Trusted Components

Reuse, Contracts and Patterns

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Lecture 20: Contract-based testing

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Agenda for today

- Introduction
- What is software testing?
- Why do we need software testing?
- Testing terminology
- Black box vs. white box testing
- Testing strategy
- Test automation
- Contracts and tests
- TestStudio
A (rather unorthodox) introduction (1)

(Geoffrey James – *The Zen of Programming*, 1988)

“Thus spoke the master: “Any program, no matter how small, contains bugs.”

The novice did not believe the master’s words. “What if the program were so small that it performed a single function?” he asked.

“Such a program would have no meaning,” said the master, “but if such a one existed, the operating system would fail eventually, producing a bug.”

But the novice was not satisfied. “What if the operating system did not fail?” he asked.
“There is no operating system that does not fail,” said the master, “but if such a one existed, the hardware would fail eventually, producing a bug.”

The novice still was not satisfied. “What if the hardware did not fail?” he asked.

The master gave a great sigh. “There is no hardware that does not fail”, he said, “but if such a one existed, the user would want the program to do something different, and this too is a bug.”

A program without bugs would be an absurdity, a nonesuch. If there were a program without any bugs then the world would cease to exist.”
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A definition

“Software testing is the execution of code using combinations of input and state selected to reveal bugs.”

“Software testing [...] is the design and implementation of a special kind of software system: one that exercises another software system with the intent of finding bugs.”

What does testing involve?

- Determine **which parts** of the system you want to test
- Find **input values** which should bring significant information
- **Run** the software on the input values
- Compare the produced **results** to the expected ones
- (Measure execution characteristics: time, memory used, etc)
Some more insight into the situation

“Program testing can be a very effective way to show the presence of bugs, but it is hopelessly inadequate for showing their absence.”

Edsger Dijkstra, *Structured Programming* (1972)

What testing can do for you: find bugs
What testing cannot do for you: prove the absence of bugs
What testing is not

- Testing ≠ debugging
  - When testing uncovers an error, debugging is the process of removing that error

- Testing ≠ program proving
  - Formal correctness proofs are mathematical proofs of the equivalence between the specification and the program
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Here’s a thought...

- "Imagine if every Thursday your shoes exploded if you tied them the usual way. This happens to us all the time with computers, and nobody thinks of complaining."

  Jef Raskin, Apple Computer, Inc.
"I know not a single less relevant reason for an update than bug fixes. The reason for updates is to present new features." (Bill Gates in "Focus" magazine)

"Microsoft programs are generally bug free ... 99.9% [of calls to the Microsoft hot line] turn out to be user mistakes." (Bill Gates in "Focus" magazine)
To test or not to test (1)

- Users accept bugs as a matter of fact
- But:
  - Faulty software **kills** people – several examples available from the medical world
  - Faulty software produces huge **costs**
    - e.g. DS-1 Orion 3 Galileo Titan 4B (1999) – aggregate cost: $1.6 billion (May 2002 NIST report)
  - Faulty software leads to **loss of data**
    - e.g. any of the above

...to list only a few consequences
To test or not to test (2)

- What is the first example of a software failure that you can think of?

(In)famous blue screen of death
The bug tax

Same NIST report: $60 billion / year cost of software errors in the US only
⇒ Each family in the US pays $555 / year for software bugs
Did any of your American friends order $555 of bugs last year?

England’s imposition of the Stamp tax on American colonies led to rebellion. Will users finally rebel against the bug tax?

Jack Ganssle, Paying the bug tax (2004)
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Common abbreviations

- **IUT** – implementation under test
- **MUT** – method under test
- **OUT** – object under test
- **CUT** – class/component under test
- **SUT** – system under test
Bug-related terminology

- **Failure** – manifested inability of the IUT to perform a required function
  - Evidenced by:
    - Incorrect output
    - Abnormal termination
    - Unmet time or space constraints
- **Fault** – incorrect or missing code
  - Execution may result in a failure
- **Error** – human action that produces a software fault
- **Bug** – error or fault
Hopper’s bug

0800  Average started   
1000  stopped   

130°C  033  MP-MC  
033  PROZ  
2.130476415  
2.130476415  

Relays 6-2 in 033 failed speed test  
 in relay  
Relay changed  

1100  Started Cosine Tape (Sine check)  
1525  Started Multi-Adder Test  
1545  Relay #70 Panel F  
(moth) in relay  

First actual case of bug being found.
Dijkstra’s criticism of the word “bug”

We could, for instance, begin with cleaning up our language by no longer calling a bug “a bug” but by calling it an error. It is much more honest because it squarely puts the blame where it belongs, with the programmer who made the error. The animistic metaphor of the bug that maliciously sneaked in while the programmer was not looking is intellectually dishonest as it is a disguise that the error is the programmer’s own creation. The nice thing about this simple change of vocabulary is that it has such a profound effect. While, before, a program with only one bug used to be “almost correct”, afterwards a program with an error is just “wrong”...

