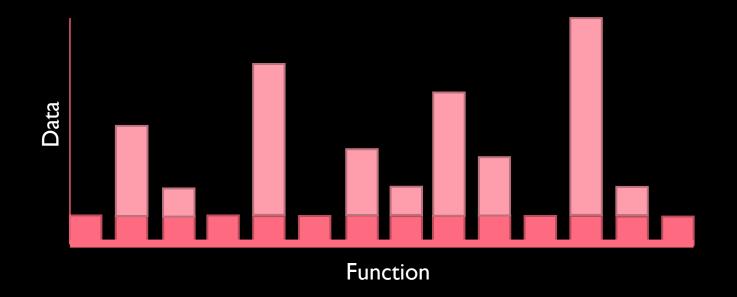


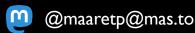
# Recognizing Data

Chapter 6



### Data or Variables

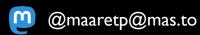




### Versatile Data

Lifecycle of Data: Create, Read, Update, Delete Known problematic inputs: GitHub Naughty Strings

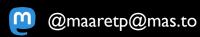
https://github.com/minimaxir/big-list-of-naughty-strings/blob/master/blns.txt



#### Let's Test

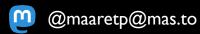
https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html



#### Learning of Data of E-Primer

Word delimiter	Space, wordcount breaks with characters and line change
Types of apostrophes	Typesetter / typewriter
Long text	Copied / tool generated
Valid eprime	Recognizing right as right
Eprime violations	Recognizing wrong as wrong



# Recognizing Application and Execution Environment



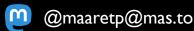
### What You Coded is a Bad Constraint



000

You can't say "Signal is secure, it's the OS that's not" if Signal cannot operate without an OS. They are a system-can only be used as a system, they need to be evaluated as a system, and their effectiveness as a system disclosed to customers.

3:58 AM · Jan 16, 2021 · Twitter Web App



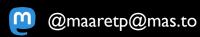
#### Execution Environment

Different browsers: web and mobile Browser functionality and add-ons HTML standard compatibility Accessibility standard compatibility

#### Let's Test

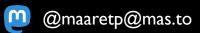
https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html

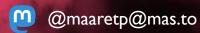


#### Learning of Application and Execution Environment of E-Primer

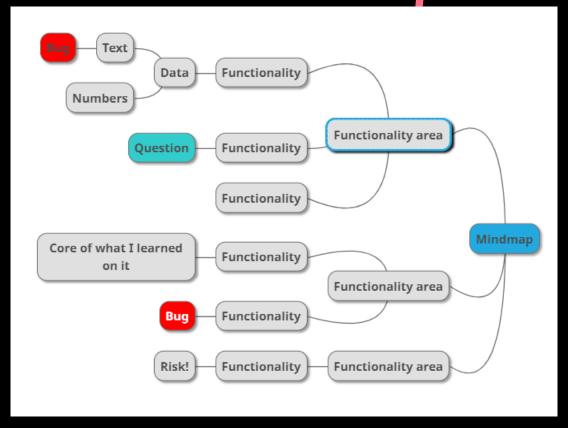
Browser	Chrome, Brave,
Screen size	Web, Mobile
Browser Settings	Zoom, Security,
Add-ons	BugMagnet
Validators	HTML, Accessibility,



# Documenting in a Mindmap



## Minamap



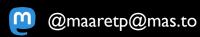
Reporting Heuristic. Kaner. Bug Cem

Replicate 2 solate azimize eneralize xternalize neutral tone

#### Let's Test

https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html



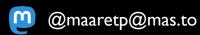
#### Mindmapping as Future Reference

Notetaking in the moment

Restructure as you learn

Documentation for the future

General purpose mindmaps



# the Very Basics





Popular test runner for python language Used both for unit tests and orchestrated tests Integrates with libraries in python ecosystem

