1 Introducing TAME

TAME builds and runs software tests.

Instead of writing tests one at a time, using TAME, testers fill out simple tables and TAME does the boring and repetitive work of forming combinations to create dozens of useful tests at once.

Turn these tests into automated UI tests by simply showing TAME how to locate the UI objects, then TAME runs fully automated tests.

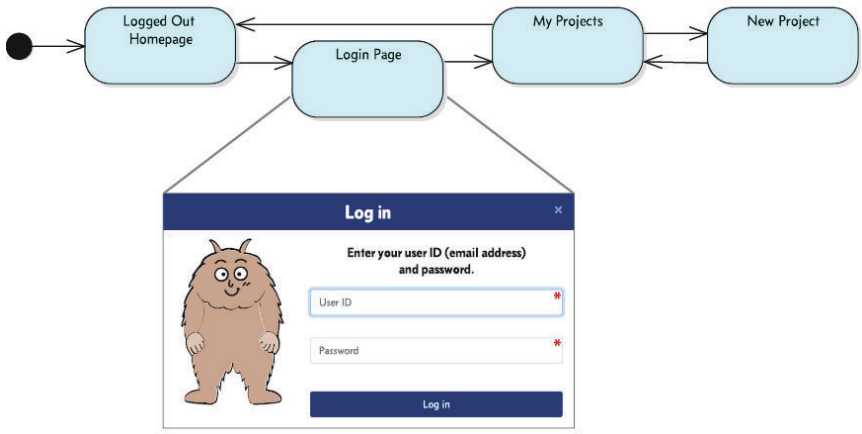
To illustrate how TAME builds and automates software tests, we'll examine a familiar activity—logging into a website. This quick overview will demonstrate core TAME techniques: creating a workbook, identifying inputs and results, defining values, writing directions, and generating test cases. We'll see how TAME can generate scenarios for test planning and review (including the Gherkin language used by Cucumber), how to

add automation instructions to a test suite, and how to run the generated tests on multiple platforms.

Choose a Function to Test

While it's common to analyze and design top-down, development and testing usually proceed bottom-up. Systems divide into processes; processes into activities; activities into units—functions, steps, or UI pages.

The whole login activity can be thought of in three steps: a logged out homepage, the login page, and a logged in homepage.



A user starts on the logged out homepage, clicks a link to go to the login page, then a successful login takes the user to the logged in homepage. From there the user can do other activities, such as creating new projects.

Examining the login activity, the login page itself is the most interesting of the three, so we'll start with that page.

Don't be a Serial Tester

So how many tests would you need to build for a login page? If you're like many testers and developers, you'll likely answer that question by creating tests one at a time.

Perhaps you'll write these as scenarios in a form like this:

```
Scenario: Logged Out Homepage
     Given I am on the logged out homepage
       And there is a user in good standing with ID gary@tametest.net
       And the user gary@tametest.net has password Test.123
      When I click the Log In link in the upper right corner
      Then I am on the Login page

      When I type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field
       And I type "Test.123" into the Password field
       And I click the blue Log In button
      Then the login is successful. I'm taken to the logged in homepage

      When I click the Hello link in, then select the Log Out menu item
      Then I am on the logged out homepage
```

```
Scenario: Wrong Password Error
     Given I am on the logged out homepage
       And there is a user in good standing with ID gary@tametest.net
       And the user gary@tametest.net does not have password Bad-456
      When I click the Log In link in the upper right corner
      Then I am on the Login page

      When I type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field
       And I type "Bad-456" into the Password field
       And I click the blue Log In button
      Then I am told that I can't log in
```

This Given-When-Then form is a common language known as Gherkin - part of the Cucumber system.[1]

1. Reference: The Cucumber Book

While Gherkin provides a common, easily understood, human readable form for writing tests, you're still left with having to create each of these tests one by one. If I have a number of scenarios, I'm likely doing a lot of copying and pasting. When it's time to make changes I'll have to go through and inspect those tests and make changes in several different places.

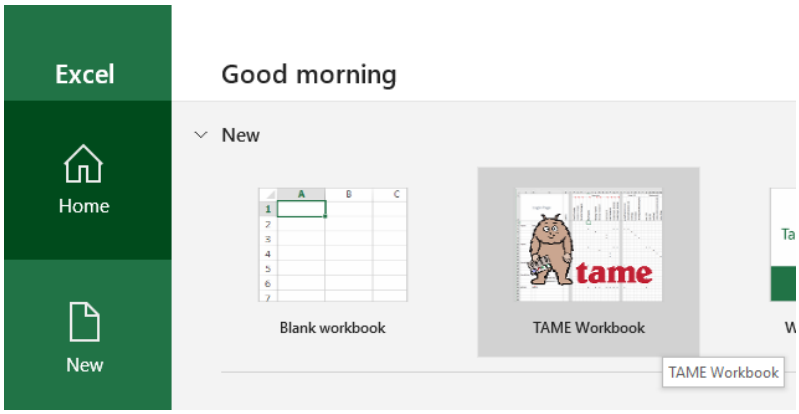
And then there's the problem of turning those into automated executable tests. Often this involves testers (or automation engineers) reading the test scenarios, then recording or writing tests in a programming language.

TAME greatly simplifies the process of building the many test cases needed to completely verify a software system.

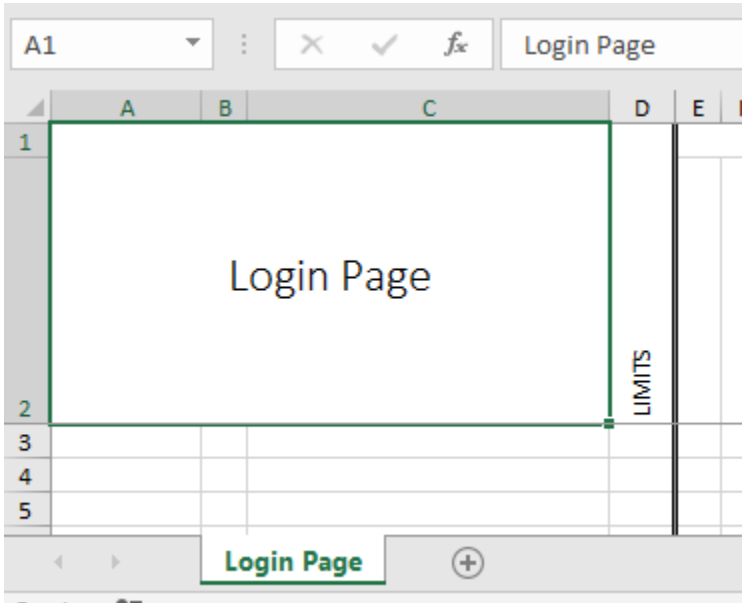
Create a Workbook

To build tests for the login page, create a TAME workbook.

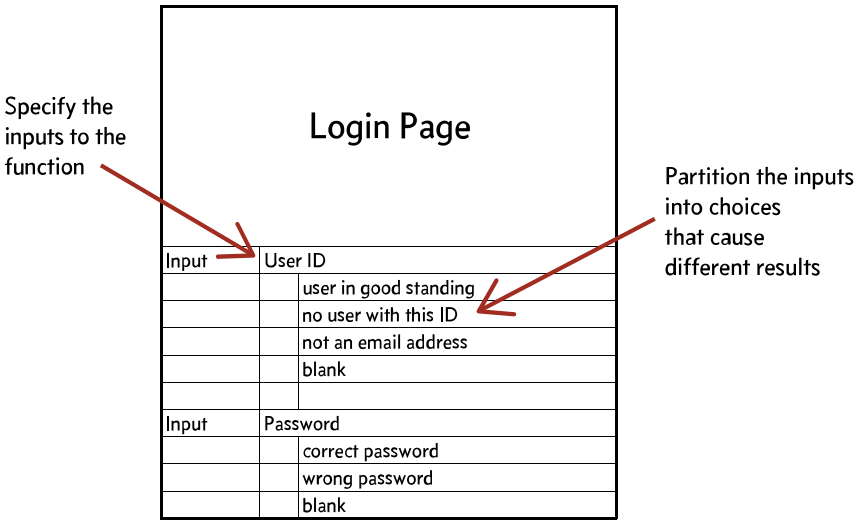
If you have Excel and the TAME plugin, just select the TAME Workbook template.



