

Software Testing using Test Sheets

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Although testing is one of the most important activities in software development, especially in projects which emphasize agile development, the basic approach used to define and report tests has changed little since JUnit was introduced over a decade ago. JUnit and its derivatives such as NUnit significantly simplify the task of programming tests but still leave the test logic tangled up with program scaffolding, making it difficult to see and validate. On the other hand, recently introduced validation oriented approaches, such as FIT, provide a much more concise and easy to understand description of test logic, but cannot cope with code-level testing. In this talk Colin Atkinson will present a new metaphor for test definition and reporting, referred to as "test sheets", that combines the expressive strength of JUnit with the visual simplicity of tabular approaches such as FIT. After discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the technologies used today he will present the test sheet approach using some simple examples.

*Since April 2003, **Colin Atkinson** has been the leader of the Software Engineering Group at the University of Mannheim. Before that he held a joint position as a professor at the University of Kaiserslautern and project leader at the affiliated Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering. From 1991 until 1997 he was an Assistant Professor of Software Engineering at the University of Houston – Clear Lake. His research interests are focused on the use of model-driven and component based approaches in the development of dependable computing systems. He received a Ph.D. and M.Sc. in computer science from Imperial College, London, in 1990 and 1985 respectively, and received his B.Sc. in Mathematical Physics from the University of Nottingham 1983.*



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