Xpath as a locator :

Xpath is known as XML path which we can use to locate any element in AUT by using developers tool of the respective browser. This is one of the most popular locator for locating elements during test automation.

Types of Xpath :

A. Relative Xpath

B. Absolute Xpath

Relative Xpath :

Relative Xpath starts with //.

Relative Xpath will directly identify the element in DOM though element's attribute and value specified in it or text associated with it .

We can handle dynamic elements using customised relative Xpath.

Relative Xpath is faster than absolute Xpath.

These are few syntaxes we can follow to construct the relative Xpath :

A.

Xpath with attribute and value

//tagName[@AttributeName='value']

Example :

//input[@id="123"]

//name[@name='unm']

B.

Xpath with contains and text:

Syntax :

//tagName[contains(text( ),'textval')]

Example:

//span[contains(text( ),'Register here')]

C.

Xpath indexing :

(//TagName[@attribute='value'])[1]

(//TagName[@attribute='value'])[2]

(//TagName[@attribute='value'])[3]

Note : here tagName can be input , img , a, span , div , table ... as per the elements tagName in DOM.

We can use the developer tool to get the proper attribute and value of the element in DOM and test the customised Xpath.

Note : We can use many other different strategies to handle the dynamic elements using relative path.

Absolute Xpath :

Absolute Xpath starts with / .

Absolute Xpath search the element in DOM from the root tag i.e /html/body/....

Example :

/html/body/form/input

/html/body/div/div[2]/input

Note : It is tedious to write the absolute Xpath as it will take more time to track the sequential tags correctly from the root tag till the element's tag.Absolute Xpath will always search from the root tag of DOM.

✏️ which locator you prefer to use while locating the element and why ?