#### Documenting as Skeleton Test Automation





## Document in Context of Code

```
def this is a test():
    #first thing to do
    #second thing to do
    #third thing to do
    pass
```

```
platform win32 -- Python 3.10.2, pytest-7.0.0, pluggy-1.0.0
rootdir: C:\avimet\avimet-bdd, configfile: pytest.ini
plugins: anyio-3.5.0, approvaltests-0.2.3, base-url-1.4.2, bdd-5.0.0, playwright-0.2.2
collected 1 item
                                                                                  [100%]
test.py .
                          ======= 1 passed in 0.02s =========
PS C:\avimet\avimet-bdd\tests>
```

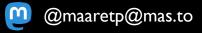
Scenario: Eprime analysis

Given the eprime page is displayed

When user analyses sentence to be or not to be

Then user learns sentence has 2 be-verbs, 0 possible be-verbs and total 6 words

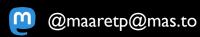




#### Let's Test

https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html



#### Skeleton Test Automation

Stepwise Test Cases as Automation Placeholders

Like test cases but version controlled as code

Handoff to a task that is decomposing testing differently



## Playwright Lubrary and ccs Selectors on Web Page



# Playwright Library

Browser driver by Microsoft
Speed – Reliability – Visibility
Automatic waits

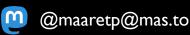
from playwright.sync\_api import Page

# Library/ Methods

```
import pytest
    from playwright.sync_api import Page
3
    def test_example(page: Page):
4
        page.goto("https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/")
        page.screenshot(path="example.png")
6
```

https://playwright.dev/python/docs/intro





## css selectors

```
#id
.class
tag
[attribute='value']
[part_of_attribute_value_contains*='value']
```

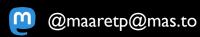
### Documenting as Executable Test Automation



