

Integration and Testing Strategy

- Approaches to Integration
 - problems w/phased integration
 - incremental integration
 - orders and models
- Approaches to Testing
 - unit testing
 - test driven development
 - “in vivo” & “in vitro” testing
 - getting at those hard to reach places

The Integration “Phase” Canard

- Came from large system procurement
 - numerous “Balkanized” contractors
 - manufacturing/assembly is expensive
- Development model
 - specify all components/interfaces up front
 - independently develop each component
 - combine them when they are all finished
- Result
 - a predictable disaster

Incremental Integration

- Process
 - start with dummy versions of every component
 - including makefiles, test cases, configuration data
 - run automatic regular (e.g. daily) builds
 - integrate each (small) change as it is ready
 - must be able to test integrated code when it is added
- Benefits
 - system can be built & tested from day one
 - problems are found sooner and more quickly
 - problems are spread out over the schedule
 - more predictable schedule and quality
 - less wasted re-engineering

Incremental Integration Models

- Order of updates
 - top-down
 - bottom-up
 - hybrid combinations
- Granularity of updates
 - continuous integration
 - expose code to others ASAP
 - Train Model integration
 - we will ship no product before it is ready

Integration Sequencing

- integrate updates as they are made
 - but in what order do we do our development?
- this is not a simple question
 - testability: an order that facilitates unit testing
 - modularity: finish one thing, then move on
 - dependencies: some things are needed sooner
 - resources: some are only available at one time
 - learning curve: do simpler things first
 - risk: deal with high-risk problems early
 - uncertainty: leave time to tie down open issues

Unit Testing

- is this component complete & correct?
 - does it perform all required functions
 - does it correctly handle all specified errors
 - does it meet all of its specifications
- some unit testing can be done in isolation
 - simple input/output functionality testing
 - simple error testing
 - test harnesses or dummy components
- some testing requires other components

Test Driven Development

- As a formal methodology
 1. write test case(s)
 2. run test case(s) and confirm failure
 3. write code to implement functionality
 4. re-run test(s) and confirm success
 5. check in the new tests and code
- As a general approach
 - thoroughly test each feature as you write it
 - do all testing with automated test cases
 - save and accumulate all the test cases

approaches to unit testing

- *in vivo* testing (within the living)
 - build a complete program
 - run it with test inputs, observe its behavior
- *in vitro* testing (within glass)
 - build an individual component
 - build a test harness for that component
 - that simulates the rest of the program
 - that passes inputs to the tested component
 - that records the component behavior
 - test the component with the exercise harness

testing in a complete product

- testing whole programs
- advantages
 - we are testing the program we will ship
 - we are exercising the whole program
 - less work wasted on special test harnesses
- disadvantages
 - requires program to be (somewhat) complete
 - some problems may be hard to induce
 - some behavior may be hard to observe
 - problems may be harder to isolate

where “whole system” wins

- externally visible behavior
 - in response to external inputs
- whole-program functionality testing
 - does program support all specified inputs
 - does program produce correct output
- testing response to external errors
 - invalid parameters and requests
 - improper configuration
 - missing or incorrect data files

design for whole system testing

- design for progressive implementation
 - there is always a complete program
 - but its functionality grows over time
 - start with the highest level functions
- design for maximum observability
 - key components produce observable output
 - key internal state can be displayed
- design for maximum controllability
 - all interesting situations can be created
- often achieved w/diagnostic options

single component unit testing

- testing components in isolation
- advantages
 - we can completely control program stimulus
 - we can closely observe program behavior
 - we can thoroughly test after every change
 - problems are easily diagnosed
- disadvantages
 - component may behave differently *in vivo*
 - must build special test harnesses
 - still need other tests for whole program

isolated routine testing

- test driver
 - reads test case descriptions from config table
 - sets up inputs and environment
 - calls the routines to be tested
 - records all results
- component adaptor includes routines to
 - call target routines with test parameters
 - return test values when called by target
- involves much component specific code

