

Black Box Software Testing

(Academic Course - Fall 2001)

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Section: 27:

Scripting test cases

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Scripting

- COMPLETE SCRIPTING is favored by people who believe that repeatability is everything and who believe that with repeatable scripts, we can delegate to cheap labor.

- 1 _____ Pull down the Task menu
- 2 _____ Select First Number
- 3 _____ Enter 3
- 4 _____ Enter 2
- 5 _____ Press return
- 6 _____ The program displays 5

Scripting: Another script format

Step #	Check?	What to do	What to see	Design notes	Observation notes
1.	_____	Pull down task menu	Task menu down	This starts the blah blah test, with the blah blah goal	

Scripting: The Bus of Testing

- **Scripting is the Greyhound Bus of software testing:**
“Just relax and leave the thinking to us.”
- *To the novice, the test script is the whole tour. The tester goes through the script, start to finish, and thinks he’s seen what there is to see.*
- *To the experienced tester, the test script is a tour bus. When she sees something interesting, she stops the bus and takes a closer look.*
- *One problem with a bus trip. It’s often pretty boring, and you might spend a lot of time sleeping.*

Scripting (Manual Test Cases)

Worst of all worlds:

- Not automated
- Not maintainable
- No communication of analysis
- NOT REPEATABLE!

Scripting

Should we create scripts as pseudocode, in preparation for test automation?

- Suggestion made at STAR 97
- But most (88%) of bugs were found during creation of the scripts (my experience too).

Maybe the benefit lies in structured exploration, rather than regression.

Never Do ANY kind of Scripting?

- **Checklists (as distinct from scripts) have their place. For example, think of releasing a product:**
 - Many very different tasks
 - All of them must be done
 - The task is rarely done, so many steps may be forgotten.
- **I prefer to tell testers what to test (what issues to cover), not how to do the tests. Teaching people “how” is a matter of training, not something that I record time and time again in the test plan. A checklist will sometimes be the right way to present the list of issues.**
- **I think the level of detail is sufficient if I can successfully pass the section to a reasonably experienced tester who is a little familiar with the program and be confident that she can figure out what the test cases are and how to run them.**