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[Review] GUI Testing With Froglogic Squish

Written by **Ritu Saxena** | 05 October 2012

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One tool that was created in 2003 with the mission to create best-of-breed cross-platform GUI test automation, and stands true to its quoted mission statement till date is Squish by Froglogic. Starting with automation of apps based on the popular cross-platform GUI framework Qt, Squish has come a long way to include testing of mobile apps to its list of supported technologies. The growing customer base which now stands at around 1500 is an indicator of its popularity in the development and testing community.

Let me take the opportunity to review the tool for readers who are yet to avail the benefits of testing their apps with Squish.

FIRST AND FOREMOST - THE LIST OF SUPPORTED TECHNOLOGIES
Squish can be used for testing of

- **Qt, QML/Quick** applications on Windows, Mac OS X, Linux and other Unix-based systems
- **Java** applications based on **AWT, SWT** and **RCP** Java applications on Windows, Mac OS X, Linux and other Unix-based systems
- Web applications based on **HTML** and **Ajax** on Windows, Linux and Mac OS X across all popular browsers like IE, FireFox, Safari, Chrome and Opera
- **Cocoa** and **Carbon** applications on Mac OS X
- **MFC, Visual Basic, .NET Windows Forms, WPF**, Third Party Windows Controls from **Telerik, Infragistics** and **Exontrol, FoxPro, PowerBuilder, MS Ribbon, MSAA**, and other Windows applications
- **iPhone, iPad** and **iPod** nano applications, the **Android** support for Android apps will be available from version 5 of the tool
- **Tcl/Tk** applications
- **Four J's Genero** Desktop and Web clients
- **Xview** apps on Linux & Solaris platform

FEATURES THAT SQUISH PROVIDES AT PAR WITH OTHER TOOLS IN THE ILK

Script-less Test Case Creation

The test cases can be recorded and the scripts are generated automatically in the language chosen by the end user from the list of supported scripting languages like JavaScript, Perl, Python, Tcl or Ruby.

A Volume of Verification Features

Squish's Spy and Object Inspector makes it easy to create verification points. Verification of all properties of UI elements including data type is possible with Squish. Squish also provides support for verification of complex data controls like grids, menus, trees, tables and more with powerful visualization of differences, external files, SQL database, screenshots including configurable fuzzy comparisons and more.

Remote and Parallel Test Scheduling

The Squish architecture provides support for parallel and distributed test case execution even from a single test script hosted on a remote machine.

Reusable Test Cases

To ensure re-usability of test cases, Squish provides support for separation of test data from the test cases. Table formats such as CSV, TSV and scripting support for SQL database access is also available. If your requirement is for extensive data driven testing then Squish also provides API's for data-driven testing too.

Logging

The standard log format is XML but the logs can also be collected in HTML, XLS, ASCII format. The log-viewer is integrated into the Squish IDE and the logs also capture screen shots for failed test cases and errors.

Test Management Support

Squish GUI Automation tools are tightly integrated with Squish Central BETA, a cross-platform, end-to-end Test Automation Management Solution which helps manage and control all aspects of automated tests.

Squish also supports easy integration with third party management systems and environments like HP Quality Center/HP ALM Integration, Rational Quality Manager (RQM), Seapine TCM Integration, CruiseControl, Hudson, Eclipse TPTP and XStudio by XQual.

HERE ARE A LIST OF FEATURES THAT SET SQUISH APART FROM THE REST

Cross Platform Tool

Squish is available on Windows, Mac, Unix, Linux and several embedded platforms like QNX, VxWorks and mobile platforms like iOS and Android. Other tools like Telerik and Ranorex and Rapise provide support mostly for Windows Platform only along with mobile platforms.

A Number of Scripting Languages are Supported

I have found tools other than SilkTest that promotes an altogether new scripting language, the ones that use popular scripting languages for test case creation provide support for one or at the max two scripting languages. In Telerik the supported scripting language is .Net, in Ranorex it is C# or .Net and in Rapise it is JavaScript. But Squish currently supports five scripting languages namely JavaScript, Perl, Python, Tcl and Ruby. Users can choose the one with which they are most comfortable with giving them a lot of flexibility.

Source Code Shipped With The Tool Provides Extensibility

Squish ships the source code of the tool along with the license. All modules of the testing framework have open interfaces - plug-in APIs, command line tools, plain text files, XML. This clearly indicates the confidence the developers have on the product built by them. It has another major advantage for the users of Squish, they get the flexibility configure Squish at compile time to suit the requirements of AUT and extend Squish if required to provide support for custom objects or services.

Architecture

The architecture of Squish is slightly different from the rest of the tools available in the league. Squish is divided into two parts, a runner and a server. The runner and server modules communicate via TCP/IP. The server running in the context of AUT injects a hook into AUT, thus AUT and the Squish runner, that executes the test cases communicate with each other via the server. This provides a solid foundation for parallel and distributed execution of test cases remotely even through a single test script.

Recording of High Level Actions for Increased Understand-ability

Squish records high level actions such as menu item activations, instead of low level events such as mouse clicks, making the scripts more readable and robust to changes.

Object Based Recording

OBR in itself provides many advantages for functional testing of applications, the test scripts created turn out to be more powerful, robust and re-usable. Squish maintains Object maps that links symbolic name of the object with its real name in the AUT. So even if the object name changes the test scripts need not be modified, only the object map needs to be updated.

Hybrid Application Testing Support

Hybrid applications based on more than one GUI technologies can also be automated using Squish. Desktop applications that embed web content, web applications that starts a Java Web Start client are a few such examples of hybrid applications that can be tested using Squish.

EDITIONS

Squish is currently available in Eight Editions catering to a specific technology. Squish is available as

- Squish for Qt
- Squish for Java
- Squish for Web
- Squish for Windows
- Squish for Mac
- Squish for iOS
- Squish for Tk
- Squish for 4js

End users can pick and choose Editions and pay according to their needs.

PRICING AND SUPPORT

There are two kinds of licenses for the two different kinds of testing use: **Tester License** and **Runner License**. Tester License is required for users who create, record, edit or modify tests with Squish tools and for users who modify or extend Squish itself. Runner License is required for users who only run tests or process test results with Squish tools.

Each of the Tester and Runner Licenses are available as **Named User Licenses** and **Group Licenses**.

Under Named User Licensing each license is assigned to a specific person. For a single edition, a Named User Tester License costs €2400, and a Named User Runner License costs €450. Both kinds of license include one year of support and updates.

The price for ongoing support and updates for each subsequent year is €800 per single edition Named User Tester License and €150 per single edition Named User Runner License. The prices indicated are exclusive of VAT.

Group Licenses are also available for team usage. The pricing for this licensing model is calculated based on total number of Squish users in the team and the average number of concurrent Squish users.

SCOPE OF IMPROVEMENT

- Source version control system like SVN can be integrated with Squish to provide version control support and the associated benefits.
- Support for Performance testing, Load and Stress Testing especially in the purview of web applications can be an added advantage for the end users.
- In addition to Logs and Test Results, Graphical Reports showing pie charts and more and a Dashboard which shows more than one graphical reports together would come out as handy services for the analysis of overall test execution status both by the testers and the management.

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Ritu is the technical brain behind the website and comes from a strong development background across Web and Mobile platforms. She is our senior editor primarily responsible for Product Reviews and in future will be leading Start-Ups, Mobile and Quality areas.

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