Browser Automation with Java

JavaCro'25
Rovinj, Croatia
October 13, 2025

Boni García
https://bonigarcia.dev/

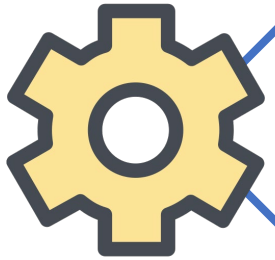
Browser Automation

> ***Browser automation*** *is the process of using software or scripts to control a web browser and perform tasks automatically, without manual human intervention*

Browser Automation – Use cases

Test automation

Web scrapping



Repetitive tasks for web pages

Browser Automation – Tools

cypress

Puppeteer

WEBDRIVER I/O

TestCafé

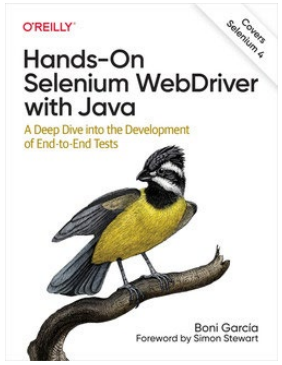
About me

- Associate Professor at UC3M (Spain)
- Tech lead at the Selenium project
- Open-source maintainer
- Author, speaker

uc3m | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Selenium

WebDriverManager



https://bonigarcia.dev/


Selenium

What is Selenium?

> *Selenium is a **browser automation library***

- Multilanguage

- Cross-browser

- Open-source and community-driven since 2004

https://selenium.dev/

Selenium Hello World


```java
public class HelloWorldSelenium {

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // Open Chrome
        WebDriver driver = new ChromeDriver();

        // Navigate to web page
        String url = "https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/";
        driver.get(url);

        // Check page title
        String title = driver.getTitle();
        System.out.println(String.format("The title of %s is %s", url, title));

        // Close Chrome
        driver.quit();
    }

}
```


```xml
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.seleniumhq.selenium</groupId>
    <artifactId>selenium-java</artifactId>
    <version>4.36.0</version>
</dependency>
```

Maven

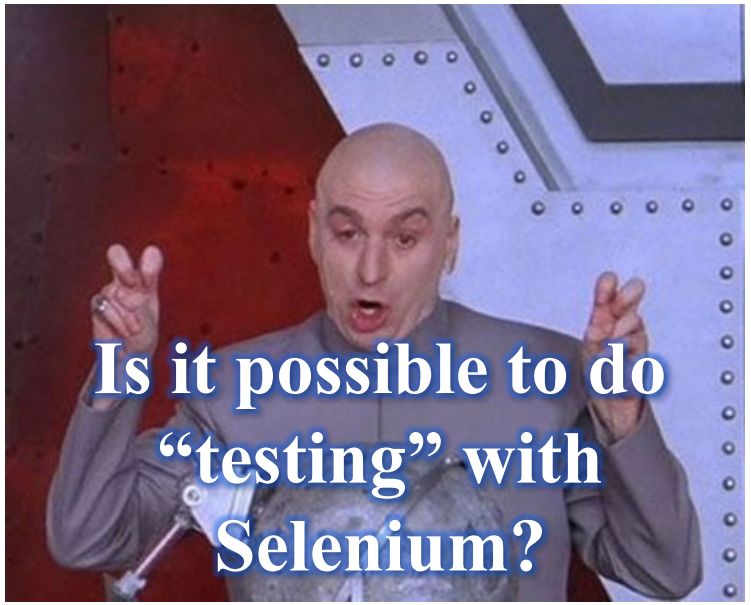
```
dependencies {
    implementation("org.seleniumhq.selenium:selenium-java:4.36.0")
}
```

Gradle

What is NOT Selenium?

> *Selenium is **not** a **testing framework***

- ❌ Test runner
- ❌ Assertions
- ❌ Reporting capabilities
- ❌ Integration with CI/CD
- ❌ Other testing features