Name the worksheet by typing "Login Page" into cell A1. Note how this changes the name of the tab as well.



The login page has two inputs, the user ID and the password. Create input categories for each. Then partition the inputs into choices representing different inputs that will produce different behavior.



The other part of building tests is to define the expected results. One result is a successful login. This requires entering a good user ID and a good password before clicking the Login button. Define the result by naming it in the top row under the Checks header, then marking cells for the two input choices and the event.

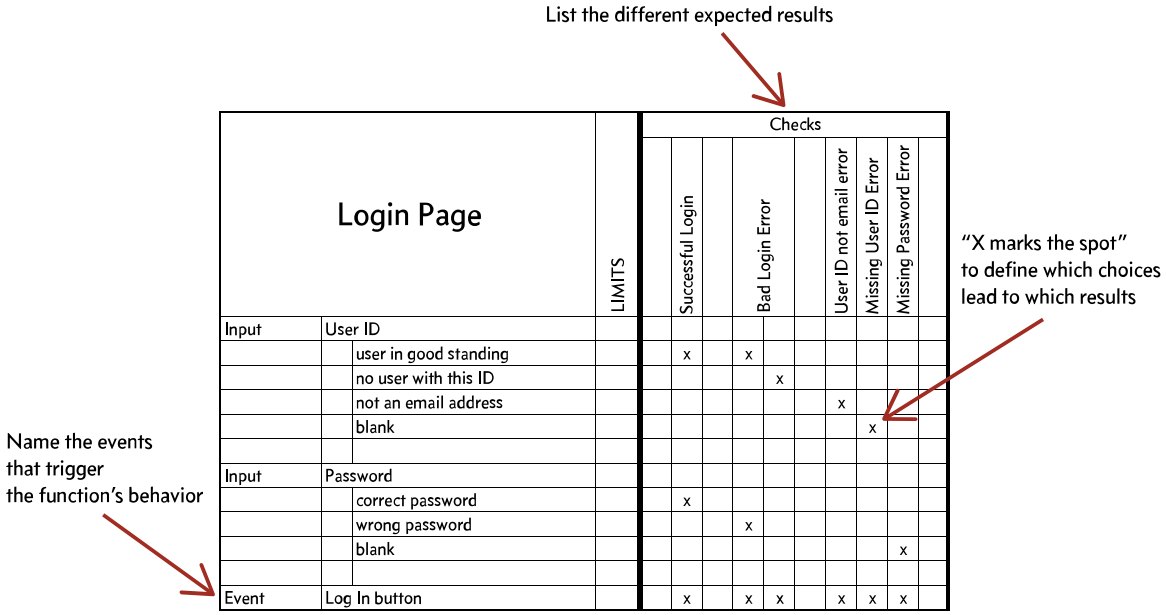
Entering the user ID of a user who does not exist—entering an email address that doesn't match a registered user —will produce an error regardless of the choice for the password. In this case, a User ID choice is marked, but no choice is selected for the password.

Other error results include:

- a good user ID but the wrong password for the user
- leaving the user ID blank
- leaving the password blank

Each of these are marked with sets of choices that lead to the result.

Finally, create an Event for the Login button—the user behavior that triggers the Login.



Generate Tests

Save the workbook and click the Generate Tests button. The Test Viewer opens to show six different scenarios.

1. Successful Login

Test
Start: Login Page
Input: user in good standing for User ID
Input: correct password for Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Successful Login

2. Bad Login Error (Password=wrong password)

Test
Start: Login Page
Input: user in good standing for User ID
Input: wrong password for Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Bad Login Error

3. Bad Login Error (User ID=no user with this ID)

Test
Start: Login Page
Input: no user with this ID for User ID
Event: Log In button
Check: Bad Login Error

4. User ID not email error

Test
Start: Login Page
Input: not an email address for User ID
Event: Log In button
Check: User ID not email error

5. Missing User ID Error

Test
Start: Login Page
Input: blank for User ID
Event: Log In button
Check: Missing User ID Error

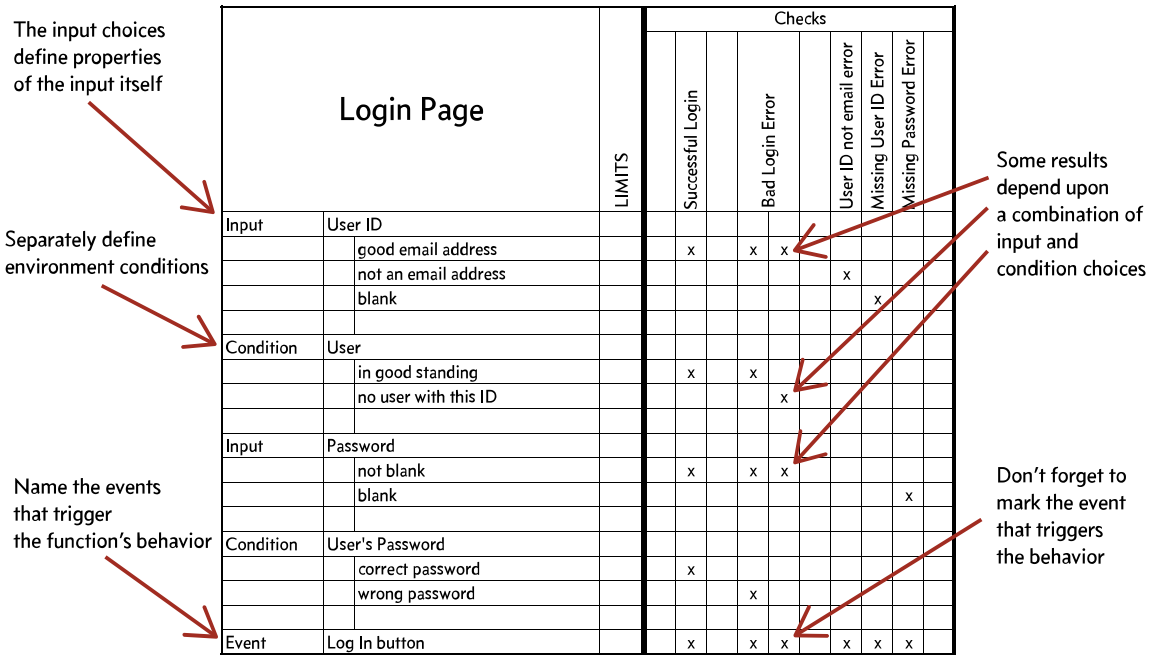
6. Missing Password Error

Test
Start: Login Page
Input: blank for Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Missing Password Error

Conditions

Are there certain properties of the environment or the objects within it that contribute to different outcomes? For example, it's not just enough to have a user ID in the form of an email address: it must also be the user ID of a real known user.

Likewise, the it's not enough to have a nonblank password: it has to be the right password for the user.



Login Page		LIMITS	Checks								
			Successful Login		Bad Login Error			User ID not email error	Missing User ID Error	Missing Password Error	
Input	User ID										
	good email address		x		x	x					
	not an email address							x			
	blank								x		
Condition	User										
	in good standing		x		x						
	no user with this ID					x					
Input	Password										
	not blank		x		x	x					
	blank									x	
Condition	User's Password										
	correct password		x								
	wrong password				x						
Event	Log In button			x		x	x		x	x	x

While we could have just made these into additional choices of the inputs, defining these distinct environment conditions also

signals what needs to be true and what needs to be set up before the tests run.

