A Testing Tool for Introductory Programming Courses Thesis B Seminar

Kyu-Sang Kim z5208931

Supervised by Andrew Taylor (UNSW)
Assessed by John Shepherd (UNSW)

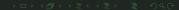
Term 2, 2022

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- Thesis C Thesis B Post-Mortem Thesis C Revised Scope Thesis C Plan

Thesis Statement

A user-friendly and maintainable general code testing tool is important to streamline the administration of introductory programming courses



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- 6 Deprecate and replace the existing autotest used for introductory programming courses at UNSW CSE

Kvu-Sang Kim Thesis B Seminar Term 2, 2022 3/24

Schedule

- Thesis B:
 - Implement Core Main Module



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The original plan was set to the following:

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 - Implement Core Testcase Parser Module
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This presentation will discuss work done for Thesis B.



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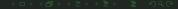
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The majority of thesis B was on enabling development. This involved:

Designing the core architecture

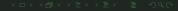
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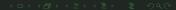
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- Running performance and correctness tests on legacy, ported and new versions of the same modules
- Setting up an automated testing and styling infrastructure

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- Modules are an established design pattern that fits the purpose of autotest



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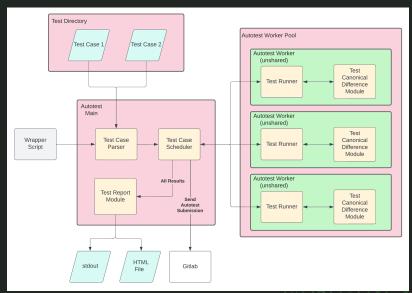
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- Maintenance and Improvements can be tested without an overhaul
- Abstract Class design allows for easier novel design and implementation of pre-existing modules



Architecture Diagram



Core Module

Purpose: The "Main" Program

Coordinates execution of modules

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- Direct code only for optional "administrative" tasks

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Ingests autotest parameters for processing into usable information



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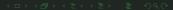
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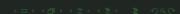
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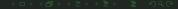
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Status: Semi-Completed - Awaiting Possible Modifications

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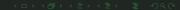
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introduction Thesis B Work Thesis (

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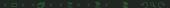
In the case of autotest, *unshare* allows processes to *disassociate* a *user* namespace and replace it with a subordinate that cannot "see" the original

The same can also be done for network access, file system mounts etc.

introduction Thesis B Work Thesis C

Why unshare?

What does unshare solve?



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- Many courses run autotest with their class account (cs1521) when marking which has led to concerns of malicious programs inheriting an overly privileged user id
- With *unshare*, a very lightweight fakeroot container can be created for an **autotest worker** to execute tests to eliminate most risks of damage on the host file system **without needing root access (rootless)**

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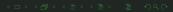
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- Most engines wrap around unshare to deliver capabilities

Test Case Canonical Difference Module

Purpose: Test correctness checker and test case report generation

Compares output of executed test to expected output

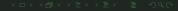


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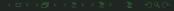


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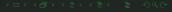
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Status: Planned



Test Case Report Module

Purpose: Optional HTML report generation

Converts autotest output to more readable HTML form

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Status: Planned as extension - could be dropped



Demo

- Main module is regulating how the parser and test case scheduler modules interact
- Legacy Parser has been cut down, revamped and ported over to the new architecture
- Observe that tests are being parsed correctly and from the correct directory

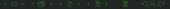
What was supposed to happen

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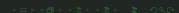
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- Main module makes basic output comparison to determine if test has passed or failed before printing result to stdout



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What went wrong?

- Initial goal to refactor the test parser was more challenging than originally anticipated
- Too much time was spent on the parser before scope was revised
- My own expectations on the time I thought I had available for Thesis B were not met

What will be done?

Scope Revisions



What will be done?

- Scope Revisions
- Higher allocation of weekly time to Thesis C



Scope Revision

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- Removal of the following clause from the thesis statement:
 - Deprecate and replace the existing autotest used for introductory programming courses at UNSW CSE
- Refactoring of the legacy parser is to be considered "out of scope" for this thesis

Thesis C Plan

 Implement remaining work for Test Definition, Test Scheduler and Autotest Worker



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Thank you for attending! Questions?

