**Chapter VI: Automation Testing Tools**

**Introduction**

These are some tools and technologies available to achieve results on run time dynamic adaptive automation testing with cloud storage networks. Each of these automation tools has unique features to offer in addressing the growing challenges of software automation in the years ahead. Most provide capabilities for continuous testing and integration, test management, and reporting. They all support increasing automation needs for Web and Mobile testing. However, intelligent testing and smart analytics for adaptive and heterogeneous environments are still something to be desired for automation tools.

**Open Source Tools**

[**Selenium WebDriver**](http://www.seleniumhq.org/projects/webdriver/) - Selenium is an open source library with bindings in multiple languages (Java, C#, Python, etc.) that allows an engineer to write code that is then translated into human-like interactions with various browsers and mobile devices.

At its core Selenium spins up a lightweight server on a machine that sends commands in the JSON format to a browser or device.  These JSON commands typically include information such as the action to be performed (click, enter text, submit form, etc.) as well as information about how to identify the element for the action to be performed on.

These pieces of identifying information are based on the Document Object Model (DOM) or a web page or app and, for all intents and purposes, can be thought of as the HTML of a page.

[**JBehave**](http://jbehave.org/) - JBehave is an open source BDD (Behavior Driven Development) library that allows users to write their test cases in plain English and have them automatically translated into chunks of Java code to be executed.

JBehave allows someone like a product owner or scrum master to write test cases, hand them off to automation engineers and have those engineers write the automation scripts.

JBehave also creates easily digestible and human readable reports after execution, including information such as what test cases were run, how many test cases passed/failed and provides screenshots for any failed test cases.

Everything in JBehave is customizable and flexible, giving each team the power to define their own test runs and even create custom reports.

[**Perfecto Mobile**](https://www.perfectomobile.com/) - Perfecto Mobile is a third party cloud provider that gives “run time dynamic adaptive automation “ users access to hundreds of real mobile devices to test against.

Any Organization has access to the Perfecto public cloud as well as a secure private cloud.  The private cloud can be updated/customized as needed, giving us flexibility to test against specific device/os combinations from physical locations in any country like India, Australia and China.

Additionally, Perfecto supports a private repository where apps can be stored as “.apk” or “.ipa” files and dynamically loaded onto a device at runtime and cleared after execution.

Perfecto is a paid service and any team that wishes to use it should reach out the company.

[**BrowserStack**](http://www.browserstack.com/) - BrowserStack is a third party cloud provider that gives RTDAA users access to thousands of OS/Browser/Version combinations.

When a user makes a request to BrowserStack they provide an OS (Windows XP - 10, OSX Snow Leopard - El Capitan), browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Opera, Yandex, IE, Edge) and a browser version.

BrowserStack spins up a Virtual Machine (VM) in their private cloud with these specifications and the automation scripts are executed against them as if they were the users local desktop.

This allows Mac users to test on IE, Windows 10 users to test old versions of Chrome, etc.

BrowserStack is a paid service.  Teams can request licenses and pricing information through a Software Request Purchase.

[**AppliTools Eyes**](https://applitools.com/) - AppliTools Eyes is a visual automation tool allowing users to test the look and feel of an application in a way that Selenium by itself is not capable of.

A user takes a screenshot of an application at various points in the test and creates "gold standard" images of what they expect it to look like.

In subsequent runs engineers will put "checkpoints" into their code where they take another screenshot and send it to AppliTools for comparison against the "gold standard" image.

Using the Eyes, AppliTools can tell you whether a logo is out of place or missing, if the layout of a page is messed up or anything in between.  AppliTools Eyes allows for an incredible amount of flexibility in the comparison and allows the user to tweak the algorithm for each image.

Users can choose to ignore certain areas of the image (for example, if Google Ads are present and always changing) and set the comparison type (pixel to pixel, layout, etc.).  AppliTools Eyes is a paid service.  Teams can requests licenses and pricing information through a Software Request Purchase Service.

[**Page Object Model**](https://github.com/SeleniumHQ/selenium/wiki/PageFactory) - The Page Object Model is an industry standard best practice for writing test automation scripts that allows the user to represent a page's functionality in a highly intuitive, readable format.

