

eggPlant Overview

Introduction

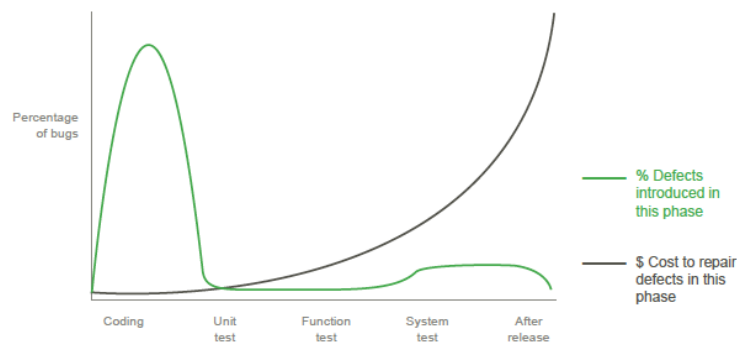
eggPlant is a robotic test tool that can “see” computer screens and automate the tedious, expensive and fault-prone task of manually testing software systems before release and after every update or revision. Because eggPlant is able to “see” the screen in exactly the same way a human would, it is able to test any computing environment.

Background

TestPlant Inc, based in Boulder, CO, support the use of eggPlant in many of the world’s largest IT and defense industry corporations. eggPlant uses a two system architecture to test the System Under Test (SUT). This unique approach to testing enables eggPlant to be deployed in secure environments located anywhere in the world including test laboratories in the DoD and the DoJ.

Software Testing

Software testing is a critical element in the creative process of writing a program, and as shown in the diagram below a very high percentage of defects are introduced at the early stages of development. In mission critical applications the consequences of failure are very high so testing is essential and can account for up to 75% of the costs.



With most systems consisting predominantly of software, the requirement for testing is forever growing. And since there is continual commercial and political pressure to improve quality, reduce delivery times and lower costs of systems, there is always a need for an automated software testing tool.

Automated testing with eggPlant

eggPlant has 4 distinct features that separate it from traditional legacy testing tools.

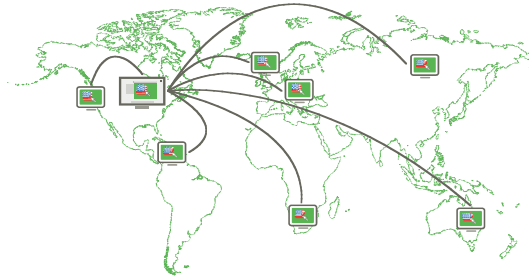
1. eggPlant “sees” the screen using image recognition technology

As menus become more graphically rich, more adaptable and more dynamic, traditional testing tools are unable to interact and test these applications. Using complex algorithms, eggPlant is able to see the screen in the same way the human eye would. So regardless of how the screen is displayed, eggPlant will be able to test it.

2. Easy, expressive and powerful scripting language

The test routines, or *scripts*, used to execute the automated tests are written in eggPlant’s built-in scripting language. This scripting language has been designed with the non-development user in mind so it is very easy to learn, follow and compile.

3. Remote non-invasive testing



eggPlant uses a two system architecture to remotely test applications located anywhere in the world. In contrast, traditional testing tools are required to be installed directly on the testing machine. Using this approach, eggPlant provides two distinct advantages:

- eggPlant is very cost effective. Only a single copy of eggPlant is required to test multiple SUTs in various locations worldwide.
- eggPlant does not invade the testing environment and thus tests the SUT in its purest form. This also allows eggPlant to test in classified environments and on sensitive applications.

4. Multi-environment testing – a universal tool

eggPlant is able to test any computing environment. It can be controlled from either a Linux, Windows or Mac environment, and can test systems that run in any operating system, browser or application.

Case Studies

US Army:

eggPlant is used by the US Armed Forces test team to test system updates before it is released to users. eggPlant verifies the updates of GIS and name data mining systems.

DOJ:

eggPlant for Mac is used to regression test various modified COTS applications before release to agency hardware. Using the eggPlant Server, both Mac and Windows users can access the same eggPlant license through a single server.

Air Traffic Control:

eggPlant tests and validates many of the world's Air Traffic Control systems including NATS, Romatsa and NAV Canada.

International software company:

eggPlant was introduced as the universal tool for preproduction testing of products across 13 different computing environments.

Major public broadcaster:

A large public broadcaster uses eggPlant to test its online media playing service. eggPlant tests across 26 different combinations of operating systems, browsers and video players using only a single test script.

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