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Installing Selenium WebDriver Using Python and Chrome.

This tutorial will make web UI testing easy. We will build a simple yet robust web UI test solution using Python, pytest, and Selenium WebDriver. We will learn strategies for good test design as well as patterns for good automation code. By the end of the tutorial, you'll be a web test automation champ! Your Python test project can be the foundation for your own test cases, too.

□ If you are looking for a single Python Package for Android, iOS and Web Testing – there is also an easy open source solution provided by TestProject. With a single executable, zero configurations, and familiar Selenium APIs, you can develop and execute robust Python tests and get automatic HTML test reports as a bonus! All you need is: `pip install testproject-python-sdk`. Simply follow this Github link to learn more about it, or read through this great tutorial to get started.

Tutorial Chapters.

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With our new test project in place, let's write some web UI tests with Selenium WebDriver!

What is WebDriver?

WebDriver is a programmable interface for interacting with live web browsers. It enables test automation to open a browser, send clicks, type keys, scrape text, and ultimately exit the browser cleanly. The WebDriver interface is a W3C Recommendation. The most popular implementation of the WebDriver standard is Selenium WebDriver, which is free and open source.

WebDriver has multiple components:

Language Bindings . Packages like Selenium WebDriver provide programming language bindings for browser interactions. Selenium supports major languages like C#, Java, JavaScript, Ruby, and Python. Automation Code . Programmers use language bindings to automate browser interactions. Common interactions include finding elements, clicking them, and scraping text. Typically, this is written with a test automation framework. JSON Wire Protocol . Language bindings encode every interaction using JSON and send them as REST API requests to the browser's driver. The JSON wire protocol is platform- and language- independent. Browser Driver . The driver is a standalone executable on the test machine. It acts as a proxy between the interaction's caller and the browser itself. It receives JSON requests for interactions and sends them to the browser using HTTP. Browser . The browser renders the web pages under test. It is essentially controlled by the driver. All major browsers support WebDriver. Each browser also needs its own driver type installed on the same machine as the browser and accessible from the system path. For example, Google Chrome requires ChromeDriver.

Installing Selenium WebDriver.

For our test project, we will use Selenium WebDriver's Python bindings with Google Chrome and ChromeDriver. We could use any browser, but let's use Chrome because (a) it has a very high market share and (b) its Developer Tools will come in handy later.

Make sure that the most recent version of Chrome is installed on your machine (To check/update Chrome, go to the menu and select Help > About Google Chrome. Or, download and install it here.) Then, download the matching version of ChromeDriver here and add it to your system path.

Verify that ChromeDriver works from the command line:

Then, install Python's selenium package into our environment:

Now, the machine should be ready for web testing!

New Tests.

Create a new Python module under the `tests/` directory named `test_web.py`. This new module will hold our web UI tests. Then, add the following import statements:

Why do we need these imports?

pytest will be used for fixtures Chrome provides ChromeDriver binding Keys contains special keystrokes for browser interactions.

WebDriver Setup and Cleanup.

As a best practice, each test case should use its own WebDriver instance. Although the setup and cleanup adds a few seconds to each test, using one WebDriver instance per test keeps tests simple, safe, and independent. If one test hits a problem, then other tests won't be affected. Plus, using a separate WebDriver instance for each test enables tests to be run in parallel.

WebDriver setup is best handled using a pytest fixture. Fixtures are pytest's spiffy setup and cleanup functions that can also do dependency injection. Any test requiring a WebDriver instance can simply call the fixture to get it.

The Code.

Add the following code to `tests/test_web.py`:

`browser` is a pytest fixture function, as denoted by the `@pytest.fixture` decorator. Let's step through each line to understand what this new fixture does.

The Lines.

`Chrome()` initializes the `ChromeDriver` instance on the local machine using default options. The driver object it returns is bound to the `ChromeDriver` instance. All `WebDriver` calls will be made through it.

The most painful part of web UI test automation is waiting for the page to load/change after firing an interaction. The page needs time to render new elements. If the automation attempts to access new elements before they exist, then `WebDriver` will raise a `NoSuchElementException`. Improper waiting is one major source of web UI test "flakiness."