Page Objects allow engineers to define an application's behavior in single place and reuse it throughout their tests.  The model allows for easy and efficient updating of automation scripts as the application UI changes.  RTDAA provides utilities that assist in writing these objects and take care of many of their commonly pain points users experience with them.

**Additional RTDAA Technologies**

[**Domo**](https://www.domo.com/)- Domo is an analytics dashboard allowing teams to aggregate data such as test results, sonar scans, test coverage, etc. into a single, easily readable and digestible dashboard that can give an instantaneous overview of a product's health.

[**RestAssured**](http://rest-assured.io/) - RestAssured is an open source framework that allows for easy and flexible testing of API based applications.

[**PhantomJS**](http://phantomjs.org/)- An extension of Selenium WebDriver that allows users to run tests on their local machine in a headless state, meaning they do not have to have a particular browser installed to run a test against it.

[**Docker**](https://www.docker.com/)- Docker is an open source tool that allows users to "containerize" applications and environments.

Using a simple docker image and 1-2 commands a user can instantly deploy an environment on their local machine with a set of predefined conditions such as installed browsers with specific versions, specific applications installed or preconfigured network settings.

[**Cucumber**](https://cucumber.io/)- Cucumber is another commonly used BDD library.  It is very similar to JBehave but will be more familiar to those coming from a non-Java coding background.

[**TestNG**](http://testng.org/doc/)- TestNG is a lightweight testing framework in between JUnit and JBehave/Cucumber.

TestNG is ideal for teams that don't want to deal with the overhead of configuring BDD frameworks or are writing tests (such as API level) that do not lend themselves to BDD concepts such as stories or features.

Desktop Automation- The Adaptive Test Automation plans to incorporate tools for Desktop automation (both Windows and OSX)

1. Selenium
2. TestComplete
3. QMetry Automation Studio
4. HP QTP/UFT
5. Testim.io
6. HP Quality Center (HP ALM)
7. TestComplete
8. Test Studio
9. Katalon Studio
10. IBM Rational Functional Tester
11. Ranorex
12. Appium
13. Robotium
14. Cucumber
15. EggPlant
16. SilkTest
17. Watir
18. Sauce labs
19. Sahi Pro
20. Sikuli
21. IBM Performance Tester
22. Apache JMeter
23. BlazeMeter
24. HP LoadRunner

***Apart from the above, there are some more automated testing tools:***

* WAPT by SoftLogica
* NeoLoad
* Perfecto Mobile
* WebLOAD
* Test Anywhere
* Visual Studio Test Professional
* FitNesse
* TestingWhiz
* Tosca Testsuite
* WatiN
* SoapUI

1. **Selenium**

Selenium is the most popular open-source test automation framework for Web applications. Selenium is an automation framework of choice for Web automation engineers, particularly for those who possess advanced programming and scripting skills. Selenium become a core framework for other open-source automation tools such as Katalon Studio, Watir, Protractor, and Robot Framework.

Selenium supports multiple operating systems (Windows, Mac, and Linux) and multiple browsers (Chrome, Firefox, IE, and Headless browsers). And it can be programmed with scripts can be written in various programming languages such as Java, Groovy, Python, C#, PHP, Ruby, and Perl. Engineers have flexibility with Selenium, can write complex and advanced test scripts to meet various levels of complexity, it requires advanced programming skills and effort to build automation frameworks and libraries for specific testing needs.

It is the most popular automation testing tool for web applications. Selenium can be executed in **multiple browsers and Operating systems.** It is compatible with other automation testing frameworks.

With selenium, a browser-centered automation test scripts can be created which are scalable across different environments. Scripts can be created using Selenium that is of great help for prompt reproduction of bugs, regression testing, and exploratory testing.

Website: <http://www.seleniumhq.org/>

License: Open-source

**2. Katalon Studio**

This is a powerful test automation solution for web application, mobile, and web services. This is built on top of the Selenium and Appium frameworks. This supports different levels of testing skills. Manual Testing Engineers can find it easy to start an automation testing, while automation engineers can save time from building new libraries and maintaining their scripts. Katalon Studio can be integrated into CI/CD processes and works with tools in the QA process including qTest, JIRA, Jenkins, and Git. It offers a feature called [Katalon Analytics](https://docs.katalon.com/x/WxVO) which provides users comprehensive views of test execution reports via dashboard including metrics, charts, and graphs.

