

WRITE BETTER PYTHON UNIT TESTS

JOANNA POWER MARCH 2016

WHAT ARE THEY?

Programmatic verification of your code, bit by bit.

WHAT AREN'T THEY?

Unit tests verify neither endto-end behavior nor behavior in production.

WHY SHOULD I WRITE THEM?

Let me count the ways.

HOW DO I WRITE THEM?

```
import unittest
class MyTests(unittest.TestCase):
  def test_sanity__true(self):
    self.assertTrue(True)
  def test_sanity__none(self):
    self.assertIsNone(None)
if __name__ == '__main__':
 unittest.main()
```

SERIOUSLY?

```
class Person(object):
 def __init__(self, name=None):
    if not self.check_name(name):
      raise ValueError(
        'Invalid name')
    self.name = name
  def check_name(self, name):
    return (
      name
      and name != 'Hulk Hogan'
      and len(name.split()) > 1)
```

ARE YOU MOCKING ME?

```
import unittest
import unittest.mock
class PersonTests(unittest.TestCase):
  @mock.patch.object(Person, 'check_name')
  def test_init(self, mock_check_name):
    '''Verify result and calls made by __init__
    I = I
    # Set up mocks and test data
    mock_check_name.return_value = True
    mock name = mock.Mock(name='mock name')
    # Make call
    person = Person(name=mock_name)
    # Verify result
    self.assertEqual(mock name, person.name)
    # Verify mocks
    mock check name.assert called once with(
      mock name)
```

RECAP

- A unit test verifies a small bit of functionality.
- Unit tests lead to better code.
- Python makes writing and running unit tests easy.
- Unit tests without mocking are not unit tests.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- https://cgoldberg.github.io/python-unittest-tutorial/
- https://docs.python.org/3/library/unittest.mock-examples.html