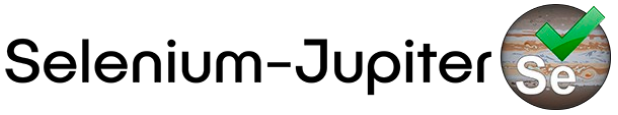
Ecosystem


WebDriverManager


Selenide
CONCISE UI TESTS IN JAVA


Serenity BDD

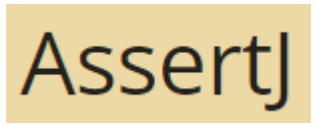

Galen Framework


Selenium-Jupiter


Selenium


JUnit


TestNG


AssertJ


cucumber


REST-assured


mockito

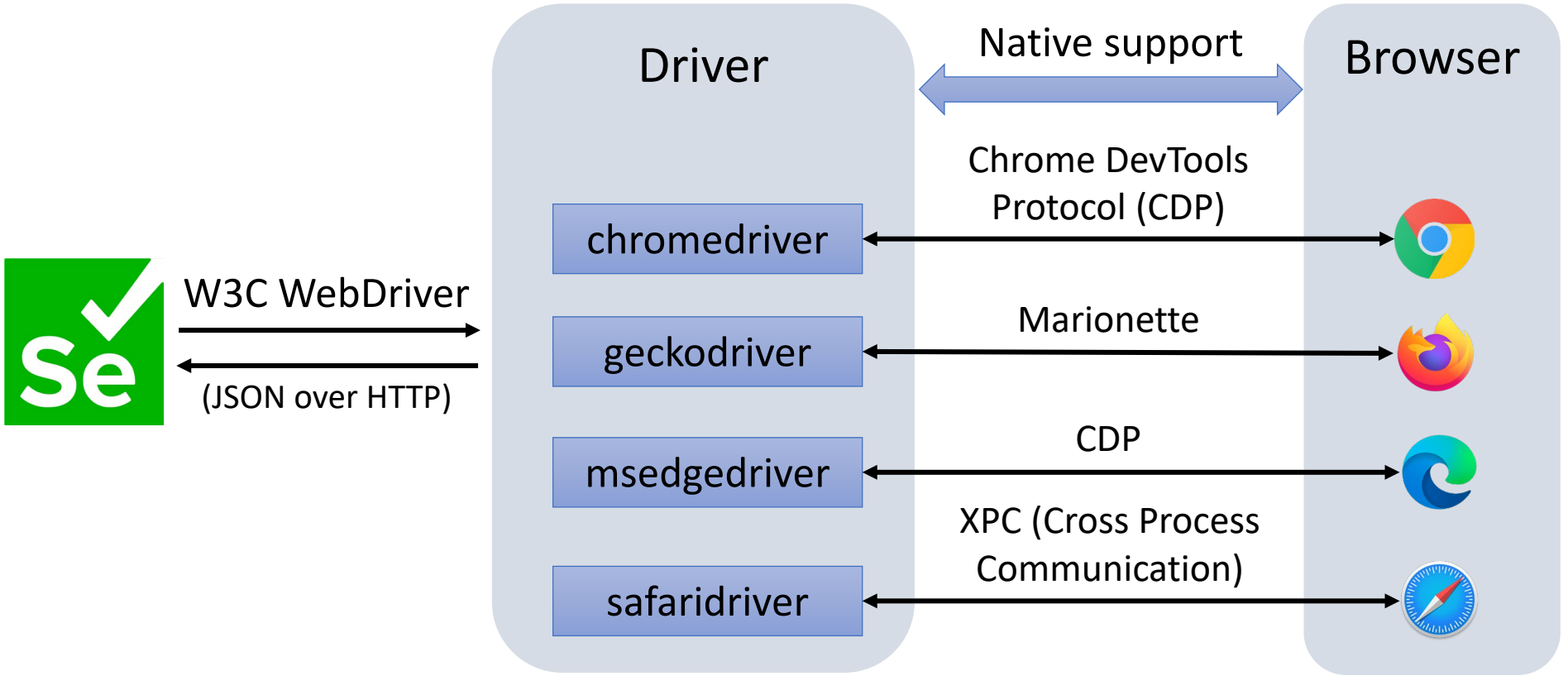

Datafaker


Allure
Report


EXTENT
REPORT


Java

Selenium Architecture



Automated Driver Management

> *Automated driver management and other helper features for Selenium WebDriver in Java*

https://bonigarcia.dev/webdrivermanager/

Automated Driver/Browser Management

Selenium Manager

> *Selenium Manager is the official driver manager of the Selenium project, and it is shipped out of the box with every Selenium release*

https://www.selenium.dev/documentation/selenium_manager/

Selenium Hello World (E2E Test)


```java
class FirefoxBasicTest {

    WebDriver driver;

    @BeforeEach
    void setup() {
        driver = new FirefoxDriver();
    }

    @Test
    void test() {
        driver.get("https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/");
        String title = driver.getTitle();
        assertThat(title).contains("Selenium WebDriver");
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        driver.quit();
    }

}
```

```xml
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.seleniumhq.selenium</groupId>
    <artifactId>selenium-java</artifactId>
    <version>4.36.0</version>
    <scope>test</scope>
</dependency>
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.junit.jupiter</groupId>
    <artifactId>junit-jupiter</artifactId>
    <version>6.0.0</version>
    <scope>test</scope>
</dependency>
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.assertj</groupId>
    <artifactId>assertj-core</artifactId>
    <version>3.27.6</version>
    <scope>test</scope>
</dependency>
```

Automated Browser Management

- Selenium Manager automatically discovers, downloads, and caches the browsers driven with Selenium

			
	✓	✓	✓ *
	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓

*Requires admin permissions

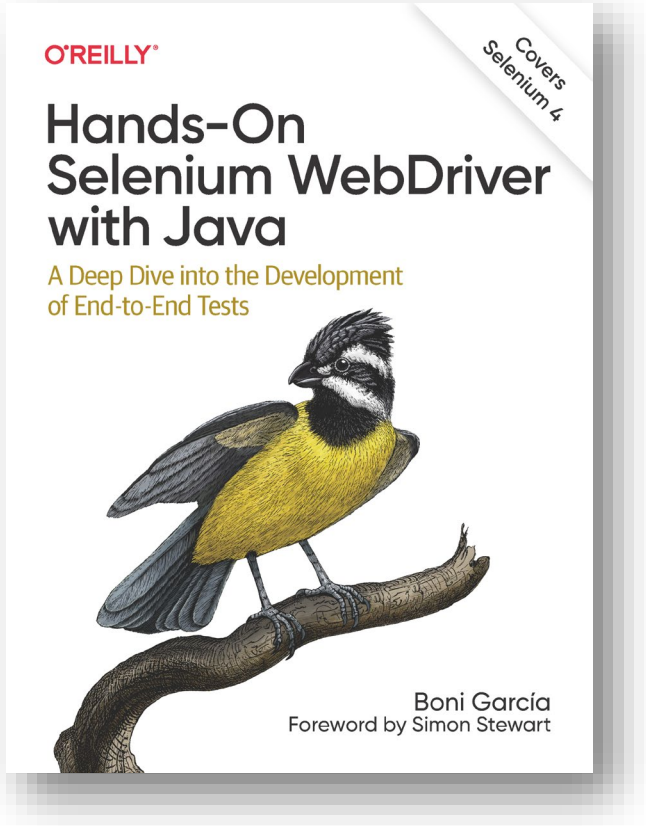
Automated Browser Management


```java
class ChromeVersionTest {

    WebDriver driver;

    @BeforeEach
    void setup() {
        ChromeOptions options = new ChromeOptions();
        options.setBrowserVersion("beta");
        driver = new ChromeDriver(options);
    }

    @Test
    void test() {
        driver.get("https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/");
        String title = driver.getTitle();
        assertThat(title).contains("Selenium WebDriver");
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        driver.quit();
    }

}
```