Website: <https://www.katalon.com/>

License: Free

**3. UFT**

Unified Functional Testing (UFT) is a commercial testing tool for functional testing. It provides a feature set for API, web services, and GUI testing of desktop, web, and mobile applications across platforms. This tool has advanced image-based object recognition feature, reusable test components, and automated documentation.

UFT uses Visual Basic Scripting for testing processes and object control. UFT is integrated with Mercury Business Process Testing and Mercury Quality Center. This supports CI with Jenkins.

Website: <https://software.microfocus.com/fr-ca/software/uft>

License: Commercial

**4. Watir**

It is an open-source testing tool for web automation testing based on Ruby libraries. Watir supports cross browser testing including Firefox, Opera, headless browser, and IE. It supports data-driven testing and integrates with BBD tools like RSpec, Cucumber, and Test/Unit.

Website: <http://watir.com/>

License: Open-source

**5. IBM Rational Functional Tester**

IBM RFT is a data-driven testing platform for functional and regression testing. It supports a wide range of application such as .Net, Java, SAP, Flex, and Ajax. RFT uses Visual Basic .Net and Java as scripting languages. RFT has a unique feature called Storyboard testing in which users’ actions on AUT are recorded and visualized in a storyboard format through application screenshots.

Another interesting feature of RFT is its integration with IBM Jazz application lifecycle management systems such as IBM Rational Team Concert and Rational Quality Manager.

Website: [https://www.ibm.com/](https://www.ibm.com/us-en/marketplace/rational-functional-tester)

License: Commercial

**6. TestComplete**

TestComplete by SmartBear is a powerful commercial testing tool

Environment Supported: web, mobile, and desktop testing. Programming/scripting languages support: JavaScript, VBScript, Python, and C++Script. Testing performed: keyword-driven and data-driven testing with Test Complete offers easy-to-use record and playback feature. Like UTF, TestComplete’s GUI object recognition capability can automatically detect and update UI objects which helps reduce the effort to maintain test scripts when the AUT is changed. It also integrates with Jenkins in a CI process.

TestComplete is the top automation testing tool for **desktop, mobile and web applications**. With TetComplete, Functional UI tests can be built and run via robust record & replay capabilities or by scripting in your favorite languages, including Python, JavaScript, VBScript With support for applications, such as .Net, and native and hybrid iOS and Android apps, along with **regression, parallel, and cross-browser testing capabilities**,

Website: [https://smartbear.com/](https://smartbear.com/product/testcomplete/overview-b/)

License: Commercial

**7. TestPlant eggPlant**

This is an image-based automated functional testing tool, enables engineers to interact with application under test. Here User’s point of view is put rather of the test scripts view often seen by engineers. This allows engineers with less programming skills to learn and apply test automation intuitively. This tool supports platforms like Web, mobile, and POS systems. It offers lab management and CI integration as well.

Website: <https://www.testplant.com/>

License: Commercial

**8. Tricentis Tosca**

Tricentis Tosca is a model-based test automation tool that provides quite a broad feature set for continuous testing including dashboards, analytics, and integrations to support agile and DevOps methodologies. Tricentis Tosca helps users to optimize the reusability of test assets. Like many other test automation tools, it supports a wide range of technologies and applications such as web, mobile, and API. Tricentis Tosca also has features for integration management, risk analysis, and distributed execution.

Website: [https://www.tricentis.com](https://www.tricentis.com/software-testing-tools/)/

License: Commercial

**9. Ranorex**

Ranorex is a quite automation tool for web, mobile, and desktop testing. The tool features for GUI recognition, reusable test scripts, and record/playback. Codeless test creation is a feature that allows new automation engineers to learn and apply test automation to their projects. The tool supports Selenium integration for web application testing. Engineers can distribute the execution of their tests across platforms and browsers using Selenium grid. Ranorex offers a low-pricing model for businesses.