1. Successful Login

Test
Start: Login Page
Conditions: • User: in good standing • User's Password: correct password
Input: good email address for User ID
Input: not blank for Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Successful Login

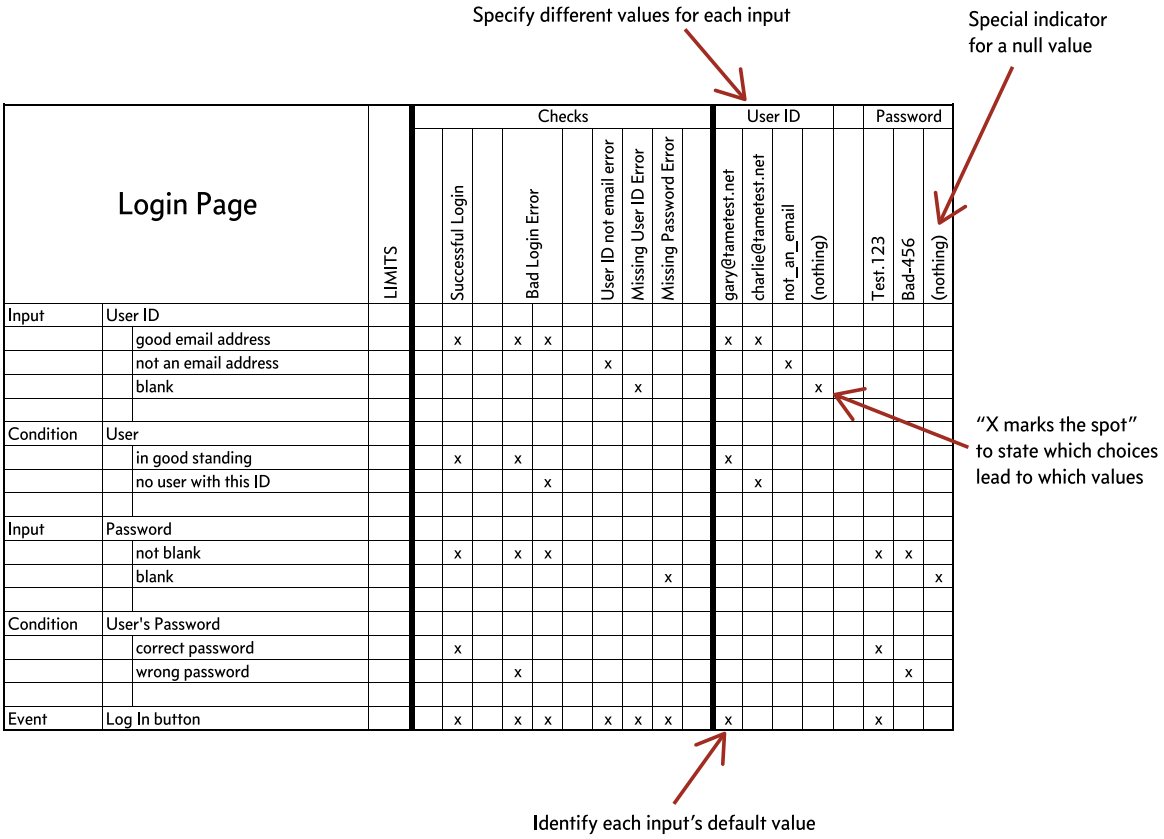
2. Bad Login Error
(User's Password=wrong password)

Test
Start: Login Page
Conditions: • User: in good standing • User's Password: wrong password
Input: good email address for User ID
Input: not blank for Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Bad Login Error

Values

These descriptions are nice, but real tests have real values. To define values, create sets of columns for each input. The column header (on row 1) is the name of the input; values are placed below on row 2.

Values are entered and marked just like results.



Login Page		LIMITS	Checks								User ID					Password		
			Successful Login		Bad Login Error		User ID not email error	Missing User ID Error	Missing Password Error		gary@tametest.net	charlie@tametest.net	not_an_email	(nothing)		Test.123	Bad-456	(nothing)
Input	User ID																	
	good email address		x		x	x					x	x						
	not an email address						x						x					
	blank							x						x				
Condition	User																	
	in good standing		x		x						x							
	no user with this ID					x						x						
Input	Password																	
	not blank		x		x	x										x	x	
	blank								x									x
Condition	User's Password																	
	correct password		x													x		
	wrong password				x												x	
Event	Log In button		x		x	x		x	x	x	x					x		

The User ID values are

- a real user with ID gary@tametest.net
- an ID of a user not registered, charlie@tametest.net
- the special keyword "(nothing)" for a blank value. (Note that this keyword is necessary to distinguish a blank value from an empty cell.)

Password values include

- the correct password, Test.123
- a wrong password, Bad.456
- an empty value

Regenerating the tests again (by clicking the Generate Tests button) produces the same six tests, but this time since they contain real values, they should be easier for a tester to follow and replicate consistently.

1. Successful Login

Test
Start: Login Page
Conditions: • User: in good standing • User's Password: correct password
Input: gary@tametest.net into User ID
Input: Test.123 into Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Successful Login

2. Bad Login Error (User's Password=wrong password)

Test
Start: Login Page
Conditions: • User: in good standing • User's Password: wrong password
Input: gary@tametest.net into User ID
Input: Bad-456 into Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Bad Login Error

3. Bad Login Error (User=no user with this ID)

Test
Start: Login Page
Conditions: • User: no user with this ID
Input: charlie@tametest.net into User ID
Input: Test.123 into Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Bad Login Error

4. User ID not email error

Test
Start: Login Page
Input: not_an_email into User ID
Input: Test.123 into Password
Event: Log In button
Check: User ID not email error

5. Missing User ID Error

Test
Start: Login Page
Input: blank for User ID
Input: Test.123 into Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Missing User ID Error

6. Missing Password Error

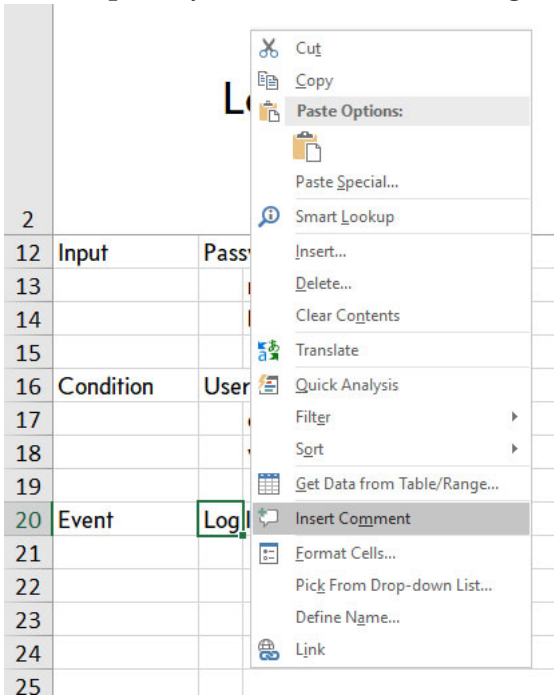
Test
Start: Login Page
Input: gary@tametest.net into User ID
Input: blank for Password
Event: Log In button
Check: Missing Password Error

Note that good tests describe both the kind of value being used (the name of the input choice) and the actual value.

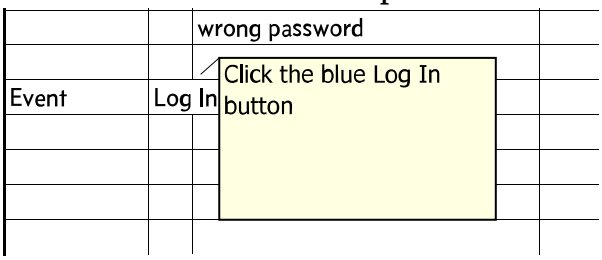
Directions

The scenarios above are better, but they are still a bit stilted. They do not read as smoothly as hand-written tests.

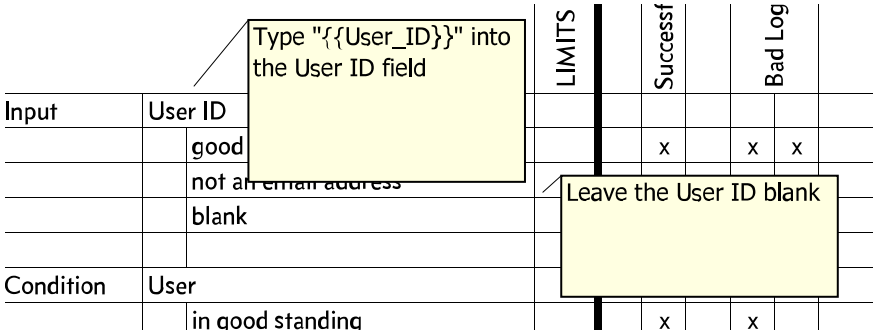
For example, the direction "Event: Log In Button" could be written more descriptively as "Click the blue Log In button."