Specific browser versions (including "beta", "dev", or "nightly") are supported

Selenium API

- Document Object Model (DOM) manipulation
- Impersonate user actions (keyboard, mouse)
- Waiting strategies
- Execute JavaScript
- Make screenshots
- Manage browser (e.g., headless, history, …)
- Chrome DevTools Protocol
- WebDriver BiDi
- …



https://github.com/bonigarcia/selenium-webdriver-java

https://github.com/bonigarcia/selenium-examples

https://github.com/bonigarcia/browser-automation-apis/

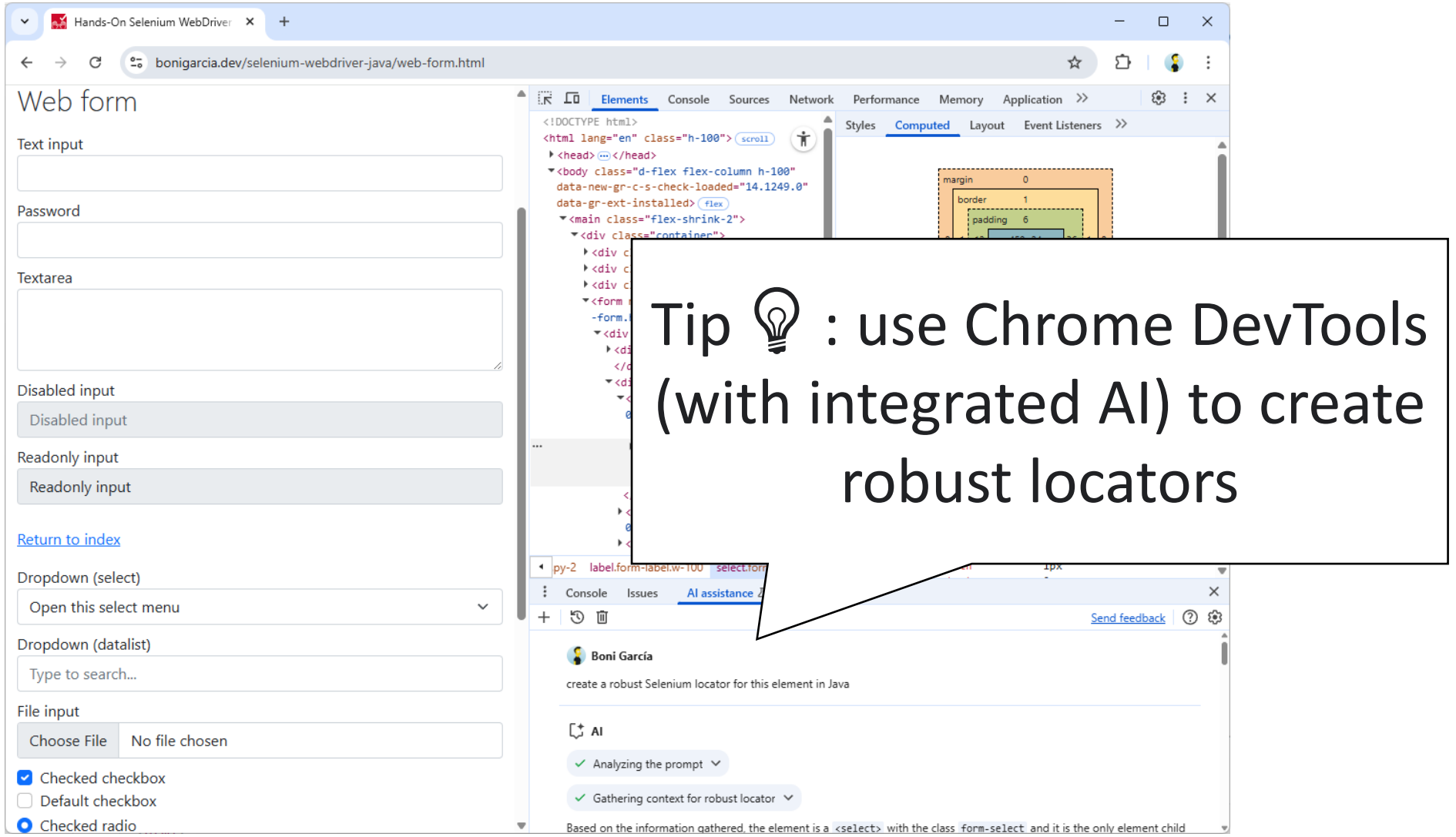
Selenium Locators

- **Locators** are used to identify and interact with web elements

Id	Name	Link text	Partial link text	Tag name	Class name	CSS selector	XPath

```
WebElement username = driver.findElement(By.id("username"));
WebElement textByName = driver.findElement(By.name("my-text"));
WebElement linkByText = driver.findElement(By.linkText("Return to index"));
WebElement linkByPartialText = driver.findElement(By.partialLinkText("index"));
WebElement textarea = driver.findElement(By.tagName("textarea"));
WebElement alert = driver.findElement(By.className("alert"));
WebElement hidden = driver.findElement(By.cssSelector("input[type=hidden]"));
WebElement radio = driver.findElement(By.xpath("//*[@type='radio' and @checked]"));
```

Selenium Locators



Selenium Waiting Strategies

- **Waiting strategies** are used to handle synchronization between the Selenium script and the actual response speed of the web element