Website: <https://www.ranorex.com/>

License: Commercial

**10. Robot framework**

Robot Framework implements the keyword-driven approach for acceptance testing & acceptance test-driven development (ATDD). Test capability can be extended by implementing additional test libraries using Python and Java. Selenium WebDriver is a external library in Robot Framework. Test engineers can leverage Robot Framework as an automation framework for web testing as well as for Android and iOS test automation. Robot Framework can be easy to learn for engineers who are familiar with keyword-driven testing.

Website: <http://www.robotframework.org/>

License: Open-source

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**QMetry Automation Studio**:

QMetry Automation Studio (QAS) is a leading software automation tool built on Eclipse IDE and leading open source frameworks, Selenium and Appium. QMetry Automation Studio brings structure, efficiency, and reusability to automation efforts. The studio supports advanced automation strategy with coded automation and enables manual teams to transition into automation seamlessly with script less automation methods. In addition to test authoring, QAS provides a unified solution for an Omni channel, multi-device, and multi-locale scenario by supporting the web, mobile native, mobile web, web services, and micro-services components. This helps the digital enterprise to scale automation thereby eliminating the need for special purpose tools. QAS is part of the AI-enabled QMetry Digital Quality Platform, one of the most comprehensive software quality platforms offering test management, test automation, quality analytics in a single suite.

**Testim.io**:

Testim.io leverages machine learning for the authoring, execution, and maintenance of automated test cases. We use dynamic locators and learn with every execution. The outcome is super-fast authoring and stable tests that learn, thus eliminating the need to continually maintain tests with every code change. Netapp, Verizon Wireless, Wix.com and others run over 300,000 tests using Testim.io every month. Testim, a Heavy bit portfolio company, has dual offices in San Francisco and Israel (R&D) and is backed by Spider Capital (Appurify, PagerDuty), Foundation Capital and other U.S. based investors.

**HP Quality Center**:

HP Quality Center software standardizes testing. It is basically an integrated IT quality management software. Automated testing is one of its key features which constantly allows you to test earlier and quicker. Asset sharing and reusability allows QC to deliver bug-free and reliable applications. It is again a licensed tool but you can download the trial version to see how it performs.

**Unified Functional Testing (UFT)** tool given by [Hewlett-Packard Enterprise](https://www.hpe.com/in/en/home.html) is one of the best automation testing software for functional testing. It was previously known as QuickTest Professional (QTP).

It brings developers & engineers coming together under one umbrella and provides high-quality automation testing solutions. It makes functional testing less complex and cost-friendly. Its top features include **Cross browser & multi-platform compatibility,** Optimized distributed testing, multiple testing solutions, image-based object recognition and canvas – visual test flows.It is a licensed tool.

**Telerik Test Studio** is a**comprehensive test automation solution.** It is well suited for GUI, performance, load and API testing.

It allows you to test desktop, mobile and web applications.Its main features include Point-and-click test recorder, support for real coding languages like C# and VB.NET, central object repository and continuous integration with source control.

**Katalon Studio is a powerful test automation solution for mobile, Web, and API testing. And it is completely FREE!** It provides a comprehensive set of features for test automation, including recording actions, creating test cases, generating test scripts, executing tests, reporting results, and integrating with many other tools in the software development lifecycle.

Katalon Studio runs on both **Windows** and **MacOS**, supporting automated testing of **iOS** and **Android apps, web applications** on all modern browsers, and API services. It can integrate with tools such as JIRA, qTest, Kobiton, Git, and Slack.

**IBM Rational Functional Tester**

This tool is primarily intended for **automated functional testing & regression testing**. It also allows you to perform data-driven and GUI testing. The automated testing in **RFT** is based upon script assure technology which highly improves the efficiency of testing and provides easy script maintenance.

**Ranorex** is flexible, all in one **GUI testing** tool where you can execute automated tests flawlessly throughout all environments and devices. What makes it superior to other GUI testing tools is its super smart object recognition feature that automatically detects any change in the UI and keeps the test going.

Other significant features of **Ranorex** include reusable code modules, early bug finding, and seamless integration with other tools, simple test recording and easy to use the editor.

It is a licensed tool but its free trial can be downloaded from Ranorex website

**Appium** test automation framework is mainly intended for mobile applications. The good news is that it is an open source tool.