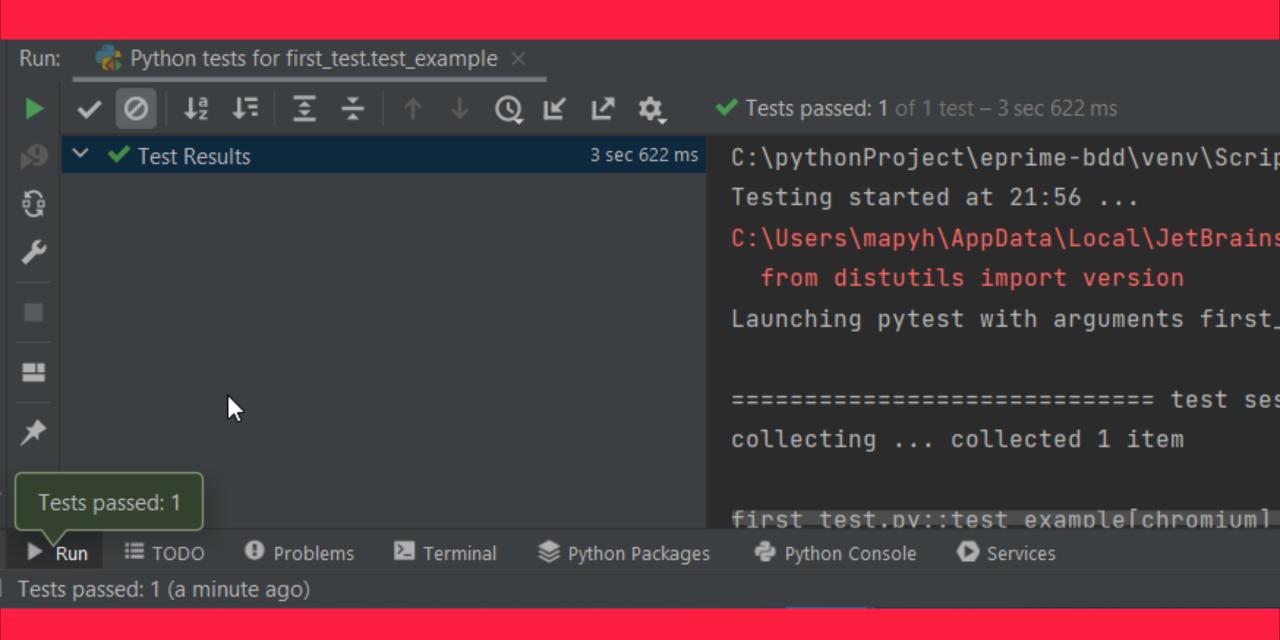
#### Let's Test

https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

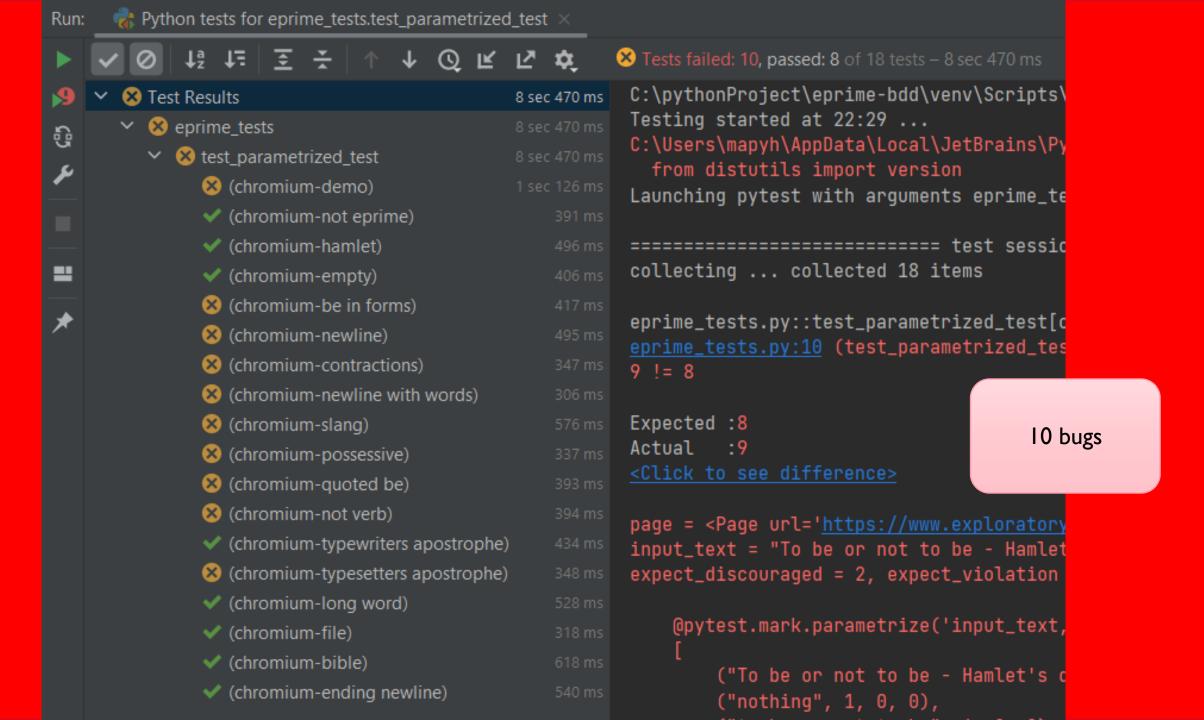
https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html



```
from playwright.sync_api import Page
|def test_example(page: Page):
    page.goto("https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/")
   page.fill("#inputtext", "To be or not to be - Hamlet's dilemma")
    page.click("#CheckForEPrimeButton")
    # it should really be 8, but it's not
    assert page.inner_text("#wordCount") == "9"
    assert page.inner_text("#discouragedWordCount") == "2"
    assert page.inner_text("#possibleViolationCount") == "1"
```



```
@ eprime_tests.py
      import pytest
      from playwright.sync_api import Page
      url = "https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/"
      def this_is_file(text):...
      Opytest.mark.parametrize('input_text, expect_wordcount, expect_discouraged, expect_violation',
          ("To be or not to be - Hamlet's dilemma", 8, 2, 1),
          ("be, being, been, am, is, isn't, are, aren't, was, wasn't, were, and weren't.", 17, 12, 0),
          ("I'm, you're, we're, they're, he's, she's, it's, there's, here's, where's, how's, what's, who's, aint's, that's.", 30, 4, 11),
                                                                                                                           18 tests,
           ("typewriter's apostrophe", 2, 0, 1),
                                                                                                                        3 browsers
          (1000 * "x", 1, 0, 0),
           (this_is_file('sample'), 508, 2, 0),
           (this_is_file('bible'), 31172, 21, 1),
      ∮ids=['demo', 'not eprime', 'hamlet', 'empty', 'be in forms', 'newline', 'contractions', 'newline with words', 'slang',
      'possessive', 'quoted be', 'not verb', 'typewriters apostrophe', 'typesetters apostrophe', 'long word', 'file', 'bible', 'ending newline']
      Jdef test_parametrized_test(page: Page, input_text, expect_wordcount, expect_discouraged, expect_violation):
          page.goto(url)
          page.fill("#inputtext", input_text)
          page.click("#CheckForEPrimeButton")
           assert page.inner_text("#wordCount") == str(expect_wordcount)
          assert page.inner_text("#discouragedWordCount") == str(expect_discouraged)
          assert page.inner_text("#possibleViolationCount") == str(expect_violation)
```



```
Requires pytest-bdd +
Feature: Eprime text analysis
                                                                                        refactoring to step-
   As a user,
                                                                                               methods
   I want to verify my text for violations of eprime,
   So I learn to write proper English
   Scenario Outline: Eprime samples are correctly analyzed
       Given the eprime page is displayed
       When user analyses sentence <sentence>
       Then user learns sentence has <count_certain> be-verbs, <count_possible> possible be-verbs and total <count_total> words
       Examples:
                                                   count_certain | count_possible | count_total |
        sentence
        to be or not to be - Hamlet's dilemma
        cat is hat
        nothing
        I'm, you're, we're, they're, he's, she's
                                                                                  1 12
```