Implicit Wait | Explicit Wait | Fluent Wait

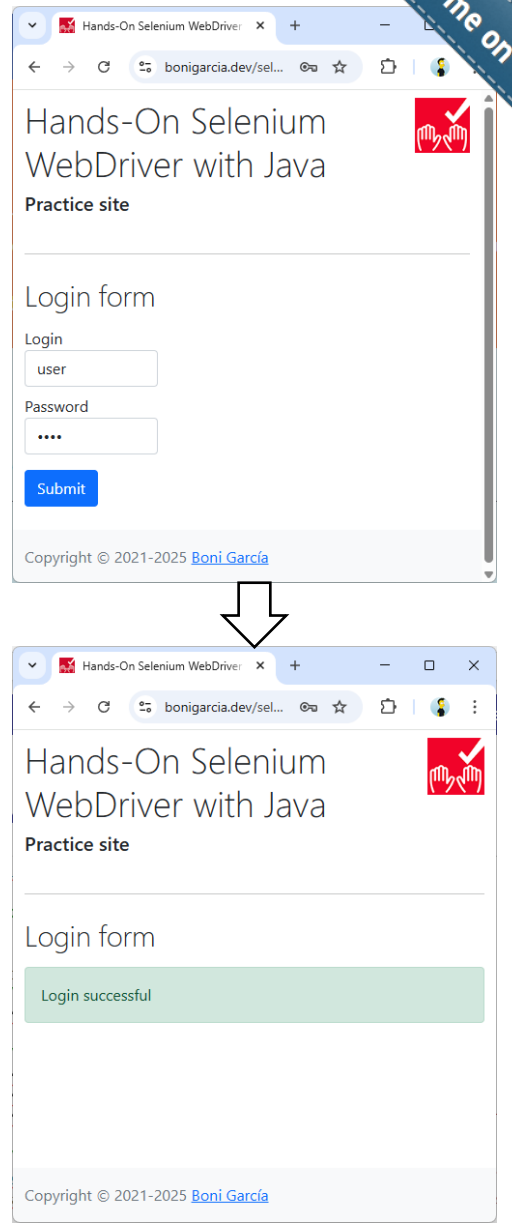
```
driver.manage().timeouts().implicitlyWait(Duration.ofSeconds(10));
```

```
WebDriverWait wait = new WebDriverWait(driver, Duration.ofSeconds(10));
WebElement landscape = wait.until(ExpectedConditions
        .presenceOfElementLocated(By.id("landscape")));
```

```
Wait<WebDriver> wait = new FluentWait<>(driver)
        .withTimeout(Duration.ofSeconds(10))
        .pollingEvery(Duration.ofSeconds(1))
        .ignoring(NoSuchElementException.class);
WebElement landscape = wait.until(ExpectedConditions
        .presenceOfElementLocated(By.id("landscape")));
```

Selenium Waiting Strategies


```java
class LoginSeleniumTest {

    // Fixture

    @Test
    void test() throws Exception {
        // Open system under test (SUT)
        driver.get("https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/login-form.html");

        // Log in
        driver.findElement(By.id("username")).sendKeys("user");
        driver.findElement(By.id("password")).sendKeys("user");
        driver.findElement(By.cssSelector("button[type='submit']")).click();

        // Assert expected text
        WebElement successElement = driver.findElement(By.id("success"));  // FIXME: flaky
        assertThat(successElement.getText()).contains("Login successful");

        // Take screenshot
        File screenshot = ((TakesScreenshot) driver).getScreenshotAs(FILE);
        Path destination = Paths.get("login-selenium.png");
        Files.move(screenshot.toPath(), destination, REPLACE_EXISTING);
    }

}
```



Selenium Waiting Strategies

```java
class SlowLoginSeleniumTest {

    // Fixture

    @Test
    void test() throws Exception {
        // Open system under test (SUT)
        driver.get("https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/login-slow.html");

        // Log in
        driver.findElement(By.id("username")).sendKeys("user");
        driver.findElement(By.id("password")).sendKeys("user");
        driver.findElement(By.cssSelector("button[type='submit']")).click();

        // Assert expected text
        WebDriverWait wait = new WebDriverWait(driver, Duration.ofSeconds(10));
        WebElement successElement = wait.until(ExpectedConditions.presenceOfElementLocated(By.id("success")));
        assertThat(successElement.getText()).contains("Login successful");

        // Take screenshot
        File screenshot = ((TakesScreenshot) driver).getScreenshotAs(FILE);
        Path destination = Paths.get("slow-login-selenium.png");
        Files.move(screenshot.toPath(), destination, REPLACE_EXISTING);
    }

}
```