The `implicitly_wait` method above tells the driver to wait up to 10 seconds for elements to exist whenever attempting to find them. The waiting mechanism is smart: instead of sleeping for a hard 10 seconds, it will stop waiting as soon as the element appears. Implicit waits are declared once and then automatically used for all elements. Explicit waits, on the other hand, can provide custom waiting for each interaction at the cost of requiring explicit waiting calls. As a best practice, use one style of waiting exclusively for test automation. Mixing explicit and implicit waits can have nasty, unexpected side effects. For our test project, an implicit wait of 10 seconds should be reasonable (If your Internet connection is slow, please increase this timeout to compensate).

A pytest fixture should return a value representing whatever was set up. Our fixture returns a reference to the initialized `WebDriver`. However, instead of using a return statement, it uses `yield`, meaning that the fixture is a generator. The first iteration of the fixture – in our case, the `WebDriver` initialization – is the "setup" phase to be called before a test begins. The second iteration – which will be the quit call – is the "cleanup" phase to be called after a test completes. Writing fixtures as generators keeps related setup and cleanup operations together as one concern.

Always quit the `WebDriver` instance at the end of a test, no matter what happens. Driver processes on the test machine won't always die when test automation ends. Failing to explicitly quit a driver instance could leave it running as a zombie process, which could consume and even lock system resources.

Now that we have the `WebDriver` ready to go, we can write our first web UI test! Check it out here [□](#)

About the author.

Andy Knight is the "Automation Panda" – an engineer, consultant, and international speaker who loves all things software. He specializes in building robust test automation systems from the ground up. Read his tech blog at [AutomationPanda.com](http://AutomationPanda.com), and follow him on Twitter at [@AutomationPanda](https://twitter.com/AutomationPanda).

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chromedriver-binary.

Downloads and installs the chromedriver binary version 92.0.4515.43 for automated testing of webapps. The installer supports Linux, MacOS and Windows operating systems.

Alternatively the package `chromedriver-binary-auto` can be used to automatically detect the latest chromedriver version required for the installed Chrome/Chromium browser.

Installation.

Latest and fixed versions.

From PyPI.

From GitHub.

Automatically detected versions.

Please make sure to install Chrome or Chromium first and add the browser to the binary search path.

From PyPI.

To redetect the required version and install the newest suitable chromedriver after the first installation simply reinstall the package using.

From GitHub.

Usage.

To use chromedriver just import `chromedriver_binary`. This will add the executable to your PATH so it will be found. You can also get the absolute filename of the binary with `chromedriver_binary.chromedriver_filename`.

Example.

Exporting chromedriver binary path.

This package installs a small shell script `chromedriver-path` to easily set and export the PATH variable:

Use WebDriver (Chromium) for test automation.

WebDriver allows developers to create automated tests that simulate user interaction. WebDriver tests and simulations differ from JavaScript unit tests in the following ways.

Accesses functionality and information not available to JavaScript running in browsers. Simulates user events or OS-level events more accurately. Manages multiple windows, tabs, and webpages in a single test session. Runs multiple sessions of Microsoft Edge on a specific machine.

Relationship between WebDriver and other software.

To automate Microsoft Edge with WebDriver to simulate user interaction, you need three components:

Microsoft Edge  
Microsoft Edge Driver  
A WebDriver testing framework.

The functional relationship between these components is as follows.

Technology Role  
WebDriver A W3C standard for a platform- and language-neutral wire protocol. This protocol allows out-of-process programs to remotely instruct the behavior of web browsers.  
Microsoft Edge Driver Microsoft's implementation of the WebDriver protocol specifically for Microsoft Edge. Test authors write tests that use WebDriver commands that Microsoft Edge Driver receives. Microsoft Edge Driver is then responsible for communicating that command to the browser.  
A WebDriver testing framework Test authors use a testing framework to write end-to-end tests and automate browsers. Provides a language-specific interface that translates your code into commands that Microsoft Edge Driver runs in Microsoft Edge (Chromium).  
WebDriver testing frameworks exist for all major platforms and languages. One such framework is Selenium.  
Internet Explorer Driver An implementation of the WebDriver protocol specifically for Internet Explorer. To run legacy end-to-end tests for Internet Explorer, we recommend using Internet Explorer Driver.