where unit-testing clearly wins

- when rest of the system isn't yet available
 - independent pieces, parallel development
- testing complex and unlikely error cases
 - things that can't happen in a healthy system
 - highly unlikely combinations
- stressing infrequently used components
 - harness can provide much better exercise
- directly testing deeply embedded behavior
 - harness can observe all interesting behavior

alternatives to isolated testing

- test real components in simulated system
 - of simulated networked components
- build dummy/test components
 - implement same interface as real component
 - includes test driver to control behavior
 - generate controllable requests and loads
 - generate plausible or erroneous responses
 - including very unlikely error
- Combines benefits of in-vivo and in vitro
 - wider range of whole component tests

alternatives to isolated testing

- diagnostic error injection
 - built in to each component
- design error simulation into components
 - identify important hard-to-induce errors
 - design ways to manually simulate them
 - but higher level s/w will treat them as real
- externally trigger and observe behavior
- these are often left in production code
 - they can be valuable debugging aids

Industrial Strength Error Testing

- diagnostic platforms
 - very realistic simulation of real errors
 - under the control of a software test driver
- firmware error injection
 - transient parity and communications errors
 - solid faults, system resets, power failures
- software error injection
 - resource exhaustion, system overloads
 - wrappers to simulate service/node failures

Team Exercise

1. consider your components
 - which are easily tested independently?
 - what kind of test harness would you use?
 - which would require much framework?
 - what would have to be simulated?
2. consider development/testing order?
 - total parallelism? ordering constraints?
 - can you have daily builds and smoke tests?
 - can you do continuous integration?
3. present your issues and discoveries

A Bottom Line

- Quality comes from methodology
 - requirements, design, construction processes
- Confidence comes from testing
 - reviews, unit testing, system testing
- How much confidence do we have?
 - how thoroughly have we tested it?
 - this is limited by its intrinsic testability
- Testability results from careful design
 - if you make it testable, you can test it
 - if you test it well, you can make it good

For Next Lecture

- McConnell, chapters 25
- Wikipedia: system testing
- Kampe: Scenario Based Testing
- Kampe: Load and Stress testing
- Kampe: Testing and Bug Discovery
- Kampe: Release Phases & Criteria
- Gnu: gprof execution profiling (skim)

Supplementary Slides

testing object oriented software

- how do you test one class at a time?
 - You can't. Who said you should?
- OO gives us powerful language features
 - it does not greatly change our programs
 - test OO s/w the same way we test other s/w
- test methods as they become testable
 - as they are implemented
 - as modules that call them are implemented
- design software with this phasing in mind

automation is essential

- tests must be run regularly
 - on each new version of the component
- tests must be run repeatably
 - the exact same tests run every single time
- results must be checked mechanically
 - tired/bored eyes can miss minor errors
- results must be summarized and reported
 - to measure improvement/regression
- these are repetitive, mind-numbing tasks

automated testing framework

- is driven by a database
 - each entry describes a test case
- for each selected test case
 - set up the environment (files, credentials, ...)
 - initiate a specified action (command, msg, ...)
 - capture all output
 - note the state of all files, databases, etc
 - compare the results with what was expected
 - report any differences as errors/failures
- produce summary of tests run and results

test drivers

- should run w/o human assistance
- are highly application-class specific
 - for command-line-interfaces
 - shell scripts work very well
 - for network servers
 - transaction generators are needed
 - for GUIs
 - capture/replay can be used
 - widget level action and query is better
- but should be designed for generality

Golden Output

- used by many testing frameworks
 - golden output is what system should produce
 - results are compared against golden output
 - differences are reported as errors/failures
- not all differences are errors
 - some output may be incidental
 - we need a way to filter this out
- we must be sure golden output is correct
 - otherwise errors will go undetected
 - it must be carefully reviewed and managed

Data Verification

- some verification is very simple
 - we expect specific files with specific contents
 - such verification is easily automated
- verification can be more complex
 - assertions relating output to supplied input
 - programs must be written to test this
 - the assertions, or the programs can be wrong
- when you design a component
 - think about how to confirm its correctness