

White Box Test Automation Framework for C/C++

plinares@crosstest.com 650 248 1480

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A few facts/ Food for thought



Agile development adoption accelerates, however testing not fully adopted as a central component of the methodology

Majority of software engineering (50%+) follow the traditional waterfall model: **tests come last**

Analysis on embedded systems outlined 40% of the bugs found in the field originated from **untested "error" paths**

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Cost of Traditional Testing Approach

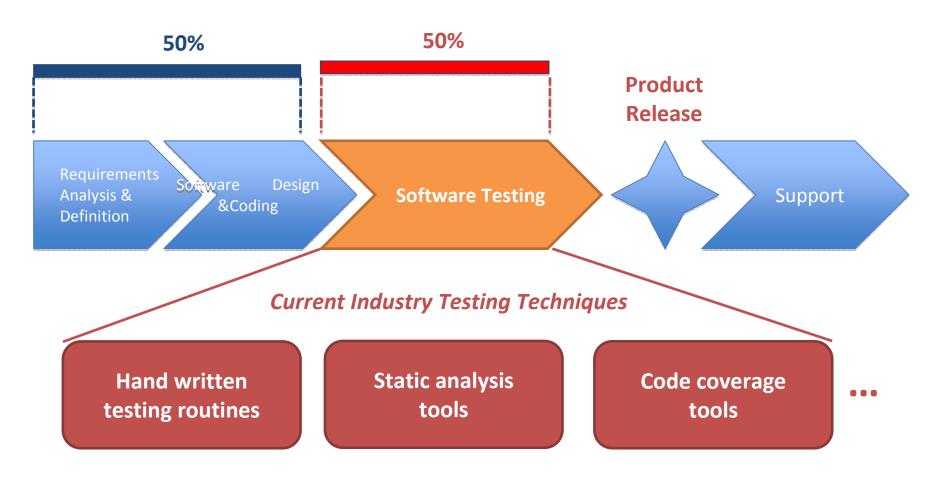


Cost to find/fix defect during integration/system test is 15-90x higher than during design/coding Cost to find/fix defects at customer sites is an order of magnitude higher than system testing **System** White box testing Framework **Testing** Integration Cost to find & fix **Testing** defect **Unit Testing Code inspection** Coding Production Design QA

Source: IDC Slide: 3

Device Software Development Time & Costs







"Software testing remains a major bottleneck for the release of new devices"

How to change the rules of the game for testing



Processes

Introduce testing earlier in the development cycle through white-box testing

Focus on dynamic testing

Find the best trade-off between exploratory and regression testing

Run tests on host, simulator and target devices

Product

Make testing possible when code is in an "incomplete" stage

Easy to use with very fast ramp up

Adapt to software lifecycle (automated test updates when new releases are delivered)

Offer a complete environment for automated testing

Fully Integrated Testing Platform



Key components:

Automated Test Creation Automated Test Execution Automated Test Reporting Automated Test Management

- Unique features:
 - Source code ingestion and analysis
 - Modularity of the "perimeter" under test
 - Permanent synchronization between tests and source code
- Target users:
 - Developers starting very early in the testing of the code
 - Testers for unit, integration and regression testing

Highly Automated Testing Platform



Automated Test Creation

Automated Test Execution

Automated Test Reporting

Automated Test Management

- Test cases are automatically generated
- No test code needs to be hand-written
- Build, download, and run process is fully automated
- Tests can be run on virtual platform (simulation), then on target device (real deployment)
- Test results are produced and checked
- HTML reports (pass/fail, code coverage, % at function or line of code level, etc)
- Exported XML test files can be shared between users
- Tests are kept in sync w/ source code changes
- Tests impacted by code modifications are flagged and rerun

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Dynamic Testing



The possibilities:

- Source code is executed on host system or target device
- Large coarse or very granular settings for tests run
- Command line or GUI based
- Single test or batteries of regression suites
- Exports/Imports of test suites in XML format for easy re-usability
- "Snapshot" and "stubbing" as extremely powerful for code coverage and in-depth insight of the code behavior

Testing is performing all of the following:

- Providing software with inputs
- Executing a sub-routine or the entire application
- Monitoring software state and/or outputs for expected properties, such as conformance to requirements, match to output values, lack of system crashes, preservation of invariants

White Box Testing



System Level Testing

(Black Box Testing)

- Goal is to test what software does, not how it is implemented
- Emphasis is on meeting system requirements and overall behavior

Black Box Testing Is Valuable but NOT SUFFICIENT:

- Does not cover all portions of software implementation
- Very efficient in repetitive and systematic regression testing
- Usually adopted in a waterfall development cycle

White box Framework Approach

(White Box Testing)

- Goal is to exercise code based on analysis of code structure
- Tests are designed to ensure that code behaves as expected



White Box Testing Is NEEDED:

- Enables testing of program logic and structure
- Achieves superior code coverage (% of statements and branches tested)
- Digs deeper at algorithmic discontinuities
 branches (boundary cases and special values get tested)