Documenting as Executable Test Automation

Single line

- →See it fail
- →First test
- → Same test but variables
- → Same test but templates
- → Failing test with a bug
- →Spec to tests
- →Guess the values that are likely to fail
- → Multiple browsers

Throwaway automation?



# Why This is not about Any Specific Tool





## Documentation aç a Constraint

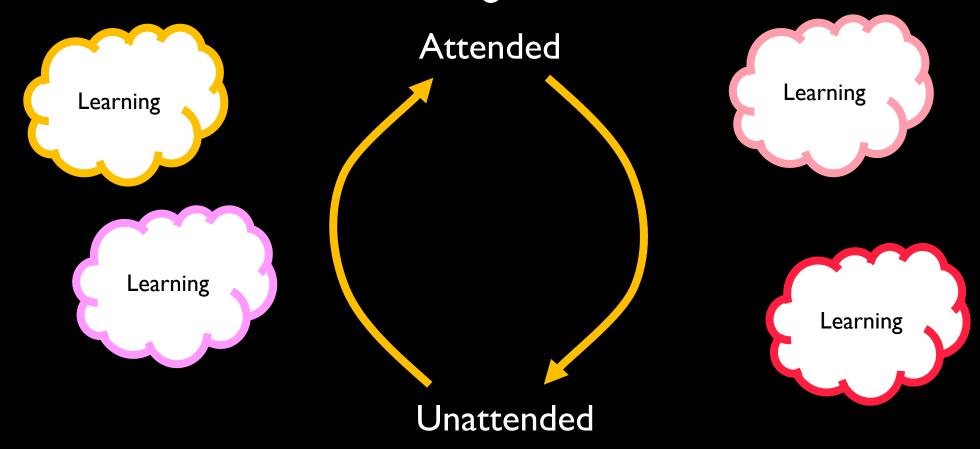
A Balancing Act between Now and Future Never be bored is not possible without automation



## Automation in Franco Exploratory Texting

Documenting
Extending reach
Alerting to attend
Guiding to detail

# Moving Focus



## Stop-and-Think: Test Automation as Documentation

How would the testing you did before this have been different if you were to start with this?

