

Black Box Software Testing

(Professional Seminar)

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Section:23

Scripting

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Black Box Software Testing

Scripting:

An Industry Worst Practice

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.

