

Specification by Example

Gherkin

Organization

- What is specification by example
- What is Gherkin?
- Using Gherkin to build a specification
- Exercise

Specification by Example

- Collaborative approach to capturing requirements of a system
- Uses the business domain as a common language
- Defines the system in terms of concrete examples rather than abstract statements

What is Gherkin?

- Gherkin is a syntax for defining a specification by example
- Compact syntax: Feature, Scenario, Given, When and Then
- Tests defined in plain English

Using Gherkin

- Main organizational component is a Feature
- Features contain many Scenarios
- Scenarios contain many Steps
- Steps are defined using Given, When and Then

AAA

Gherkin scenarios follow the familiar AAA pattern

- Arrange - Prepare the test (preconditions, dependencies, etc.)
- Act - Perform the action of which we're testing the behavior
- Assert - Verify the correct behavior occurred

Gherkin Example

Feature: Wish List

Scenario: Adding an item to an empty list

Given I create a new wish list

When I add an item to the wish list

Then the wish list should have exactly that one item

Feature: User administration

Scenario: Add new user

Given I am an administrator

When I add a new generic user

Then that new user can use the system

Gherkin Smells

- Long scenarios
- Performing multiple actions
- Elements of the solution named in the gherkin
- Testing for the absence of something
- Test data embedded in the gherkin
- Inconsistent business terminology
- Use of Dates
- Use of conjunctions in steps

Summary

- Gherkin is a format for defining acceptance tests
- Specification by example removes ambiguity
- Use the language of the business