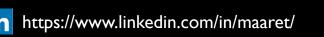


# Use of Time



## Test, Bug, Setup

Software with little bugs is faster to test
Setup is configuring, learning and
documenting
Test grows coverage







This test target is from collections of <u>Alan Richardson</u>, <u>eviltester</u>, a brilliant exploratory tester.

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Do you want to write without using the verb "to be"?

Do you want to master e-prime?

Use our online tool to check your writing.

- Word Count: 9
- Discouraged Words: 2
- Possible Violations: 1



#### Text:

to be or not to be - hamlet's dilemma

Check For E-Prime



Bug trap

Test Cases

Algorithm trap



Data trap





## Stop-and-Think: Time and Traps

Where did your time go on testing of the application?

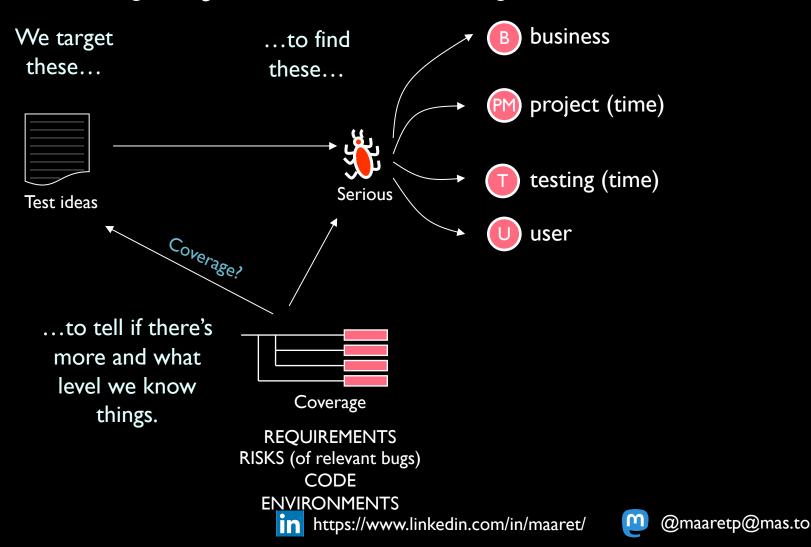


# Coverage



### Setting the Stage for Testing

WHAT WHEN WHO HOW WHY

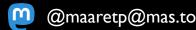


## Rick Coverage

Coverage of relevant bugs

Effectiveness – results of overall strategy
facilitate experience of quality for

stakeholders



## Stop-and-Think: Coverage of Today's Testing

Would the testing you thought of have missed any of the bugs we have seen?

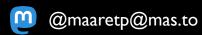
What did we not test?



# Test Strategy

# Adeas that Guide Test Design

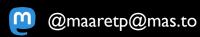
Specific to Application Under Test Risks to ways of testing for them



#### Let's Test

https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html



### Test Strategy for E-Primer

#### What is the product?

• E-Primer is an English text validator that checks text against specific rules around avoiding the verb 'to be'. It identifies rule breaking in two categories: one that can be checked by a rule, and another that needs human assessment (for now).

#### What are the key potential risks?

- · It suggest the wrong corrections and misses corrections in realistic text samples
- It miscounts words in a way that leads us to underappreciate the scale of processing.
- It looks wrong on some browsers and data samples
- It requires too much effort to learn in relation to the value of proofreading it provides

How could we test the product so as to evaluate the *actual* risks associated with it?