It supports automation of native, hybrid and mobile web applications built for iOS and Android. **Appium** uses vendor-provided automation frameworks and is based on client/server architecture.

Appium is easy to install and use. It has gained huge popularity and stability over last few years as one of the best mobile automation testing tools

**Robotium** is an **open-source test automation framework** primarily meant for **Android UI testing**. It supports both native and hybrid applications. **Using Robotium,** time-saving, readable and easy to use automated gray box UI tests intended for android apps can be written. System testing, functional testing, and user acceptance testing over Android-based apps with the help of Robotium can be performed.

**Cucumber**:

It is an open-source tool that is designed over the concept of **BDD (Behavior-driven development)**. It is used to perform the automated acceptance testing by running the examples that best describe the behavior of the application. It gets you a single up-to-date living document that is having both specification and test documentation.

Cucumber is scripted in **Ruby**. However, it now supports few other languages as well such as **Java**and.**NET.** It also has cross-platform OS support.

**Eggplant:**

EggPlant is a licensed tool (built by TestPlant) which is primarily aimed for **application testing and GUI testing**.

**For engineers,** Eggplant offers a variety of test automation tools using which you can perform different types of testing. You have **eggPlant** functional for doing functional testing and eggPlant performance for doing the performance, load and stress testing.

Rather than the object-based approach employed by most of the**test automation tools,** eggPlant works on image-based approach. **Using a single script,** you can perform testing on multiple platforms like Windows, Mac, Linux, Solaris, and much more.

**Silk Test**is a licensed product of [Micro focus](https://www.microfocus.com/) aims at automated functional and regression testing. It has cross-browser support and provides unified test automation for a variety of applications including desktop apps, mobile apps, web apps, rich-client applications and enterprise applications. It enables efficient, speedy and high-quality automation testing.

**Watir** (pronounced as water) is an abbreviation for Web Application Testing in Ruby. It is a very light-weight open source tool for automating web application testing. The best part of the tool is that it supports your web application regardless of considering over which technology your app is designed. With water, you can come up with simple, flexible, readable and easily maintainable automated tests. There are many big companies that use Watir including SAP, Oracle, Facebook, etc.

**Sauce Labs**: It is a **selenium cloud-based solution** that offers automated testing over cross-browsers and multiple platforms. It has support for both mobile and desktop apps. It is known for significantly accelerating test cycles. Various well-known companies including Yahoo, Zillow, and OpenDNS have testified that they have reduced their testing time by a huge extent with the help of SauceLabs.

This tool is a licensed. However, it also provides free testing for open source projects.

**Sahi**: It is a tester centric web automation tool. This cross-browser/cross-platform tool comes with a lot of fantastic features like Smart accessory identification, record and playback on any browser, no ajax timeout issues, end to end reporting, powerful scripting and inbuilt excel framework. It offers a flexible license. Additionally, you can try it out before purchase.

**Sikuli is based on image recognition** and has the capability of automating anything that we see on the screen. Currently, it supports desktop apps only which run on windows, Mac or Unix/Linux. This tool is good at reproducing bugs quickly and its users have reported it to be very useful as compared other tools when you are going to automate an application which is not web-based. This tool is good at reproducing bugs quickly and its users have reported it to be very useful as compared other tools when you are going to automate an application which is not web-based. Sikuli is open source testing tool.

**IBM Rational Performance Tester**:

This tool is designed for doing automated performance testing over web and server based apps. It has RCA capabilities to remove performance bottleneck. It provides real-time reporting and test data customizations. It also offers load and scalability testing.It is a licensed tool. However, IBM provides its free trial.

**Apache JMeter** is an open source Java desktop application designed for load testing. It mainly focuses on web applications. This tool can also be employed for unit testing and limited functional testing.

Its architecture is centered on plugins with the help of which JMeter provides a lot of out of box features. It supports many types of applications, servers and protocols like Web, SOAP, FTP, TCP, LDAP, SOAP, MOM, Mail Protocols, shell scripts, Java objects, and database. Other features include powerful Test IDE, dynamic reporting, command line mode, portability, multithreading, caching of test results and highly extensible core. It supports many types of applications, servers and protocols like Web, SOAP, FTP, TCP, LDAP, SOAP, MOM, Mail Protocols, shell scripts, Java objects, and database. Other features include powerful Test IDE, dynamic reporting, command line mode, portability, multithreading, caching of test results and highly extensible core. Other features include powerful **Test IDE,** dynamic reporting, command line mode, portability, multithreading, caching of test results and highly extensible core.