By adding an Excel comment[1] to the cell, this more descriptive direction will be written into the test protocol.



Cell comments can also include value templates (yes, these are double braces) so that actual values are inserted into the directions.



These templates may also include formatting tokens for adding currency symbols, thousands separators, and decimal points to numbers. Similar to the format specifiers in Java and C#, these can also be used to present date and time values.

Individual input choices may have their own cell comments. For example, instead of “Type ‘’ into the User ID” a better

1. This is not really the original intent of comment tags in Excel, but we’ve found this works well for its purpose.

direction would read, “Leave the User ID blank.” Comments can also be used for describing result checks.

1. Successful Login

Test
Start: I am on the login page
Conditions: • There is a user in good standing with ID gary@tametest.net • The user gary@tametest.net has password Test.123
Input: Type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field
Input: Type "Test.123" into the Password field
Event: Click the blue Log In button
Check: The login is successful. I'm taken to the logged in homepage

2. Bad Login Error (User's Password=wrong password)

Test
Start: I am on the login page
Conditions: • There is a user in good standing with ID gary@tametest.net • The user gary@tametest.net does not have password Bad-456
Input: Type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field
Input: Type "Bad-456" into the Password field
Event: Click the blue Log In button
Check: I am told that I can't log in

3. Bad Login Error (User=no user with this ID)

Test
Start: I am on the login page
Conditions: • There is no user with ID charlie@tametest.net
Input: Type "charlie@tametest.net" into the User ID field
Input: Type "Test.123" into the Password field
Event: Click the blue Log In button
Check: I am told that I can't log in

4. User ID not email error

Test
Start: I am on the login page
Input: Type "not_an_email" into the User ID field
Input: Type "Test.123" into the Password field
Event: Click the blue Log In button
Check: I am told the User ID is not in the form of an email address

5. Missing User ID Error

Test
Start: I am on the login page
Input: Leave the User ID blank
Input: Type "Test.123" into the Password field
Event: Click the blue Log In button
Check: I am told the User ID is required

6. Missing Password Error

Test
Start: I am on the login page
Input: Type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field
Input: Leave the Password blank
Event: Click the blue Log In button
Check: I am told the Password is required

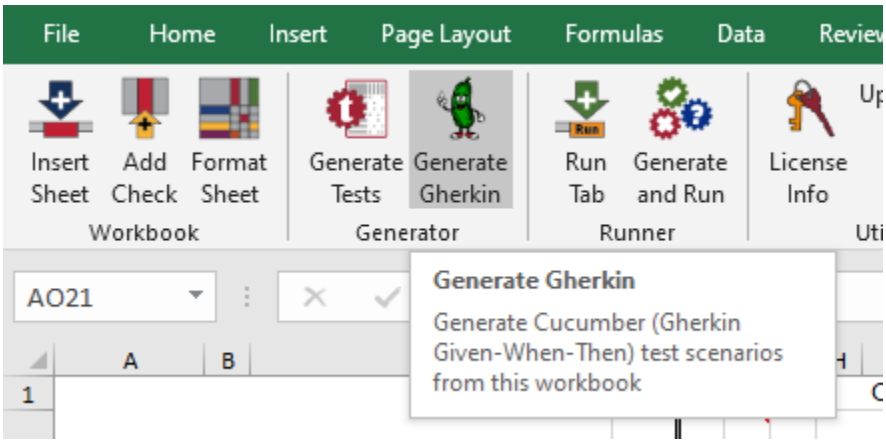
See how the comments make the scenarios much clearer.

Cucumber (Gherkin)

Gherkin is a little language used in the Cucumber system for writing test scenarios. Consisting primarily of sentences written in a Given (precondition) –When (behavior) – Then (post-

condition) form, it has become a popular human-readable format for describing scenarios.

Click the Generate Gherkin button to get a Gherkin feature file.



With just this one button click, TAME has generated Cucumber scenarios, ready for review and use by the many tools available for interpreting and generating tests from Cucumber.

```
Feature: Login Demo

    A typical login page used as the initial demonstration of TAME.

  Scenario: Successful Login
      Given I am on the login page
        And there is a user in good standing with ID gary@tametest.net
        And the user gary@tametest.net has password Test.123
       When I type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field
        And I type "Test.123" into the Password field
        And I click the blue Log In button
       Then the login is successful. I'm taken to the logged in homepage

  Scenario: Bad Login Error (User's Password=wrong password)
      Given I am on the login page
        And there is a user in good standing with ID gary@tametest.net
        And the user gary@tametest.net does not have password Bad 456
       When I type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field
        And I type "Bad 456" into the Password field
        And I click the blue Log In button
       Then I am told that I can't log in

  Scenario: Bad Login Error (User=no user with this ID)
      Given I am on the login page
        And there is no user with ID charlie@tametest.net
       When I type "charlie@tametest.net" into the User ID field
        And I type "Test.123" into the Password field
        And I click the blue Log In button
       Then I am told that I can't log in

  Scenario: User ID not email error
      Given I am on the login page
       When I type "not_an_email" into the User ID field
        And I type "Test.123" into the Password field
        And I click the blue Log In button
       Then I am told the User ID is not in the form of an email address

  Scenario: Missing User ID Error
      Given I am on the login page
       When I leave the User ID blank
        And I type "Test.123" into the Password field
        And I click the blue Log In button
       Then I am told the User ID is required

  Scenario: Missing Password Error
      Given I am on the login page
       When I type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field
        And I leave the Password blank
        And I click the blue Log In button
       Then I am told the Password is required
```

TAME is a great complement to Cucumber. Without TAME, testers need to write each individual scenario. Often this involves a lot of copy-and-paste since the scenarios are mostly identical. Maintaining these scenarios and keeping them consistent in the face of changes can be tough. Because TAME does the boring and repetitive work of forming combinations, there's no copy-and-paste. TAME workbooks follow the "DRY" (Don't Repeat Yourself) principle, thereby making maintenance and updates a snap.

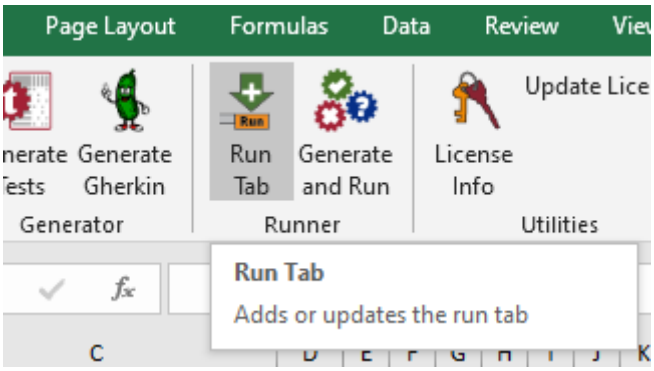
Reviewing Scenarios

Whether presented in TAME format or in Gherkin, the generated scenarios can be reviewed with the whole product team prior to committing to feature development. The team can decide which scenarios are important, which are safely out of scope, and if any additional scenarios are needed. Because TAME generates tests quickly, the workbook can be updated and test plans generated in real-time during these reviews.