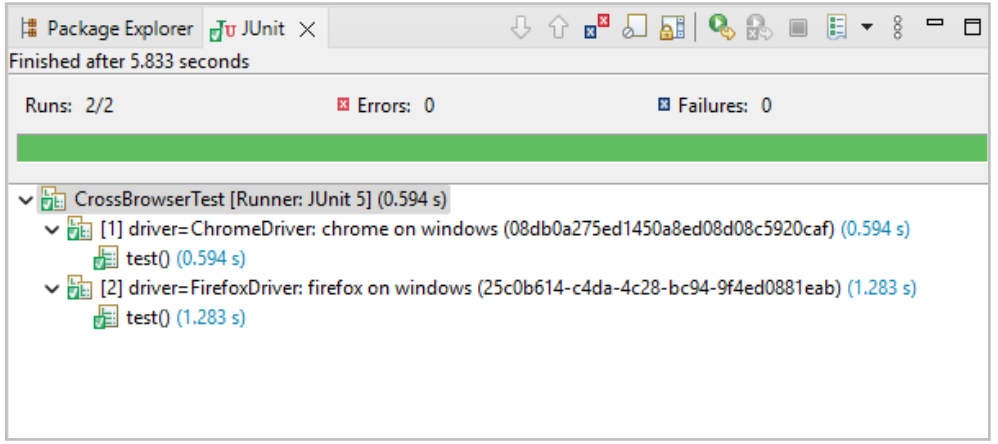
Explicit wait

Ecosystem – Cross-Browser Testing


```java
class CrossBrowserTest extends CrossBrowserParent {

    @Test
    void test() {
        driver.get("https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/");
        assertThat(driver.getTitle()).contains("Selenium WebDriver");
    }

}
```

```java
public class CrossBrowserProvider implements ArgumentsProvider {

    @Override
    public Stream<? extends Arguments> provideArguments(
            ExtensionContext context) {
        ChromeDriver chrome = new ChromeDriver();
        FirefoxDriver firefox = new FirefoxDriver();

        return Stream.of(Arguments.of(chrome), Arguments.of(firefox));
    }

}
```

```java
@ParameterizedClass
@ArgumentsSource(CrossBrowserProvider.class)
class CrossBrowserParent {

    @Parameter
    WebDriver driver;

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        driver.quit();
    }

}
```



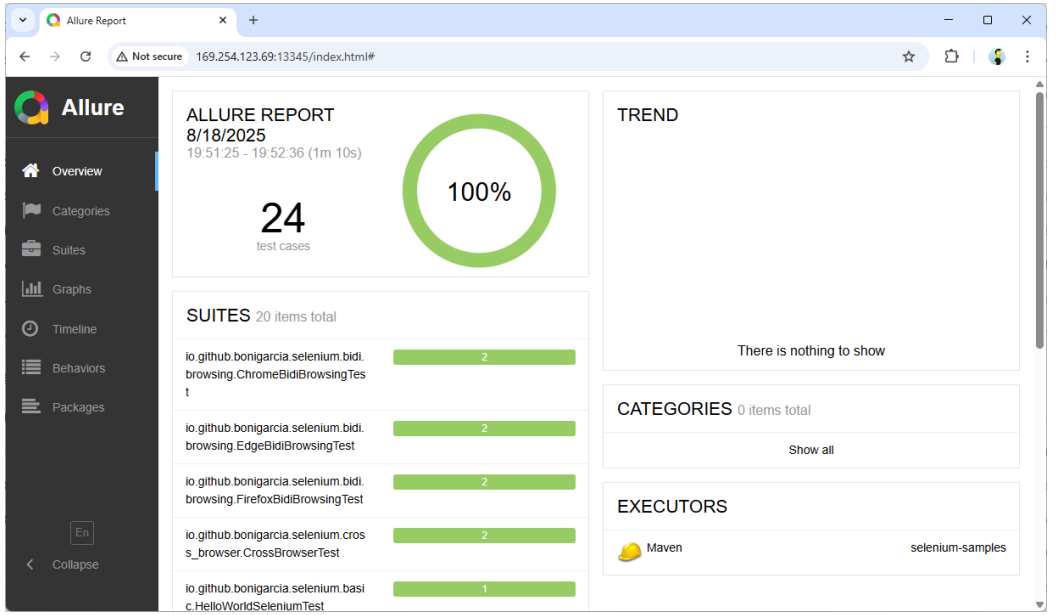
JUnit

https://junit.org/

Ecosystem – Reporting


```xml
<dependencies>
   <dependency>
      <groupId>io.qameta.allure</groupId>
      <artifactId>allure-junit5</artifactId>
      <version>2.29.1</version>
      <scope>test</scope>
    </dependency>
</dependencies>
<build>
   <plugins>
      <plugin>
         <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
         <artifactId>maven-surefire-plugin</artifactId>
         <version>3.5.3</version>
         <configuration>
            <properties>
               <property>
                  <name>listener</name>
                  <value>io.qameta.allure.junit5.AllureJunit5</value>
               </property>
            </properties>
          </configuration>
       </plugin>
       <plugin>
          <groupId>io.qameta.allure</groupId>
          <artifactId>allure-maven</artifactId>
          <version>2.15.2</version>
       </plugin>
    </plugins>
</build>
```

```
mvn test
mvn allure:report
mvn allure:serve
```



Allure Report

https://allurereport.org/

Ecosystem – Reporting

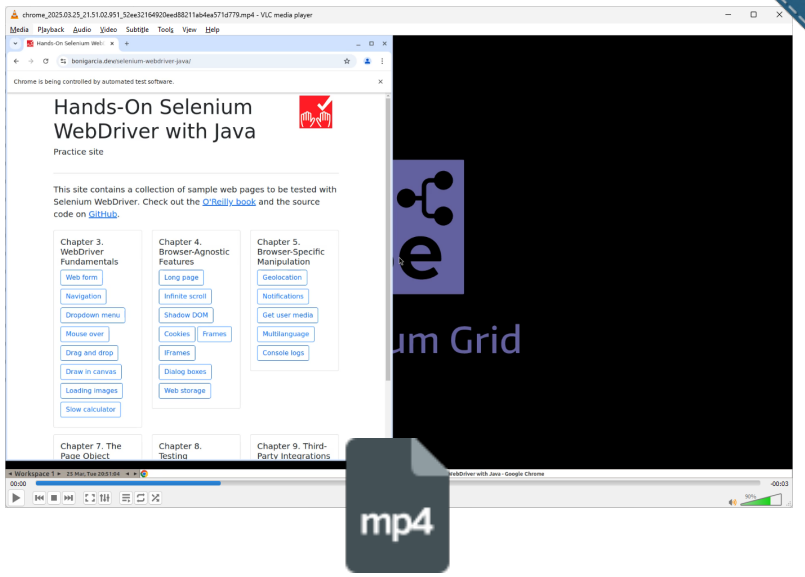
```
class ReportingJupiterTest {

    WebDriver driver;
    static ExtentReports reports;

    @BeforeAll
    static void setupClass() {
        reports = new ExtentReports();
        ExtentSparkReporter htmlReporter = new ExtentSparkReporter("extentReport.html");
        reports.attachReporter(htmlReporter);
    }

    @BeforeEach
    void setup(TestInfo testInfo) {
        reports.createTest(testInfo.getDisplayName());
        driver = new ChromeDriver();
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        driver.quit();
    }

    @AfterAll
    static void teardownClass() {
        reports.flush();
    }

    // Tests

}
```