- · Understand the rules of e-prime through research
- Collect data samples (short and long ones) that represent both e-prime text and text that violates rules of e-prime and run them through the program.
- · Verify common forms of 'to be' are systematically recognized across the samples
- Document specification as automation that shows the rules of e-prime and enables running subset of all tests across browsers.
- · Try fooling word count to count less words or more words by specific data samples
- Run the web page through a set of html-validators
- · Visually verify the page with realistic e-prime text samples
- Read the code of the application for inspiration focusing on names of functions rather than understanding implementation
- · Summarize learning obstacles for user and value of the application as comparison sheet

maaretp@mas.to

## Full Regultz and Reproducing from Cuztomer Feedback



## Unvigible ink

Customers will tell you of some of the things you missed
Observing customers (incl. telemetry) will tell you of
some of the things you missed
Limited reporting capability

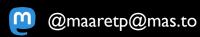


BUGS:	
Css validator gives errors	) word + space + enter creates extra vertical space in grey area
Special character as start of line forces an extra line change in grey display box	'is are' both are not recognised
Firefox text field does not clear with ctrl+R	zoom with and horizontal bar has issues, seen on edge and chrome, on win and Mac with touchpad
html validator identifies 3 errors	Wave accessibility tool does a forced refresh on close <b>TOOL?</b>
	On Chrome when settings panel scroll does not work. It works on Firefox. <b>TOOL?</b>
You're / we're / They're contractions not recognised as violations of e-prime	
Two words separated by line feed are counted as one	Enter in end of line moves last word to different line on grey box
Human being is noun but recognised as violation	Firefox does not come back from mobile use simulation without forced refresh with this site TOOL?
Space is considered only separator for words and special characters are counted as words	
Long text moves button outside user's access as vertical scroll is disabled	
id naming is inconsistent, some are camel case, others not	
Long texts without spaces go outside the grey area reserved for displaying the texts	
Red/blue on grey has bad contrast	
Ozoom or resize of browser renders page unusable due to missing scroll bars	
Ontractions for word count (I'm) count as two words as per general searchable rules of how word counting works	
The possible violation's category takes possessives and leaves for human assessment and would probably be expected to be something to create programmatic rules on	
O Possible violations does not handle typesetter's apostrophe, only typewriter's apostrophe in calculation	on
Two part words (like people's last names) in possessive form are not recognised as possible violations	
Images missing alt text necessary for accessibility	34 bugs
Accessibility warnings on contrast	
Mobile use not supported, styles very non-responsive	
UI instructions for user are unclear	
if word is in single quotes, it is not properly recognised as e-prime.	
text box location in UI is not where user would expect it to be as per the logic of how web pages are usually operating	
Osite is missing favicon and security.txt - both common conventions for web applications	
Resizing the input text field can move it outside view so that it cannot be resized back	
Choosing which links are to overload this app and which open new browser window are inconsistent	
<u>In</u>	nttps://www.iinkedin.com/in/maaret/ @maaretp@mas.to

#### Let's Test

https://www.exploratorytestingacademy.com/app/

https://eviltester.github.io/TestingApp/apps/eprimer/eprimer.html



### Finding (more of some) relevant Conversation Starters

You will never find all bugs.

Target finding only things that matter. Learn what matters.

Seeing and not reporting is better than not seeing problems.



## Cloging Remarks



## Course Outline

Chapter 1: Test target and our options for exploring

Chapter 2: Self-management basics on setting yourself

constraints

Chapter 3: The moment of first impression

Chapter 4: Recognizing and learning a domain

Chapter 5: Recognizing functionality

Chapter 6: Recognizing data

Chapter 7: Recognizing application and execution

environment

Chapter 8: Documenting in a mindmap

Chapter 9: pytest the very basics

Chapter 10: Documenting as skeleton test automation

Chapter 11: Playwright library and CSS selectors on web

pages

Chapter 12: Documenting as executable test automation

Chapter 13:Why this is not about any specific tool

Chapter 14: Use of time

Chapter 15: Coverage

Chapter 16: Test strategy

Chapter 17: Full results and reproducing from customer

feedback

Chapter 17: Closing remarks

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2020





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#PayToSpeak #TechVoices
#EnsembleTesting #EnsembleProgramming #StrongStylePairing
#ExploratoryTesting #TestAutomation
#ModernAgile
#ContemporaryExploratoryTesting





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