Chapter 1. The Selenium IDE

The **Selenium IDE** (**Integrated Development Environment**) is an open source record-and-playback tool for generating Selenium scripts, which is integrated with the Firefox web browser as an extension. It is a renowned web-based UI test automation tool that extracts any kind of locator from the web page. The locators can be either attribute-based or structure-based, and include ID, name, link, XPath, CSS, and DOM. The IDE has the entire Selenium Core, which allows the users to record, playback, edit, and debug tests manually in a browser. The user actions in the web page can be recorded and exported in any of the most popular languages, such as Java, C#, Ruby, and Python.

Selenium Builder is an alternative open source tool for the Selenium IDE to record and playback web applications. It is an extension of the Firefox web browser, which is similar to the Selenium IDE, but, it has some unique features that the Selenium IDE doesn't support. Selenium Builder is a standard tool from Sauce Labs that runs tests on Sauce Cloud from the Selenium Builder interface itself.

In this chapter, we will learn about:

- Selenium IDE's record and playback abilities
- Selenium IDE functions
- Selenium IDE Data Driven tests
- Selenium IDE JavaScript functions
- Selenium Builder record and playback
- Selenium Builder Data Driven tests
- Selenium Builder on cloud

The Selenium IDE is a Firefox extension to record and playback web-based applications. However, it does more than what a record-and-playback tool would do. Breakpoints allow the users to debug IDE commands step by step on runtime. The IDE has three different types of panes, namely the left pane, test case pane, and log / reference / UI-element / rollup pane.

Launch the Selenium IDE from the Firefox **Tools** menu, **Tools** | **Selenium IDE**. The IDE can also be opened using the *Ctrl + Shift + S* shortcut or by clicking on the Selenium icon in the top-right corner of the Firefox web browser. The Selenium icon is shown in the following screenshot:

A new, untitled test case will be created in **Left Pane** after launching the Selenium IDE. To start with a new test case, choose **New Test Case** from the **File** menu, that is, **File** | **New Test Case**, or make use of *Ctrl + N*, the Windows shortcut.

To start recording test scripts, click on the round, red icon from the playback control toolbar. By default, the record button will be active and the test scripts are recorded in

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