https://extentreports.com/

Ecosystem – Video Recording


```java
class DockerChromeRecordingTest {

    WebDriver driver;
    WebDriverManager wdm;

    @BeforeEach
    void setupTest() {
        wdm = WebDriverManager.chromedriver().browserInDocker().enableRecording();
        driver = wdm.create();
    }

    @Test
    void test() {
        driver.get("https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/");
        assertThat(driver.getTitle()).contains("Selenium WebDriver");
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        wdm.quit();
    }

}
```

Docker Selenium
Docker images for Selenium Grid



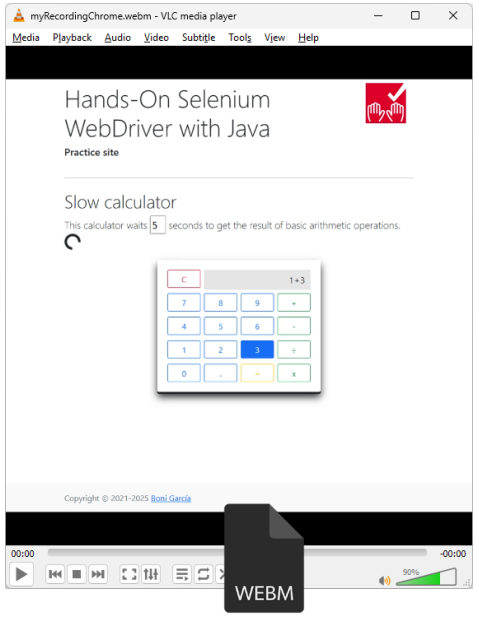

```xml
<dependency>
    <groupId>io.github.bonigarcia</groupId>
    <artifactId>webdrivermanager</artifactId>
    <version>6.3.2</version>
    <scope>test</scope>
</dependency>
```

WebDriverManager

https://bonigarcia.dev/webdrivermanager/

Ecosystem – Video Recording


```java
class RecordEdgeTest {

    WebDriver driver;
    File targetFolder;
    WebDriverManager wdm;

    @BeforeEach
    void setup() {
        wdm = WebDriverManager.edgedriver().watch();
        driver = wdm.create();
    }

    @Test
    void test() {
        driver.get(
                "https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/slow-calculator.html");
        wdm.startRecording();
        // test logic
        wdm.stopRecording();
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        driver.quit();
    }

}
```



WebDriverManager

https://bonigarcia.dev/webdrivermanager/

Playwright

What is Playwright?

> *Playwright is an **end-to-end testing framework****

- Multilanguage

- Cross-browser

- Open-source, maintained by Microsoft since 2020

Playwright

https://playwright.dev/

Playwright Architecture

- Playwright maintains patched releases of Chromium, Firefox, and WebKit
- Playwright uses an extended version of CDP to implement to control uniformly across these browsers

Playwright Test Runner

- The Playwright Test runner (`@playwright/test`) is a full-featured testing framework bundled with Playwright in Node.js, providing:
  - Test runner and assertions (similar to JUnit/TestNG)
  - Built-in fixtures (browser/page/context lifecycle)
  - Parallel test execution across multiple browsers/devices
  - Retries mechanism
  - HTML reporting
  - Video capture on failures
  - API testing (built-in request fixture)
  - Visual comparisons (`expect(page).toHaveScreenshot()`)
  - Component testing (for React/Vue/Svelte/Angular)

What is Playwright?

> *Playwright is an **end-to-end testing framework** for **Node.js***

> *Playwright is a **browser automation library** for **Java/Python/.NET***

Playwright Hello World

```java
public class HelloWorldPlaywright {

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        try (Playwright playwright = Playwright.create()) {
            // Open Chromium
            Browser browser = playwright.chromium().launch();
            Page page = browser.newPage();

            // Navigate to web page
            String url = "https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/";
            page.navigate(url);

            // Check page title
            String title = page.title();
            System.out.println(
                    String.format("The title of %s is %s", url, title));
        } // Close Chromium
    }

}
```


```xml
<dependency>
    <groupId>com.microsoft.playwright</groupId>
     <artifactId>playwright</artifactId>
     <version>1.55.0</version>
</dependency>
```

Maven

```
dependencies {
   implementation("com.microsoft.playwright:playwright:1.55.0")
}
```

Gradle

Playwright Hello World (E2E Test)


```java
class HelloWorldPlaywrightTest {

    Browser browser;
    Page page;

    @BeforeEach
    void setup() {
        browser = Playwright.create().chromium().launch();
        page = browser.newContext().newPage();
    }

    @Test
    void test() {
        // Open system under test (SUT)
        page.navigate("https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/");

        // Assert web page title
        String title = page.title();
        assertThat(title).contains("Selenium WebDriver");
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        browser.close();
    }

}
```

```xml
<dependency>
    <groupId>com.microsoft.playwright</groupId>
    <artifactId>playwright</artifactId>
    <version>1.55.0</version>
    <scope>test</scope>
</dependency>
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.junit.jupiter</groupId>
    <artifactId>junit-jupiter</artifactId>
    <version>6.0.0</version>
    <scope>test</scope>
</dependency>
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.assertj</groupId>
    <artifactId>assertj-core</artifactId>
    <version>3.27.6</version>
    <scope>test</scope>
</dependency>
```

