

## Which Xpath Do You Prefer to Use?

### *Interview Question*

Most of the time I use Relative Xpath.  
I don't use Absolute Xpath in my automation scripts.

Why?

Absolute Xpath is lengthy and difficult to write.

The real reason is because Relative Xpath is **more stable** than Absolute.

In the Absolute Xpath hierarchy I have to navigate through every node. Each node points to some element on the page. Each tag represents an element.

Let's suppose that, while my developer is working on the app, he introduces some other new element(s) that would automatically impact the Absolute Path which I wrote for an element.

Somewhere, along the path, the node hierarchy gets corrupted. In the HTML, some new tags will be added in the traversal route and break the Absolute Xpath automatically.

That's why **Absolute Xpath is not stable**.

- 1) If the developer **introduces a new element**, the Absolute Xpath gets broken.
- 2) If the developer **changes the location (element address)**, the Absolute Xpath also gets broken.