Selenium Automation

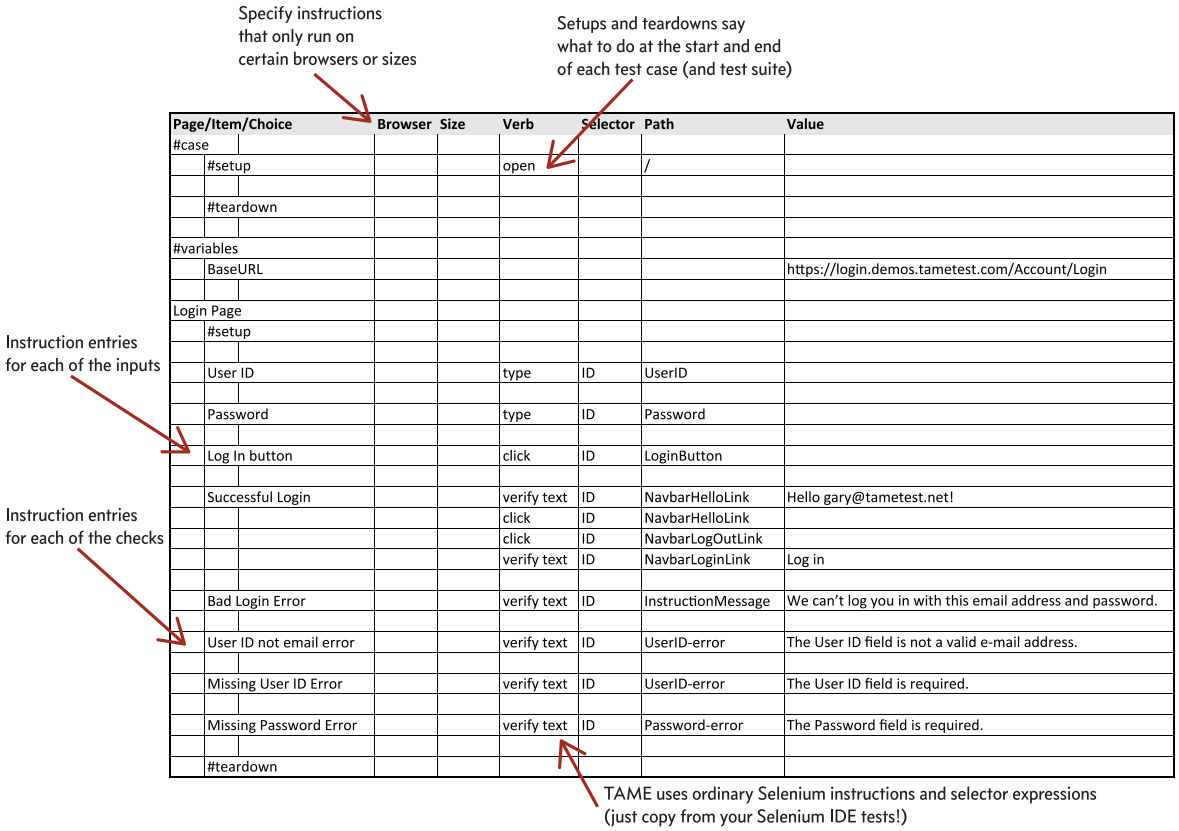
Selenium is a popular technology for automating web browsers. It's easy to use TAME to create automated tests. Just click

the button on the Excel ribbon to add a Run tab to the workbook.



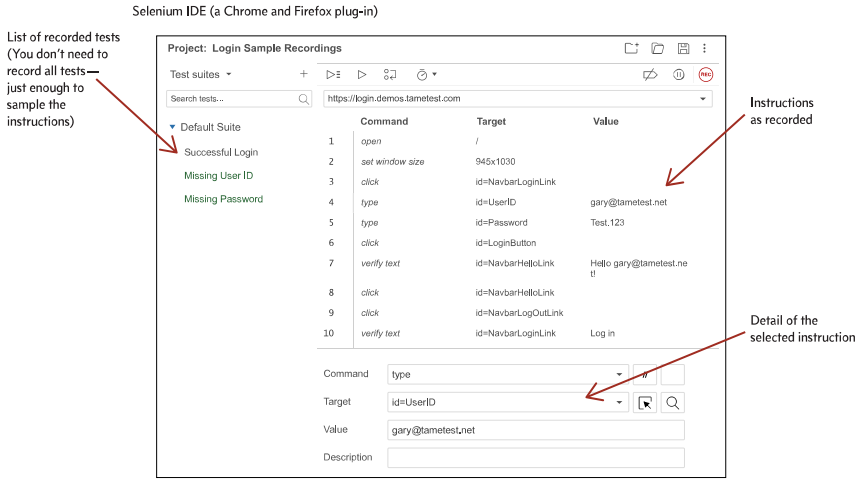
The Run tab contains places to add the Selenium instructions for each input and result. There are also #setup and #teardown

rows for instructions to be run before and after each test case or the whole test suite.



Page/Item/Choice	Browser	Size	Verb	Selector	Path	Value
#case						
#setup			open		/	
#teardown						
#variables						
BaseURL						https://login.demos.tametest.com/Account/Login
Login Page						
#setup						
User ID			type	ID	UserID	
Password			type	ID	Password	
Log In button			click	ID	LoginButton	
Successful Login			verify text	ID	NavbarHelloLink	Hello gary@tametest.net!
			click	ID	NavbarHelloLink	
			click	ID	NavbarLogOutLink	
			verify text	ID	NavbarLoginLink	Log in
Bad Login Error			verify text	ID	InstructionMessage	We can't log you in with this email address and password.
User ID not email error			verify text	ID	UserID-error	The User ID field is not a valid e-mail address.
Missing User ID Error			verify text	ID	UserID-error	The User ID field is required.
Missing Password Error			verify text	ID	Password-error	The Password field is required.
#teardown						

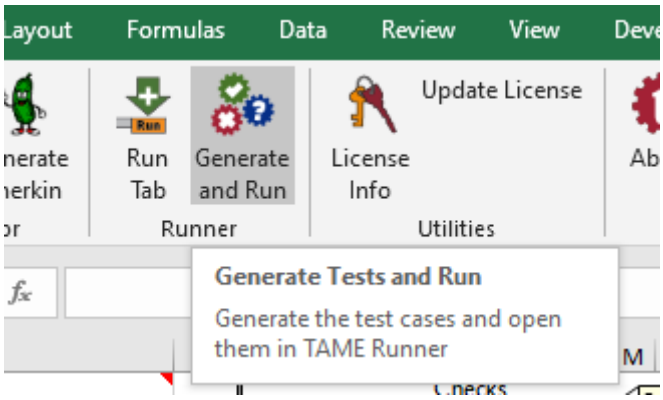
An easy way to get the instructions to put into the Run tab is to record some actions using Selenium IDE, a free open source add-in for Chrome and Firefox.



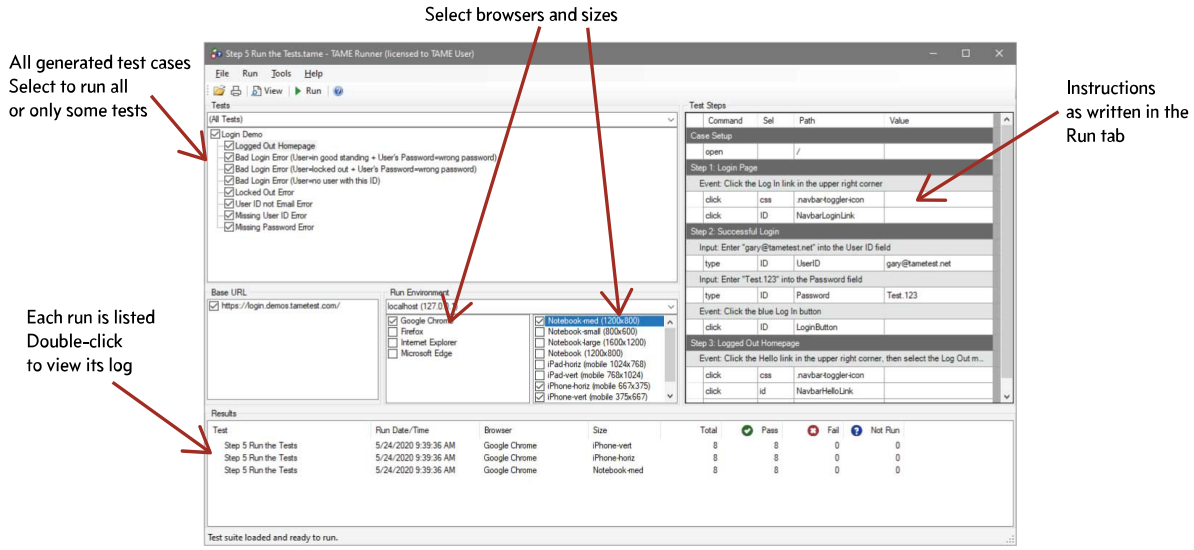
It's not necessary to record the whole test. Just record the actions necessary to determine the verbs and selector expressions for each action. Then copy the instructions to the Run tab.