**BlazeMeter,** you can easily create load and performance tests. It is truly compatible with JMeter tool described above. Any JMeter test works well on BlazeMeter as well. Having BlazeMeter, you can easily setup API tests, do user interactive website testing, perform scalable load testing using virtual user traffic and do a lot more. This tool supports both native and mobile web apps. It is a licensed tool. But its free testing trial is also available which allows 50 concurrent users, 10 tests, and 1 shared load generator. So, you can actually try doing load and performance testing for free by using this tool.

**HP Load Runner**: This is again an automated load and performance testing tool provided by [Hewlett Packard](http://www8.hp.com/in/en/home.html). It supports testing in various environments and over different types of applications.

Though it’s a licensed tool it is quite affordable. It supports mobile and cloud testing as well. HP LoadRunner gives a clear picture of the system performance, allows you to do the RCA and fix the bugs before the application is released to live environment.

**Neoload** is also very popular and automated performance testing tool. It replicates the real user activities and brings out the system bottlenecks. It supports both mobile and web apps. It comes at flexibly priced license but its free version is also available to perform small level tests. It supports both mobile and web apps. It comes at flexibly priced license but its free version is also available to perform small level tests.

**Perfecto** test automation solution supports automated application testing over cross browsers and mobile devices. It can be integrated with various test automation framework. It is a licensed tool. Like other tools, it also offers the free trial.

The **WebLoad** tool provided by Radview Software is a load, performance, and stress testing tool for mobile and web applications. It integrates well with other testing tools like Selenium, Perfecto mobile, etc.  It provides analytics dashboards to perform RCAs of the issue.It provides analytics dashboards to perform RCAs of the issue.It is a licensed tool but its free trial is available.

**Test Anywhere**:

It is a tool for automated and simplified frontend testing. It has an inbuilt test builder tool that replicates the real user actions and we do not need to write any code.

**Visual Studio Test Professional:**

This tool provides exploratory browser-based testing**.** It is a helpful licensed tool for streamlining quality and continuous delivery. It has the free trial available as well.

**FitNesse is an automation acceptance testing framework**. It’s an open source tool.

**TestingWhix** is a licensed tool which offers automation solutions for regression testing, web testing, mobile testing, cross-browser testing, web services testing and database testing. It has codeless architecture and supports continuous integration very well.

**Tosca Testsuite** by Tricentis is an automated functional testing tool for performing functional testing and regression testing. Business dynamic steering is one of its coolest features. It is a licensed tool but offers the free trial as well.

**WatiN**:

It is an abbreviation for Web Application Testing in .NET. It is an open source test automation framework for IE & FF browsers. It’s a good tool for UI & functional testing of Web apps.

**SoapUI** by Smartbear is an open source functional testing tool. It provides an end to end API Test Automation Framework for SOAP and REST.

**Tools used for Cross Platform Testing**

* 1. Browserstack: this is based on cloud and tests websites on multiple browsers and OS combinations. Trial version may be tested and thereafter fee need to be paid as number of users licenses.
  2. Testize: This tool works on standards and analyze websites identifying issues in performance, site rendering and compatibility.
  3. Test Plant: This is cross browser testing automation tool to test Websites in different Operating system environments and configurations.
  4. Browser shots: this is a free Open source tool which creates screenshots of website to run on different browsers. These screenshots are tests n real browser on different operating systems.

**How the Right tool be chosen**

* 1. Market Research: Search tool available whether Free Open Source, Community versions or Paid one fit in the requirements.
  2. Experts View: Get feedback from the users and experts or from Forum of experts to get experiences on the features of tools.
  3. Personal Experience: Do some research on your personal experience and shortlist some best tools that best suits requirements and affordability.
  4. Prepare comparison chart and do SWOT Analysis to select the best tool.
  5. Have at least 2 tools for the requirements we have to get experience and backup.