The following sections describe how to get started with WebDriver for Microsoft Edge (Chromium).

Install Microsoft Edge (Chromium)

Ensure you install Microsoft Edge (Chromium). To confirm that you have Microsoft Edge (Chromium) installed, navigate to `edge://settings/help`, and verify that the version number is 75 or later.

Download Microsoft Edge Driver.

To begin automating tests, use the following steps to ensure that the WebDriver version you install matches your browser version.

Find your version of Microsoft Edge.

Navigate to `edge://settings/help`.

The build number for Microsoft Edge on April 15, 2021.

Navigate to [Get the latest version](#).

Choose the build of channel that matches your version number of Microsoft Edge.

The [Get the latest version](#) section on the Microsoft Edge Driver webpage.

Choose a WebDriver testing framework.

After downloading Microsoft Edge Driver, the last component you must download is a WebDriver testing framework. Test authors use WebDriver testing frameworks to write end-to-end tests and automate browsers. The framework provides a language-specific interface that translates your code (such as Python, Java, C#, Ruby, or JavaScript) into commands that Microsoft Edge Driver runs in Microsoft Edge (Chromium). WebDriver testing frameworks exist for all major platforms and languages.

This article provides instructions for using the Selenium framework, but you can use any library, framework, and programming language that supports WebDriver. To accomplish the same tasks using a WebDriver testing framework other than Selenium, consult the official documentation for your framework of choice.

If you are using Selenium, the Microsoft Edge team recommends Selenium 4.0.0-beta2 or later, because that version of Selenium supports Microsoft Edge (Chromium). However, you can control Microsoft Edge (Chromium) in all older versions of Selenium, including the current stable Selenium 3 release.

If you previously automated or tested Microsoft Edge (Chromium) using ChromeDriver and ChromeOptions classes, your WebDriver code does not run on Microsoft Edge Version 80 or later. To solve the problem, update your tests to use the EdgeOptions class and download Microsoft Edge Driver.

Using Selenium 4.

The Selenium WebDriver testing framework can be used on any platform, and is available for Java, Python, C#, Ruby, and JavaScript.

Selenium 4 has built-in support for Microsoft Edge (Chromium). To install Selenium 4, navigate to [Installing Selenium libraries](#).

If you use Selenium 4, you don't need to use Selenium Tools for Microsoft Edge. Selenium Tools for Microsoft Edge are for Selenium 3 only. If you try to use Selenium 4 with Selenium Tools for Microsoft Edge and try to create a new EdgeDriver instance, you get the following error: `System.MissingMethodException: 'Method not found: 'OpenQA.Selenium.Remote.DesiredCapabilities OpenQA.Selenium.DriverOptions.GenerateDesiredCapabilities(Boolean)'`.

If you're using Selenium 4 and get this error, remove `MicrosoftEdge.SeleniumTools` from your project, and make sure you're using the official `EdgeOptions` and `EdgeDriver` classes from the `OpenQA.Selenium.Edge` namespace.

Using Selenium 3.

If you already use Selenium 3, you may have existing browser tests and want to add coverage for Microsoft Edge (Chromium) without changing your version of Selenium. To use Selenium 3 to write automated tests for both Microsoft Edge (EdgeHTML) and Microsoft Edge (Chromium), install the Selenium Tools for Microsoft Edge package to use the updated driver. The `EdgeDriver` and `EdgeDriverService` classes included in the tools are fully compatible with the built-in equivalents in Selenium 4.

If you are using Selenium 3, use the following steps to add the Selenium Tools for Microsoft Edge and Selenium 3 to your project.

C# Python Java JavaScript.

Use `pip` to install the `msedge-selenium-tools` and `selenium` packages.

If your Java project uses Maven, copy and paste the following dependency to your `pom.xml` file to add `msedge-selenium-tools-java`.

The Java package is also available to download directly on the [Selenium Tools for Microsoft Edge Releases](#) page.

Automate Microsoft Edge (Chromium) with WebDriver.

To automate a browser using WebDriver, you must first start a WebDriver session using your preferred WebDriver testing framework. A session is a single running instance of a browser controlled using WebDriver commands. Start a WebDriver session to launch a new browser instance. The launched browser instance remains open until you close the WebDriver session.