One caveat: the TAME login demo has been built to be easy to test. Each of the input fields, buttons, and error messages has a unique HTML ID. Not all web applications will be so easy—but TAME should still be able to automate them.

Once the instructions are in place, click the Generate and Run button. This opens the TAME Runner.

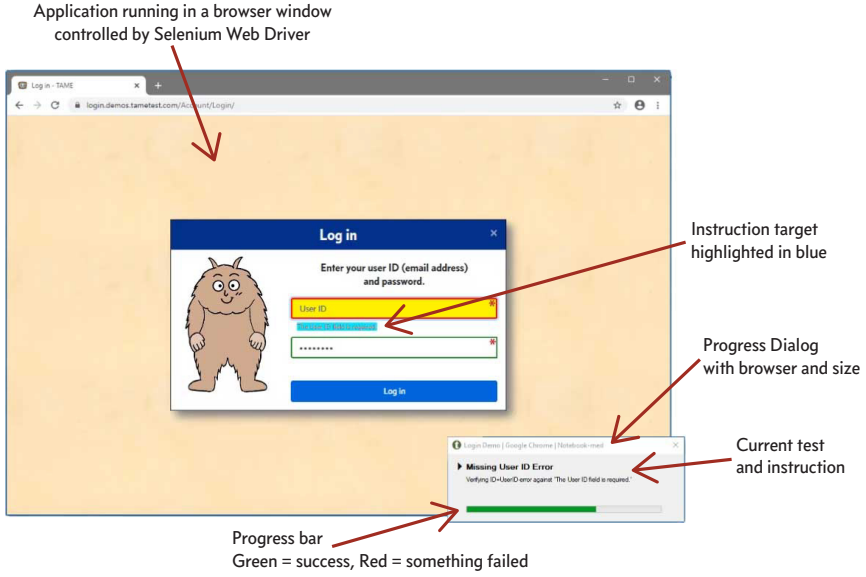


All of the test cases are listed on the left. Select a test case and see its instructions in the right panel.



Choose browsers and sizes for running the tests. TAME can run tests on any installed browser for which a Selenium driver has been installed.

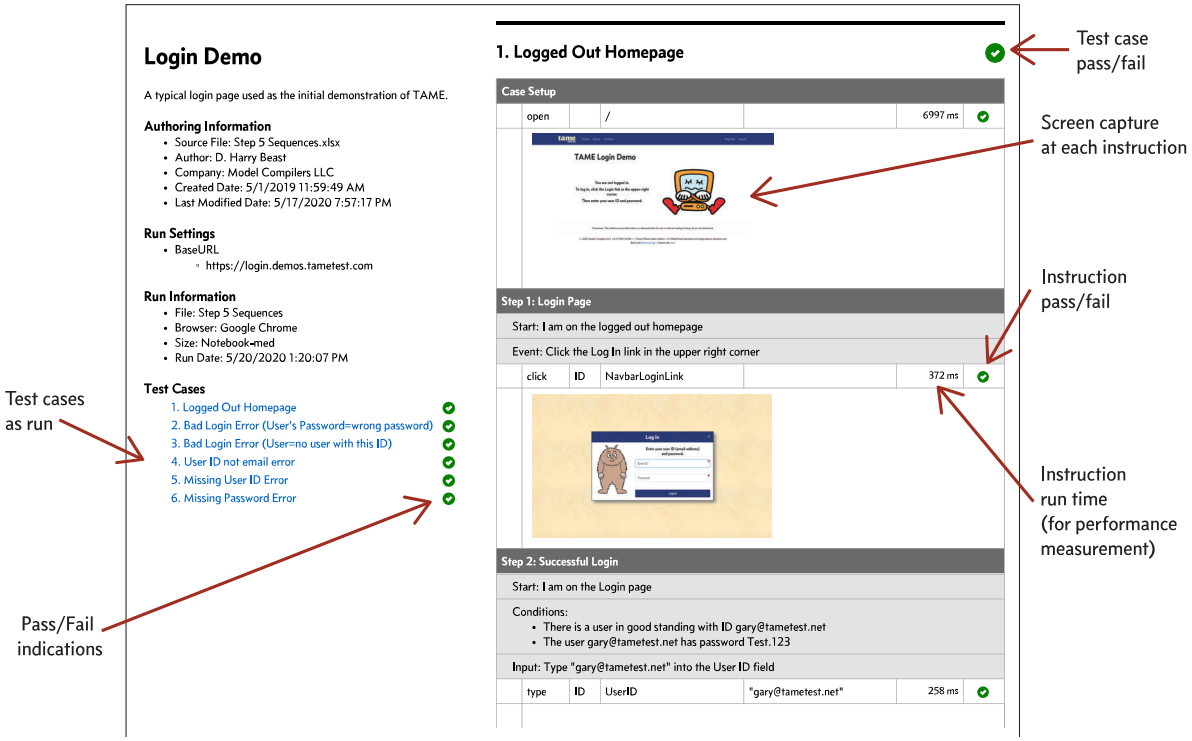
Click Run to watch the tests run. The main Runner window minimizes and is replaced by a small progress dialog in the lower right corner. As the tests run, the target of each instruction is highlighted in blue. These are used in the screen snapshots placed into the test log.



When the tests complete, the Runner displays the count of passed, failed, and not-run tests for each different run.

Double-click the result to view the log. Note the summary and pie chart at the top of the log. Each instruction is listed for each

test along with a screen snapshot, the time required to run the instruction, and whether the instruction succeeded or failed.

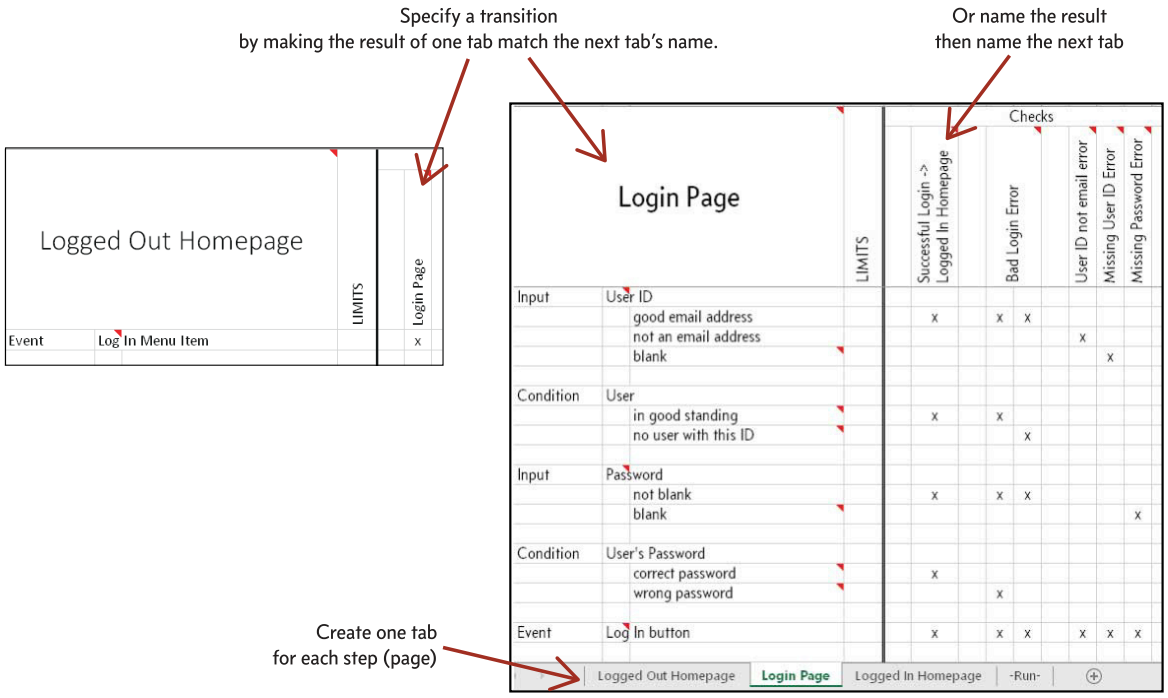


Combine Steps into Sequences

The individual login page is just one step in the entire login activity. While analysis and design generally proceed top-down, coding and testing are often done bottom-up. This means that we start with individual units, such as functions or single pages, test those units, and then assemble the units into more complex sequences.