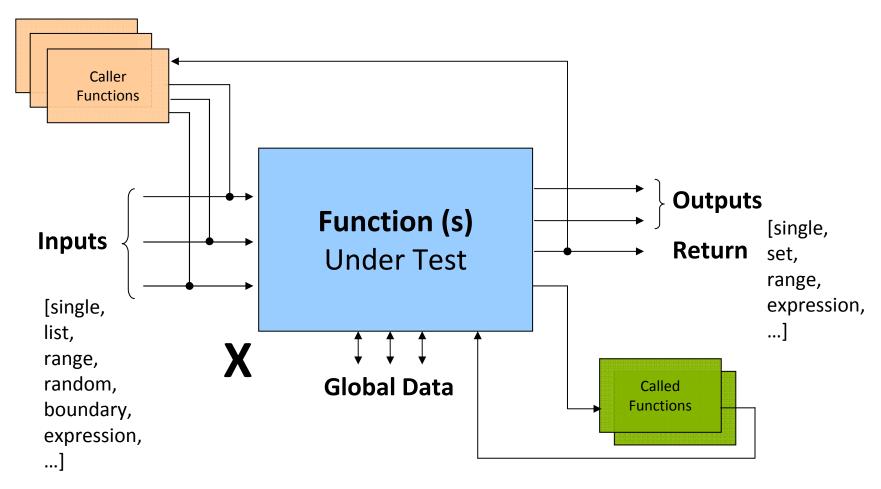


"White Box testing presents a required complementary tool to traditional Black Box testing approaches"

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Functional Verification

A white box framework must enable rigorous testing of every function of the software



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Coverage-Driven Verification



A white box framework must provide a step-by-step approach towards full functional and statement coverage:

- 1. Generate robustness tests based on:
 - Inputs, outputs, global variables and returns' data types
 - Permutations, random values, ranges, boundary values...
- 2. Run generated tests against the user's code
- 3. Measure functional and statement coverage
- 4. Add functional tests to fill the coverage holes based on:
 - User-provided values
 - Outputs of actual test run
 - Function Stubs
 - Function Monitors (snapshots)

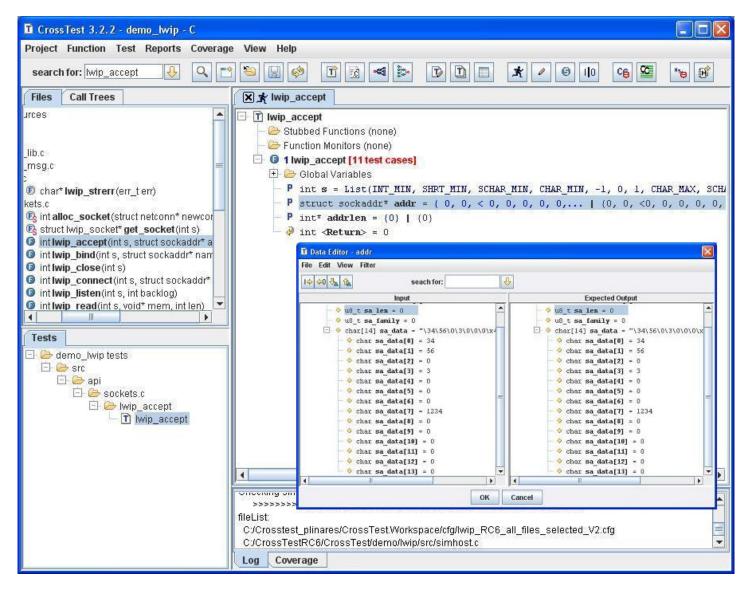
Metrics-Based Methodology

Continuous tracking of the software verification process:

- Testing metrics are collected at all levels of abstraction:
 function, file and application levels
- Metrics include test success and failure rates, functional and statement coverage
- Results are rolled up into a dashboard to track individual and team progress towards verification closure

