

Open Source & Free Test Tools

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How do you define “test tool”?

Test Tool

=

{software that we use to *augment*
our testing process in any way}

Is O/S your 1st Choice?

1) O/S

2) Free

3) Custom

4) Commercial

Swiss army knife vs Hammer

Which Free and O/S tools do you use?

- Selenium-RC
- Fiddler
- SoapUI
- Greenshot
- MiniCap
- Jmeter
- Webload
- PerlClip
- WinPooch
- SysInternals
- Autolt
- Notepad++
- Google Docs
- WinMerge
- Firebug
- Selenium IDE
- Eclipse
- Java
- FreeMind
- HTMLUnit
- PushToTest
- VirtualPC
- VMWare
- MWSnap

Which Commercial Tools Do You Use?

- Jira
- Confluence
- Avalanche
- SnagIt
- BeyondCompare

Reasons Why You Use O/S?

- Cost
- Google Investments
- Choice
- Better staff
- Easier to retain staff
- Long Evaluations
- No lock-in
- Easier to keep up to date

Why do you use commercial tools?

- Support
- Plausible Deniability
- Long Term Cost
- Easier to recruit Staff
- Less Technical
- Tool was already there

Have you noticed any Trends about Commercial vs O/S?

Commercial tools

- Hide the scripting (-)
- Proprietary & Unattractive scripting languages (-)
- Tools for testers (-)
- Do All Things (-)

Open Source

- More technically demanding (+)
- Common Programming Languages (+)
- Use by Dev & Test (+)
- Specialised (+)

What could commercial tools do?

- Augment Open Source
- Specialise
- Cheaper
- More Open

But will customers ask
for this?

Is O/S too Risky?

- Skills
- Updates Slow
- Tools not good enough
 - Flash etc.
- Too many to choose from
- Selenium != IDE
- Access to 'bleeding edge' daily builds
- Throw it away – no commitment

How to find and keep up to date?

- O/S
 - Sourceforge.net
 - OpenQA.com
 - Better Software, ST&P
 - Blogs
 - Testing Reflections
 - For each tool
 - Google blogs
 - ...too many rss feeds...
- Commercial
 - Tools Fairs?
 - Testing Experience
 - ...*Suggestions*...

Usage Strategies for effective tool usage?

- Abstraction
- Best fit
- Skilled Staff
- Keep looking for alternatives

Share your experiences

- What is a test tool?
- O/S as first choice?
- Which tools do you use?
- Why do you use those tools?
- Why don't you use O/S?
- What trends would make a difference?
- What are your usage and learning strategies?