



5 Using: spec and auto-spec

Using: spec and auto-spec

Mock objects create attributes and methods on-demand giving them the ability to replace other objects. Allowing for maximum flexibility, mocks don't enforce restrictions on allowed attributes or callable parameters. These allowed differences can lead to tests which are tightly coupled to mock objects rather than the objects being mocked.

The `unittest.mock` module includes a mechanism called spec which is used to ensure mock objects adhere more closely to the object being mocked.

The **spec** keyword argument of the patch callable passes the argument through to the spec argument of the default mock callable.

Spec is useful for ensuring that mocks include the same attributes and methods as the provided object. However, spec allows callables to be called with any arguments without considering the defined parameters of the callable. The auto-spec feature enforces call signatures.

The below code demonstrates the difference between spec and autospec.

```
1 from unittest.mock import patch
2 class KeepingItClassy:
3     def add(self, a, b):
4         return self.a + self.b
5 if __name__ == '__main__':
6     # Spec
7     with patch(f'__main__.KeepingItClassy', spec=KeepingItClassy):
8         ''' The keyword argument 'spec' passes the argument to
9         keep_it_classy_mock.add.return_value = 2
10        assert keep_it_classy_mock.add(1, 1) == 2
11        keep_it_classy_mock.add.assert_called_with(1, 1)
12        keep_it_classy_mock.add.assert_called_once()
13    try:
14        # Attempt to access a non-existent attribute.
```

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```
14         # Attempt to access a non-existent attribute.
15         keep_it_classy_mock.non_existent_attr
16     except AttributeError:
17         print(
18             'Spec matches the attributes of the patched obj
19             'Non-existent attributes raise an AttributeErro
20         )
21     # spec doesn't enforce method signatures.
22     # Calling add would result in a TypeError if this was t
23     assert keep_it_classy_mock.add() == 2
24     keep_it_classy_mock.add.assert_called_with()
25     # Auto-spec
26     with patch(f'__main__.KeepingItClassy', autospec=True) as k
27         ''' The keyword argument 'autospec' conforms to the str
28         keep_it_classy_mock.add.return_value = 2
29         assert keep_it_classy_mock.add(1, 1) == 2
30         keep_it_classy_mock.add.assert_called_with(1, 1)
31         keep_it_classy_mock.add.assert_called_once()
32     try:
33         # Attempt to access a non-existent attribute.
34         keep_it_classy_mock.non_existent_attr
35     except AttributeError:
36         print(
37             'Auto-spec matches the attributes of the patche
38             'Non-existent attributes raise an AttributeErro
39         )
40     try:
41         keep_it_classy_mock.add()
42     except TypeError:
43         print('Auto-spec enforces method signatures.')
44     #####
45     print('No assertion errors')
46
```

Instructions

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```
40     try:
41         keep_it_classy_mock.add()
42     except TypeError:
43         print('Auto-spec enforces method signatures.')
44     #####
45     print('No assertion errors')
46
```

Instructions

1. Arrange the **playground.py** file to match the code above.
2. Run **playground.py** in the IDEs **terminal** pane.

```
1 python3 cloudacademy/playground.py
```

```
Spec matches the attributes of the patched object.
Non-existent attributes raise an AttributeError exception when accessed.
Auto-spec matches the attributes of the patched object.
Non-existent attributes raise an AttributeError exception when accessed.
Auto-spec enforces method signatures.
No assertion errors
```

★ Proceed to the next step ★

✓ Validations

- ☐ On Track - Using: spec and auto-spec
Ensure your lab environment is on-track
- Python

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6) Function Decorators

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