E. W. Dijkstra, *On the cruelty of really teaching computer science* (December 1989)
Testing scope

- **Unit test** – scope: typically a relatively small executable
- **Integration test** – scope: a complete system or subsystem of software and hardware units
  - Exercises interfaces between units to demonstrate that they are collectively operable
- **System test** – scope: a complete integrated application
  - Focuses on characteristics that are present only at the level of the entire system
- Categories:
  - Functional
  - Performance
  - Stress or load
Intent (1)

- **Fault-directed testing** – intent: reveal faults through failures
  - Unit and integration testing
- **Conformance-directed testing** – intent: to demonstrate conformance to required capabilities
  - System testing
- **Acceptance testing** – intent: enable a user/customer to decide whether to accept a software product
Intent (2)

- **Regression testing** - Retesting a previously tested program following modification to ensure that faults have not been introduced or uncovered as a result of the changes made
- **Mutation testing** – Purposely introducing faults in the software in order to estimate the quality of the tests
Components of a test

- **Test case** – specifies:
  - The state of the IUT and its environment before test execution
  - The test inputs
  - The expected result
- **Expected results** – what the IUT should produce:
  - Returned values
  - Messages
  - Exceptions
  - Resultant state of the IUT and its environment
- **Oracle** – produces the results expected for a test case
  - Can also make a pass/no pass evaluation
Finding test inputs

Partition testing

- Partition – divides the input space into groups which hopefully have the property that any value in the group will produce a failure if a bug exists in the code related to that partition

- Examples of partition testing:
  - Equivalence class – a set of input values so that if any value in the set is processed correctly (incorrectly) then any other value in the set will be processed correctly (incorrectly)
  - Boundary value analysis
  - Special values testing
Test execution

- **Test suite** – collection of test cases
- **Test driver** – class or utility program that applies test cases to an IUT
- **Stub** – partial, temporary implementation of a component
  - May serve as a placeholder for an incomplete component or implement testing support code
- **Test harness** – a system of test drivers and other tools to support test execution
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**Black box testing** | **White box testing**
---|---
Uses no knowledge of the internals of the SUT | Uses knowledge of the internal structure and implementation of the SUT
Also known as *responsibility-based testing* and *functional testing* | Also known as *implementation-based testing* or *structural testing*
Goal: to test how well the SUT conforms to its requirements (Cover all the requirements) | Goal: to test that all paths in the code run correctly (Cover all the code)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Black box testing</strong></th>
<th><strong>White box testing</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uses no knowledge of the program except its specification</td>
<td>Relies on source code analysis to design test cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typically used in integration and system testing</td>
<td>Typically used in unit testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can also be done by user</td>
<td>Typically done by programmer</td>
</tr>
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White box testing

- Allows you to look inside the box
- Some people prefer “glass box” or “clear box” testing
**Code coverage**

- **Code coverage** - how much of your code is exercised by your tests
- **Code coverage analysis** = the process of:
  - Finding sections of code not exercised by test cases
  - Creating additional test cases to increase coverage
  - Computing a measure of coverage (which is a measure of test suite quality)
- A **code coverage analyzer** automates this process
Basic measures of code coverage

- **Statement coverage** – reports whether each executable statement is encountered
  - Disadvantage: insensitive to some control structures
- **Decision coverage** – reports whether boolean expressions tested in control structures evaluate to both true and false
  - Also known as branch coverage
- **Condition coverage** – reports whether each boolean sub-expression (separated by logical-and or logical-or) evaluates to both true and false
- **Path coverage** – reports whether each of the possible paths in each function has been tested
  - Path = unique sequence of branches from the function entry to the exit point
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Testing strategy

How do we plan and structure the testing of a large program?

- **Who is testing?**
  - Developers / special testing teams / customer
  - It is hard to test your own code

- **What test levels do we need?**
  - Unit, integration, system, acceptance, regression test

- **How do we do it in practice?**
  - Manual testing
  - Testing tools
  - Automatic testing
Tom Van Vleck,
ACM SIGSOFT
Software
Engineering Notes,
14/5, July 1989
“Three questions about each bug you find” (Van Vleck):

- “Is this mistake somewhere else also?”
- “What next bug is hidden behind this one?”
- “What should I do to prevent bugs like this?”
Test-driven development (TDD)

- Software development methodology
- One of the core practices of extreme programming (XP)
- Write test, write code, refactor
- More explicitly:
  1. Write a small test.
  2. Write enough code to make the test succeed.
  3. Clean up the code.
  4. Repeat.
- The testing in TDD is unit testing + acceptance testing
- Always used together with xunit
The generic name for any test automation framework for unit testing

- **Test automation framework** – provides all the mechanisms needed to run tests so that only the test-specific logic needs to be provided by the test writer

- Implemented in all the major programming languages:
  - JUnit – for Java
  - cppunit – for C++
  - SUnit – for Smalltalk (the first one)
  - PyUnit – for Python
  - vbUnit – for Visual Basic
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Why automate the testing process?