Testing with TAME follows this pattern. Now that we have a worksheet for the login page, we can add worksheets for the other steps in the sequence.

Add tabs for the logged out homepage and the logged in homepage. Note that each tab in TAME corresponds to a step in a test. Even if a test goes back to the same UI page more than once, if each step represents a different state in the test (such as "I'm not logged in" vs. "I'm logged in"), representing those different states as separate tabs makes test development much easier.



Connect tabs by making result names match the names of other tabs. For example, the result of clicking the Log In navbar (menu) item on the Logged Out homepage is to go to the Login page.

On the Login page, a successful login goes to the Logged In Homepage. Instead of having to replace the very useful "Successful Login" result name with the destination page, a little

arrow in the result cell lets the tester keep the result name and define the next page.

The generated tests now begin at the Logged Out Homepage and proceed to the Login page. Each test is divided into steps.

1. Logged Out Homepage

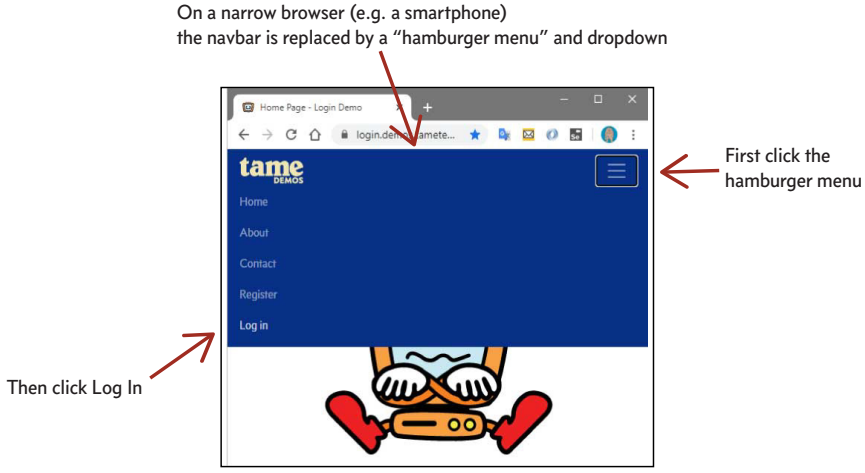
Case Setup				
	open		/	
Step 1: Login Page				
Start: I am on the logged out homepage				
Event: Click the Log In link in the upper right corner				
	click	ID	NavbarLoginLink	
Step 2: Successful Login				
Start: I am on the Login page				
Conditions: • There is a user in good standing with ID gary@tametest.net • The user gary@tametest.net has password Test.123				
Input: Type "gary@tametest.net" into the User ID field				
	type	ID	UserID	"gary@tametest.net"
Input: Type "Test.123" into the Password field				
	type	ID	Password	"Test.123"
Event: Click the blue Log In button				
	click	ID	LoginButton	
Step 3: Logged Out Homepage				
Start: I am on the logged in homepage				
Event: Click the Hello link in the upper right corner, then select the Log Out menu item				
	click	ID	NavbarHelloLink	
	click	ID	NavbarLogOutLink	

Updating Automation

To add the additional pages and their elements to the Run tab, simply click the Run Tab button. The current elements are left in place, but new rows are added for the inputs and checks in the other two pages. Add the Selenium instructions, and you're ready to run complete test sequences.

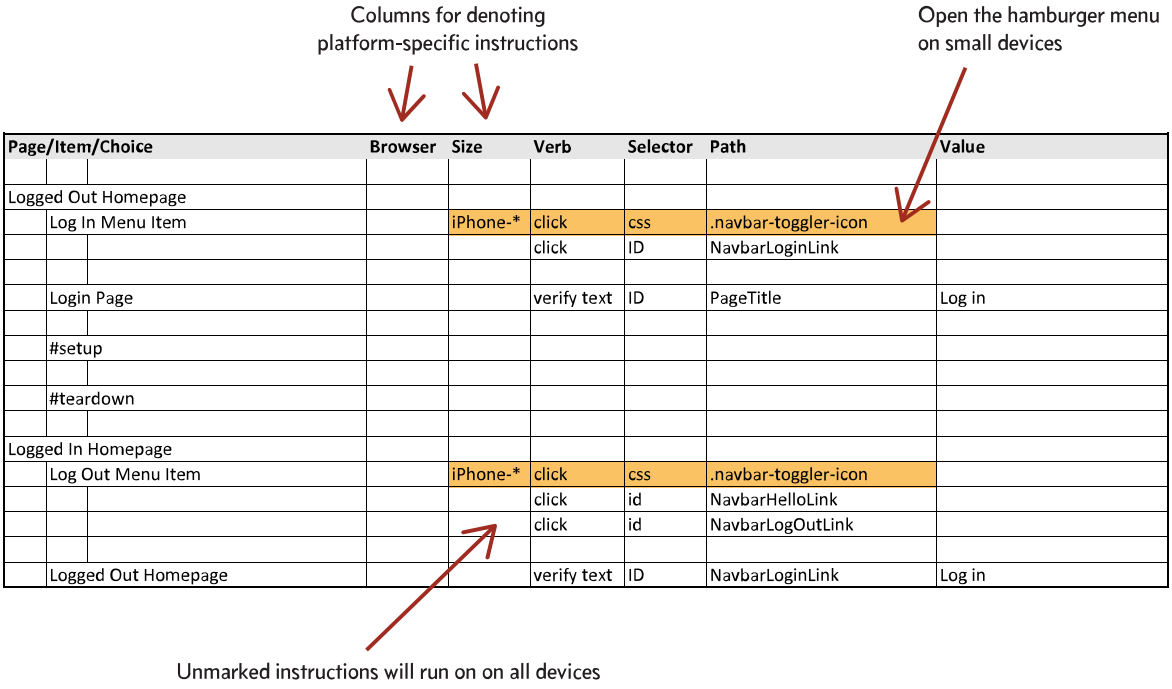
Platform-Specific Instructions

If you run the Login demo on a small web browser such as the ones on a smartphone, you'll notice that the navbar is replaced with the iconic three-line "hamburger menu." To get to the Login button, a user has to first click the hamburger menu then click the Login button.



Adding this kind of conditional logic in most automation tools has required either creating two separate suites of test cases

(which then have to be separately maintained) or adding conditional logic in code.



Page/Item/Choice	Browser	Size	Verb	Selector	Path	Value
Logged Out Homepage						
Log In Menu Item		iPhone-*	click	css	.navbar-toggler-icon	
			click	ID	NavbarLoginLink	
Login Page			verify text	ID	PageTitle	Log in
#setup						
#teardown						
Logged In Homepage						
Log Out Menu Item		iPhone-*	click	css	.navbar-toggler-icon	
			click	id	NavbarHelloLink	
			click	id	NavbarLogOutLink	
Logged Out Homepage			verify text	ID	NavbarLoginLink	Log in

TAME makes this common use case easy. Just add the instructions for clicking the hamburger menu to the Run tab and mark the instructions with the size(s) that require this instruction.