CrossTest – The User Interface



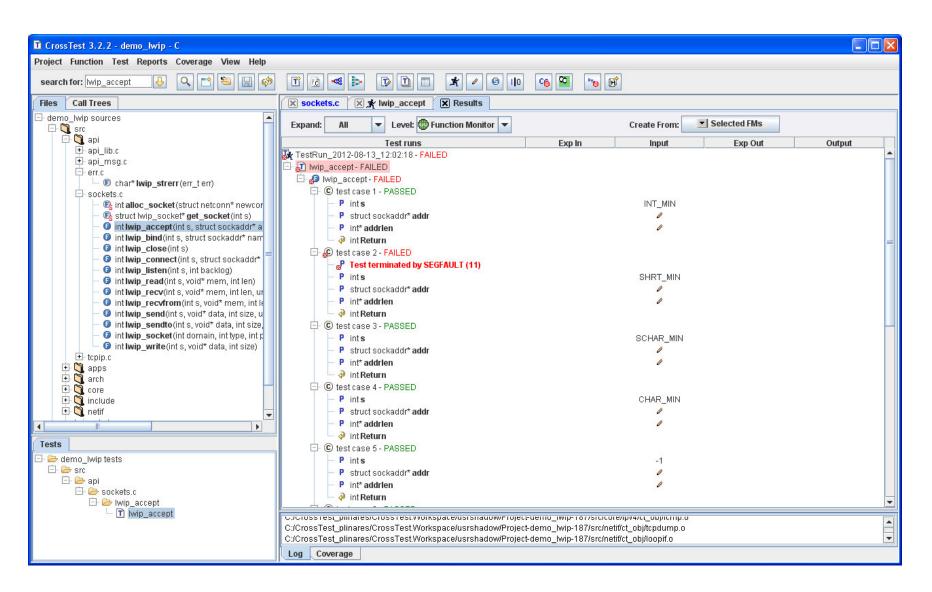


Test Creation

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CrossTest – The User Interface

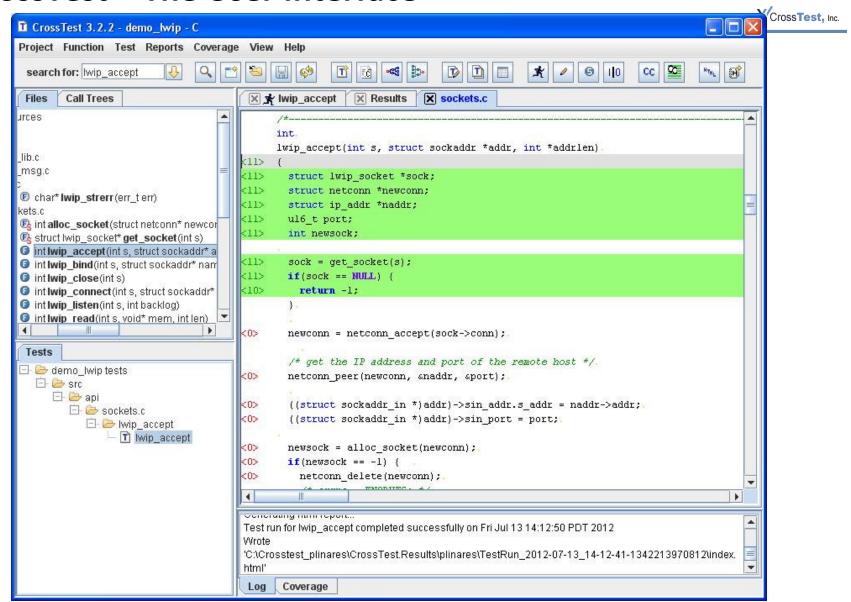




Test Execution

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CrossTest – The User Interface

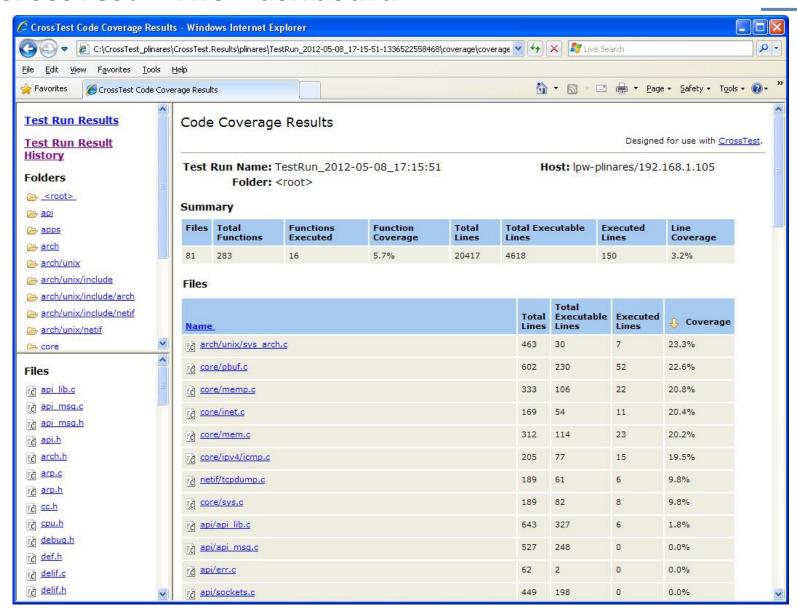


Code coverage

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CrossTest - The Dashboard





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Benefits



- Improve phase containment and reduce integration and system test cycle duration
- Test before the entire SW is complete
- Find defects before integration and system test –
 reduce time on bug fixing & mgmt = more time coding
- Improve test coverage & code quality
- Collaboration sharing of tests and data

Conclusion





CrossTest as an emerging technology bridging the software testing gap between early stage development and integration testing



Full fledged automated test framework



Renewed interest with agile development and exploratory testing

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