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series of test instructions, wherein the four phase model includes a setup phase, a test phase, a verify phase, and a cleanup phase.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically converting converts the data set into a series of window invocation, result capture, and window close test instructions.

11. The method of claim 1 further including a step of running the instructions against the user interface objects of the software application under test.

12. The method of claim 11 further including a step of acquiring a response data set based on the step of running the set of test instructions.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of running the instructions against the user interface objects of the software application under test is performed by an automation agent.

14. The method of claim 1 further including the step of performing a smoke test based on the data set received in the step of receiving.

15. An automated software testing system, comprising:

a data set interface operative to interact with a series of user-created stimulus data sets each including a series of pairs that each include a user interface object identifier and a desired action identifier for that object, wherein the pairs are for testing the user interface objects of a software application under test identified by the identifiers in the data set,

an automation agent interface operative to interact with a user interface objects of the software application under test, and

a conversion engine between the data set interface and the automation agent interface and operative to convert between the user-created data sets and automation interface instructions.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the conversion engine includes logic to interact with a stimulus data set that includes a series of pairs that each include a software object identifier and a desired input value for that object.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the conversion engine includes logic to interact with a response data set that includes a series of pairs that each include a software object identifier and a desired output value for that object.

18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the automated software testing system further includes logic that is operative to prescribe a four-phase model on a test that includes the series of test instructions, wherein the four phase model includes a setup phase, a test phase, a verify phase, and a cleanup phase.

19. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the automated software testing system further includes smoke test generation logic.

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20. An automated software testing system, comprising: means for receiving a user-created stimulus data set including a series of pairs that each include a user interface object identifier and a desired action identifier for that object, wherein the pairs are for testing the user interface objects of a software application under test identified by the identifiers in the data set,

means for automatically converting the data set received by the means for receiving into a series of test instructions for the user interface objects, and

wherein the means for automatically converting is operative to create a set of test instructions that is operative to be run against the user interface objects of the software application under test.

21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the means for receiving a data set include means for receiving a stimulus data set that further includes desired output values for the objects.

22. The apparatus of claim 20 further including means for automatically generating the data set based on a state of the application under test.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the means for automatically generating include means for generating a stimulus data set by acquiring information submitted to the application by a user.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 further including means for acquiring a response data set based on a step of running the set of test instructions.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein means for automatically generating include means for generating a result data set by detecting results from a state of the application.

26. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the means for automatically converting include means for determining methods to generate based on object class and data type.

27. The apparatus of claim 20 further including means for acquiring a response data set.

28. The apparatus of claim 20 further including means for providing a data set template to the user to fill in.

29. The apparatus of claim 20 further including means for prescribing a four-phase model on a test that includes the series of test instructions, wherein the four phase model includes a setup phase, a test phase, a verify phase, and a cleanup phase.

30. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the means for automatically converting include means for converting the data set into a series of window invocation, result verification, and window close test instructions.

31. The apparatus of claim 20 further including means for running the set of test instructions against the software application under test.

32. The apparatus of claim 20 further including means for performing a smoke test.

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