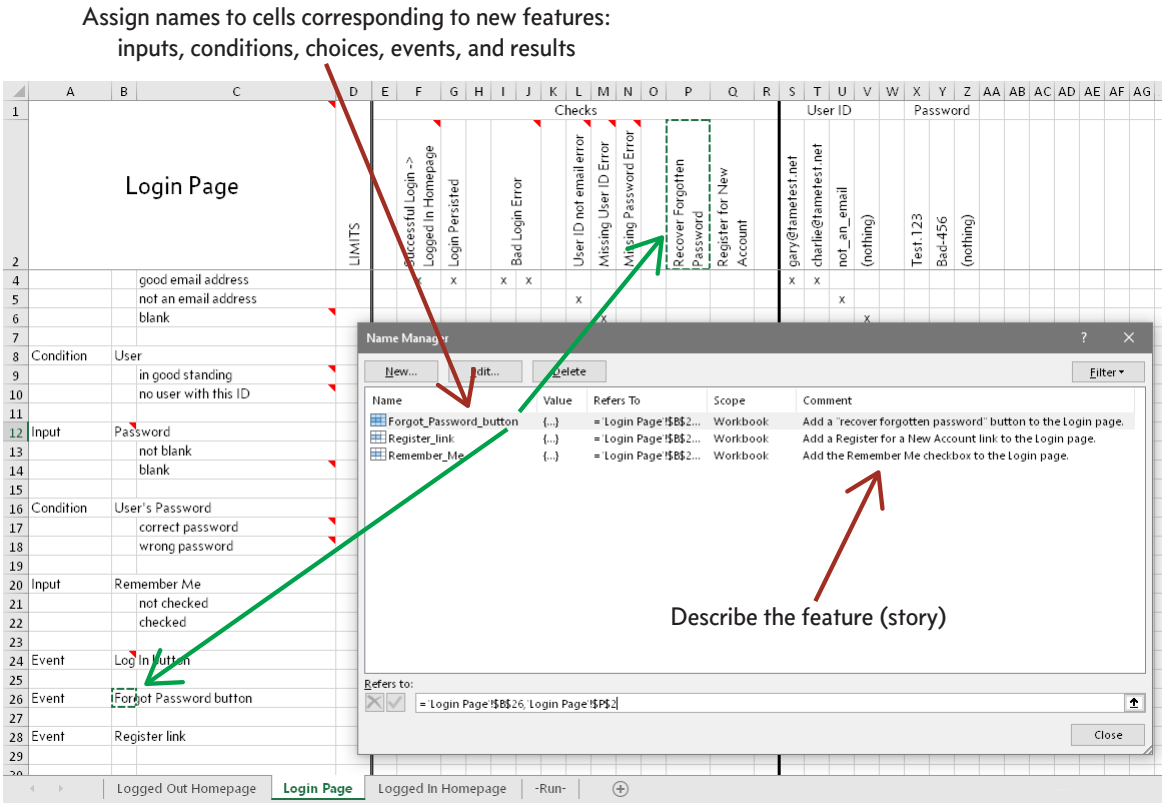
Now when the tests run on a regular large browser, the click is not run. In the log file, the instruction is marked with a strikethrough to indicate that it was skipped. But on a narrow smartphone browser, the instruction is run. Similar methods exist for including instructions to be run on specific browsers or platforms.

Grow with New Features

TAME has been built with agile incremental development in mind. Not only is it easy to review scenarios before committing

to stories during iteration planning, it is also easy to add elements and to tag them as related to particular user stories.

For example, to add new controls to the Login page—a Register link, a Remember Me checkbox, and a Forgot Password button—tag the new elements with Excel names.



The test protocol now identifies the test cases affected by each of these stories.

Test Cases

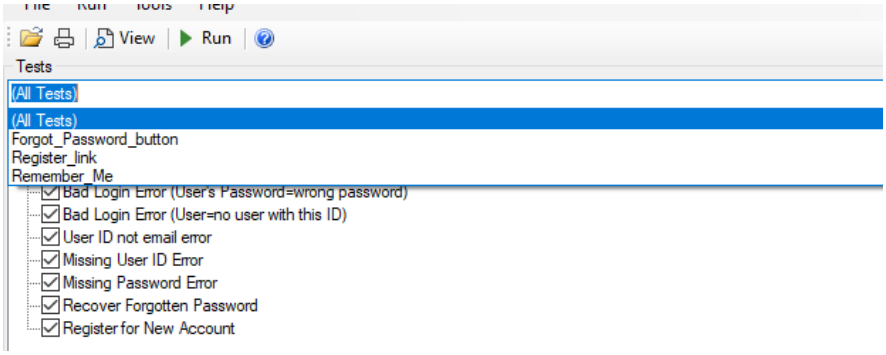
1. Remember Me=not checked
2. Remember Me=checked
3. Bad Login Error (User's Password=wrong password)
4. Bad Login Error (User=no user with this ID)
5. User ID not email error
6. Missing User ID Error
7. Missing Password Error
8. Recover Forgotten Password
9. Register for New Account

Features

- Add a "recover forgotten password" button to the Login page.
  - 8. Recover Forgotten Password
- Add a Register for a New Account link to the Login page.
  - 9. Register for New Account
- Add the Remember Me checkbox to the Login page.
  - 1. Remember Me=not checked
  - 2. Remember Me=checked

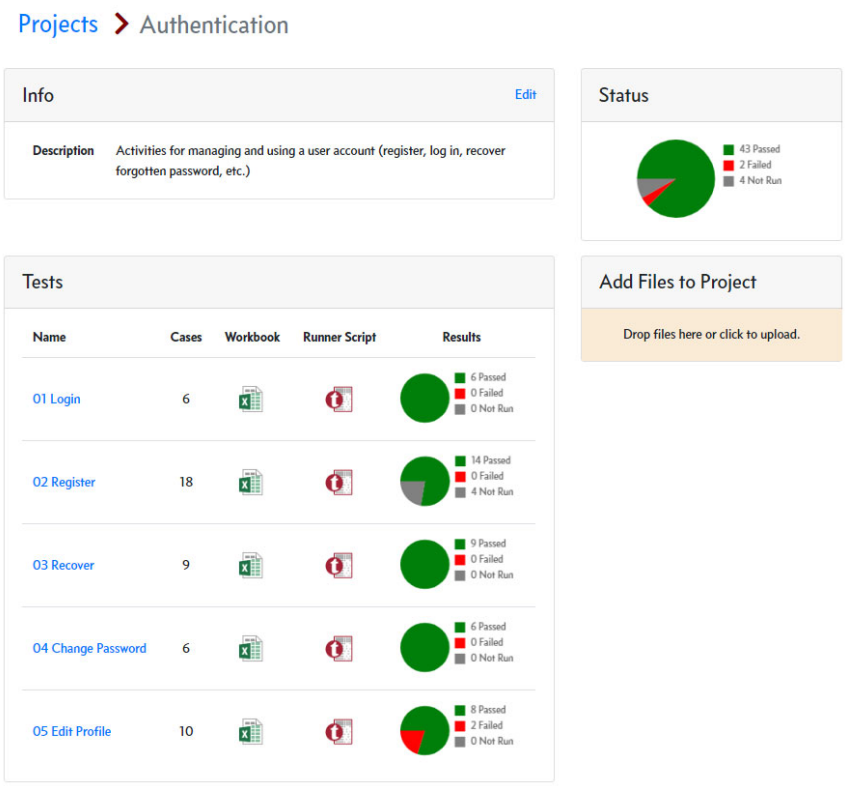
These tests were added or changed by the named stories

Moreover, the Runner lets you choose to run all tests or just the tests for selected stories.



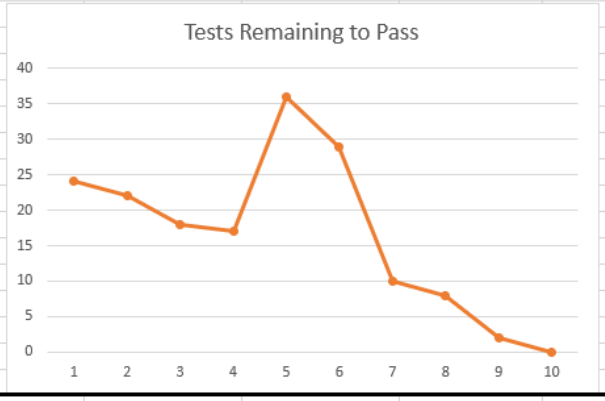
Share Results with your Team

Every active TAME user can create online workspaces. Upload workbooks and results to share those results with others in your team.



Over time as you upload results you can track progress toward completion as a number of tests remaining to pass.

Day	Prior Iterations	New this Iteration	Total	Passing	Remaining
1	85	24	109	85	24
2	85	24	109	87	22
3	85	26	111	93	18
4	85	26	111	94	17
5	85	26	111	75	36
6	85	26	111	82	29
7	85	18	103	93	10
8	85	18	103	95	8
9	85	18	103	101	2
10	85	18	103	103	0



"But wait! There's more!"

This quick overview only covered some of TAME's many features. The following chapters provide more detail on how to build test suites and to automate those tests.

- Inputs and Results
- Conditions
- Values
- Properties
- Sequences and State Models
- Automation Instructions
- Running Automated Tests