Maven™

```
dependencies {
    testImplementation("com.microsoft.playwright:playwright:1.55.0")
    testImplementation("org.junit.jupiter:junit-jupiter:6.0.0")
    testImplementation("org.assertj:assertj-core:3.27.6")
}
```

Gradle

Playwright Features (in Java)

- DOM manipulation
- Impersonate user actions (keyboard, mouse)
- Browser management (screenshots, JavaScript, cookies, …)
- Auto-waiting
- Trace viewer
- Video recording
- Network interception
- Some testing features (accessibility, API testing, locator assertions)
- …

https://playwright.dev/java/docs/intro

https://github.com/bonigarcia/selenium-examples

Playwright Locators

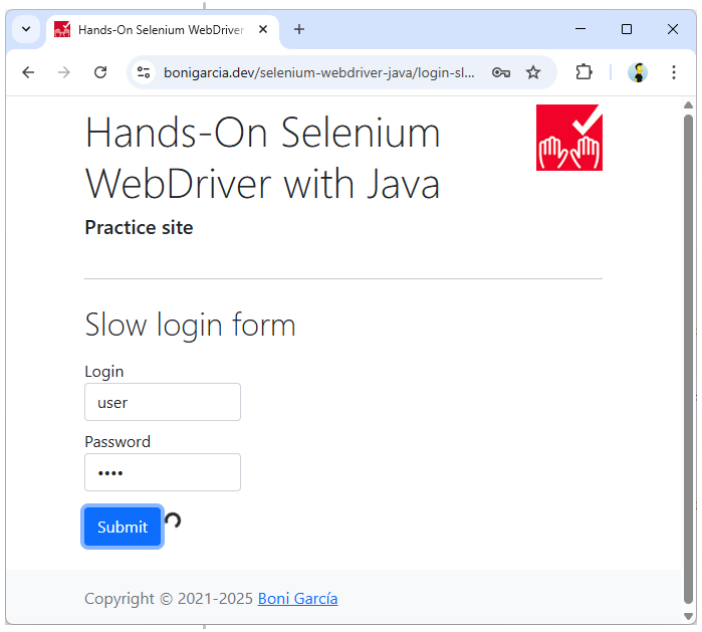
- Playwright supports multiple selector strategies:

Text | Role (ARIA) | Label | Placeholder | Alt Text | Title | Test Id | CSS selector | XPath

```
Locator submitBtn = page.getByRole(AriaRole.BUTTON, new Page.GetByRoleOptions().setName("Submit"));
Locator loginLink = page.getByText("Login");
Locator emailInput = page.getByLabel("Email address");
Locator searchBox = page.getByPlaceholder("Search...");
Locator logo = page.getByAltText("Company Logo");
Locator tooltipIcon = page.getByTitle("More info");
Locator cart = page.getByTestId("shopping-cart");
Locator userInput = page.locator("#username");
Locator item = page.locator("//div[@class='item'][1]");
```

Playwright Auto-Waiting

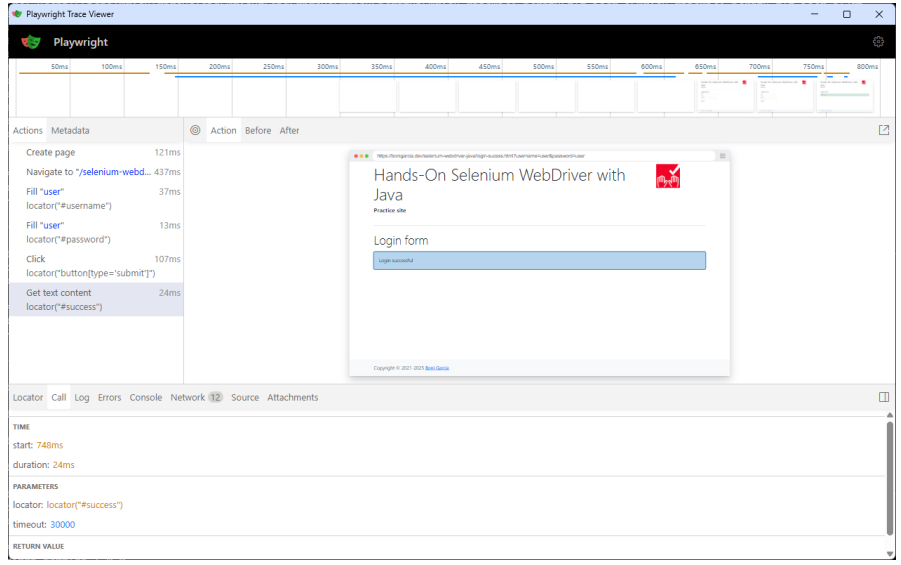

```java
class SlowLoginPlaywrightTest {

    // Fixture

    @Test
    void test() {
        // Open system under test (SUT)
        page.navigate(
                "https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/login-slow.html");

        // Log in
        page.fill("#username", "user");
        page.fill("#password", "user");
        page.click("button[type='submit']");

        // Assert expected text
        String successText = page.textContent("#success");
        assertThat(successText).contains("Login successful");

        // Take screenshot
        page.screenshot(new Page.ScreenshotOptions()
                .setPath(Paths.get("slow-login-playwright.png")));
    }

}
```