The following content walks you through using Selenium to start a WebDriver session with Microsoft Edge (Chromium). You can run these examples using either Selenium 3 or 4. To use WebDriver with Selenium 3, the Selenium Tools for Microsoft Edge package must be installed.

This article provides instructions for using the Selenium framework, but you can use any library, framework, and programming language that supports WebDriver. To accomplish the same tasks using another framework, consult the official documentation for your framework of choice.

## Automate Microsoft Edge (Chromium)

Selenium uses the `EdgeDriver` class to manage a Microsoft Edge (Chromium) session. To start a session and automate Microsoft Edge (Chromium), create a new `EdgeDriver` object and pass it an `EdgeOptions` object with the `UseChromium` property set to `true`.

C# Python Java JavaScript.

The `EdgeDriver` class only supports Microsoft Edge (Chromium), and doesn't support Microsoft Edge (EdgeHTML). For basic usage, you can create an `EdgeDriver` without providing `EdgeOptions`.

If your IT admin has set the `DeveloperToolsAvailability` policy to 2, Microsoft Edge Driver is blocked from driving Microsoft Edge (Chromium), because the driver uses the Microsoft Edge DevTools. Ensure the `DeveloperToolsAvailability` policy is set to 0 or 1 to automate Microsoft Edge (Chromium).

## Choose Specific Browser Binaries (Chromium-Only)

You can start a `WebDriver` session with specific Microsoft Edge (Chromium) binaries. For example, you can run tests using the Microsoft Edge preview channels such as Microsoft Edge Beta.

C# Python Java JavaScript.

Customize the Microsoft Edge Driver Service.

C# Python Java JavaScript.

When you use the `EdgeOptions` class to create an `EdgeDriver` class instance, it creates and launches the appropriate `EdgeDriverService` class for either Microsoft Edge (EdgeHTML) or Microsoft Edge (Chromium).

If you want to create an `EdgeDriverService`, use the `CreateChromiumService()` method to create one configured for Microsoft Edge (Chromium). The `CreateChromiumService()` method is useful when you need to add customizations. For example, the following code starts verbose log output.

You do not need to provide the `EdgeOptions` object when you pass `EdgeDriverService` to the `EdgeDriver` instance. The `EdgeDriver` class uses the default options for either Microsoft Edge (EdgeHTML) or Microsoft Edge (Chromium) based on the service you provide. However, if you want to provide both `EdgeDriverService` and `EdgeOptions` classes, ensure that both are configured for the same version of Microsoft Edge. For example, you may use a default Microsoft Edge (EdgeHTML) `EdgeDriverService` class and Chromium properties in the `EdgeOptions` class. The `EdgeDriver` class throws an error to prevent using different versions.

When you use Python, the `Edge` object creates and manages the `EdgeService`. To configure the `EdgeService`, pass extra arguments to the `Edge` object as indicated in the following code.

Use the `createDefaultService()` method to create an `EdgeDriverService` configured for Microsoft Edge (Chromium). Use Java system properties to customize driver services in Java. For example, the following code uses the `"webdriver.edge.verboseLogging"` property to turn on verbose log output.

When you use JavaScript, create and configure a `Service` with the `ServiceBuilder` class. Optionally, you can pass the `Service` object to the `Driver` object, which starts (and stops) the service for you. To configure the `Service`, run another method in the `ServiceBuilder` class before you use the `build()` method. Then pass the service as a parameter in the `Driver.createSession()` method.

## Use Chromium-Specific Options.

If you set the `UseChromium` property to `true`, you can use the `EdgeOptions` class to access the same Chromium-specific properties and methods that are used when you automate other Chromium browsers.

## How to set path chrome driver in robot framework?

You need `chromeDriver` not `Chrome`. Start by downloading the chrome driver.

Put it somewhere that your test can access (for example a bin folder relative to your tests).

Now you need to set the environment variable to point the chrome driver.

You can do it from outside the test (for example, as a global setting for your desktop), or from your test setup.

From outside the test.

Just set the environment variable `webdriver.chrome.driver` to point the executable.

(Control Panel -> System -> Edit the system environment variables)

From inside the test.

If you're using jython, you need to create a small java library to do that for you.