Facts from a survey of 240 software companies in North America and Europe:

- 8% of companies release software to beta sites without any testing.
- 83% of organizations' software developers don't like to test code.
- 53% of organizations' software developers don't like to test their own code because they find it tedious.
- 30% don't like to test because they find testing tools inadequate.
What can you automate? (1)

- Test **generation**
  - Generation of test data (objects used as targets or parameters for feature calls)
  - Procedure for selecting the objects used at runtime
  - Generation of test code (code for calling the features under test)

- Test **execution**
  - Running the generated test code
  - Method for recovering from failures
What can you automate? (2)

- Test **result evaluation**
  - Classifying tests as pass/no pass
  - Other info provided about the test results
- Estimation of **test suite quality**
  - Report a measure of code coverage
  - Other measures of test quality
  - Feed this estimation back to the test generator
- Test **management**
  - Let the user adapt the testing process to his/her needs and preferences
  - Save tests for regression testing
Where is the difficulty?

How do you automatically evaluate test results as pass or fail?

You need to know the specification of the SUT

Contracts provide this specification
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“Design by Contract implemented with assertions is a straightforward and effective approach to built-in-test. Not only does this strategy make testing more efficient, but it is also a powerful bug prevention technique.”

 Assertions as built-in test (BIT)

- Must be executable
- An executable assertion has 3 parts:
  - A predicate expression
    - In Eiffel: boolean expression + old notation
  - An action
    - Executed when an assertion violation occurs
  - An enable/disable mechanism
Benefits and limitations of assertions as BIT

- Advantages:
  - BIT can evaluate the internal state of an object without breaking encapsulation
  - Contracts written before or together with implementation
- Limitations inherent to assertions
  - Frame problem

- The quality of the test is only as good as the quality of the assertions
Quality of the contracts and the test suite (1)

Use **mutation testing** to determine the quality of the specification (assertions) and the test suite

- Faulty versions of the program = mutants
- A test set is relatively adequate if it distinguishes the original program from all its non-equivalent mutants
- A **mutation score** (MS) is associated to the test set to measure its effectiveness
- A mutant is said to be **killed** if at least one test case detects the fault injected into the mutant
- A mutant is said to be **alive** if no test case detects the injected fault
**Quality of the contracts and the test suite (2)**

- **System test quality (STQ)**
  - S - system composed of n components denoted \( C_i, i \in [1..n] \)
  - \( d_i \) - number of killed mutants after applying the unit test sequence to \( C_i \)
  - \( m_i \) - total number of mutants
  - the mutation score MS for \( C_i \) being given a unit test sequence \( T_i \):
    \[
    \text{MS}(C_i, T_i) = \frac{d_i}{m_i}
    \]
  - \( \sum_{i=1,n} d_i \)
  - \( \sum_{i=1,n} m_i \)
  - \( \text{STQ}(S) = \frac{\sum_{i=1,n} d_i}{\sum_{i=1,n} m_i} \)
  - STQ is a combined measure of test suite quality and contract quality
Errors in the testing system

- Bugs in test design
- Bugs in oracle (faulty contracts)
  - Unsatisfiable contracts
  - Omissions in contracts
  - Incorrect translation of the specification into contracts
- Bugs in test driver
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Push-button testing

- Never write a test case, a test suite, a test oracle, or a test driver
- Automatically generate
  - Objects
  - Feature calls
  - Evaluation and saving of results
- The user must only specify the SUT and the tool does the rest (test generation, execution and result evaluation)
An environment for automatic test generation based on Design by Contract™
References (1)

- **About testing:**
  - **OO testing “bible”:**
  - **Writing unit tests with JUnit:**
    Erich Gamma and Kent Beck: *Test Infected: Programmers Love Writing Tests*
  - **Code coverage:**
    [http://www.bullseye.com/coverage.html](http://www.bullseye.com/coverage.html)
  - **Mutation testing:**
    Jezequel, J. M., Deveaux, D. and Le Traon, Y.
    Reliable Objects: a Lightweight Approach Applied to Java. In IEEE Software, 18, 4, (July/August 2001) 76-83
Testing tools:
- JUnit: http://www.junit.org/index.htm
- Gobo Eiffel Test: http://www.gobosoft.com/eiffel/gobo/getest/
- TestStudio: http://se.inf.ethz.ch/projects/ilinca_ciupa/teststudio/