Playwright Trace Viewer

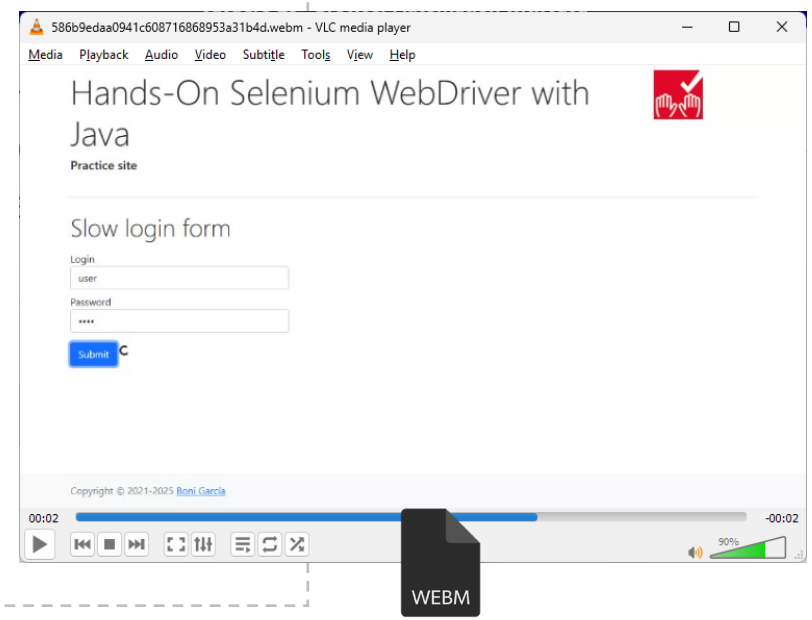
```java
class TraceLoginPlaywrightTest {

    Browser browser;
    BrowserContext context;
    Page page;

    @BeforeEach
    void setup() {
        browser = Playwright.create().chromium()
                .launch(new BrowserType.LaunchOptions().setHeadless(false));
        context = browser.newContext();

        // Start tracing
        context.tracing().start(new Tracing.StartOptions().setScreenshots(true)
                .setSnapshots(true).setSources(true));

        page = context.newPage();
    }

    @Test
    void test() {
        // ...
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        context.tracing().stop(new Tracing.StopOptions()
                .setPath(Paths.get("login-traces.zip")));
        browser.close();
    }

}
```

```
mvn exec:java -e
  -D exec.mainClass=com.microsoft.playwright.CLI
  -D exec.args="show-trace login-traces.zip"
```



Playwright Video Recording


```
class RecordingSlowLoginPlaywrightTest {

    Browser browser;
    Page page;

    @BeforeEach
    void setup() {
        browser = Playwright.create().chromium()
                .launch(new BrowserType.LaunchOptions().setHeadless(false));
        Browser.NewContextOptions options = new Browser.NewContextOptions()
                .setRecordVideoDir(Paths.get("."));
        page = browser.newContext(options).newPage();
    }

    @Test
    void test() {
        // ...
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        browser.close();
    }

}
```

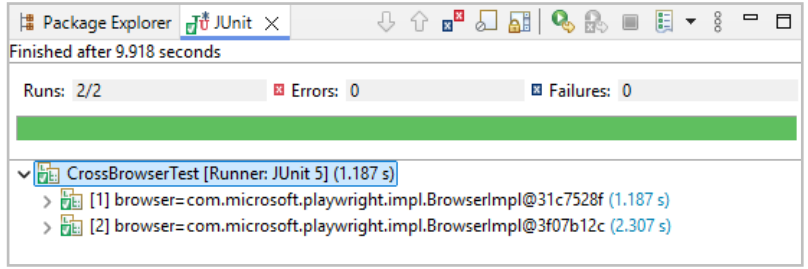


Ecosystem – Cross-Browser Testing


```java
class CrossBrowserTest extends CrossBrowserParent {

    @Test
    void test() {
        page.navigate("https://bonigarcia.dev/selenium-webdriver-java/");
        assertThat(page.title()).contains("Selenium WebDriver");
    }

}
```

```java
public class CrossBrowserProvider implements ArgumentsProvider {

    @Override
    public Stream<? extends Arguments> provideArguments(
            ExtensionContext context) {
        Playwright playwright = Playwright.create();
        Browser chromium = playwright.chromium().launch();
        Browser firefox = playwright.firefox().launch();

        return Stream.of(Arguments.of(chromium), Arguments.of(firefox));
    }

}
```

```java
@ParameterizedClass
@ArgumentsSource(CrossBrowserProvider.class)
class CrossBrowserParent {

    @Parameter
    Browser browser;

    Page page;

    @BeforeEach
    void createContextAndPage() {
        page = browser.newContext().newPage();
    }

    @AfterEach
    void teardown() {
        browser.close();
    }

}
```



JUnit

https://junit.org/

Conclusions – Key Differences

	Selenium	Playwright
Nature	Browser automation library	End-to-end testing framework (JS/TS) Browser automation library (Java/Python/.NET)
Automation mechanism	Web standards (W3C WebDriver, BiDi)	Custom architecture based on own protocols and patched browsers
Languages	Java, JavaScript, Python, .NET, Ruby	JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, .NET, Java
Browsers	All major browsers	Patched Chromium, Firefox, and WebKit
Maintainer	Selenium project since 2004	Microsoft since 2020

Conclusions – Pros and Cons

	Selenium (Java)	Playwright (Java)
Pros	• Real cross-browser, since it is entirely based on open standards • Rich ecosystem • Improved developer experience (Selenium Manager)	• Great developer experience (modern API, auto-waits, easy setup) • Appealing features (trace viewer, video recording) • Faster execution
Cons	• Does not provides specific features for testing • Waits (implicit/explicit/fluent) should be handled by developers	• The test runner is not available in Java, so the advanced testing features are not available in Java • Rather than actual releases, it uses patched browser versions of Chrome, Firefox, and WebKit

Browser Automation with Java

Thank you so much!

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