

GUI Regression Activity

One of the most common interview questions for software testers has to do with their knowledge of the GUI regression test tools. A few employers want students to know a specific tool, but most are interested in whether the student has knowledge of any of them.

We cover the maintenance problems in some detail, but the students don't get practical experience via the lectures. So, my idea was to go to the Open Office scripting tool, get it running, inspect the scripts, and write some new ones.

Students would then consider:

- How long it takes them to write these scripts
- How much documentation would be appropriate for an open source script (the OOo ones are heavily documented)
- How much the documentation appears to add to the cost of the script
- What tests have been included so far and how valuable they are
- What types of tests should be added.

In practice, getting this running on a networked environment was a challenge. The scripts assume that they can write to the directory in which OOo is stored, which is not true on our environment. After several hours (two hours class time and some exploring out of class), we got the scripts running and the students did a brief evaluation.

If we use this again, the instructor will run the scripts in the lab and thoroughly document the configuration changes to the scripts, etc., that are needed to get this working.