

Rapise® Visual Language (RVL) User Guide

Version 5.1

Inflectra Corporation

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RVL

About



RVL stands for Rapise Visual Language. It is inspired by well known software testing methodologies Keyword Driven Testing and Data Driven Testing.

This section contains a review of current approaches and concepts to highlight the ideas behind RVL design. You don't need to read this section if you want to learn RVL. However you may need it if you want to understand how it compares to other approaches and why we believe it is not just yet another approach but the way forward to diminish struggling while building real live UI Automation.

Keyword Driven Testing

Keywoard Driven Testing separates the documentation of test cases -including the data to use- from the prescription of the way the test cases are executed. As a result it separates the test creation process into two distinct stages: a design and development stage, and an execution stage.

A	В	C	D
	First Name	Last Name	Age
Enter Patient	John	Smith	45
Enter Patient	Sarah	Connor	32

Keyword Driven Testing: Column A constains a Keyword, columns B, C, D provide parameters for a Keyword.

Data Driven Testing

<u>Data Driven Testing</u> is the creation of test scripts to run together with their related data sets in a framework. The framework provides re-usable test logic to reduce maintenance and improve test coverage. Input and result (test criteria) data values can be stored in one or more central data sources or databases, the actual format and organization can be implementation specific.

A	В	C
First Name	Last Name	Age
John	Smith	45
Sarah	Connor	32

Data Driven Testing: We have test input and expected output in data sources.

Gherkin / Cucumber

There are known approaches intended to make scripting more close to spoken languages.

This is a very wise approach improving test readability. The test case is described in Gherkin - business readable, domain specific language. It describes behavior without detailing how that behavior is implemented.

Essential part of this framework is implementation of Given-When-Then steps that should be done with one of the common programming languages. Here is the place where the need in scriping skills are still required.

Why RVL?

Initially Rapise has everything to build Data Driven and Keyword Driven test frameworks. Even without RVL.

It is possible do define scenarios or keywords, connect to Spreadsheet or Database and build the test set.

Framework based approaches require one to split data from test logic and maintain them separately. So: * When AUT or SUT changes (new theme, new widget, new layout)

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then test logic is updated and data stays the same * When test scenarios are enriched or updated then test logic is kept intact and only data sheets are updated.

The reality of this approach leads to some challenges. These challenges are common for all test frameworks mentioned here.

- 1. Design of test scripts require scripting and programming skills. That person is likely to be a programmer.
- 2. Design of good test data requires knowledge in target domain. For example, if you application is for Blood Bank then one should have some medical skills. If it is some device control app, then you should have engeneering knowledge about physical limitations of the device.

So in ideal world there are two persons working as a team: UI Automation scripting expert and target domain specialist.

In reality we see that due to real life limitations it is common that all scripting and test data is done by one person. It is either a programmer who gets familiar with target AUT domain or analyst who has some scripting skills.

Reasons for struggling

There are several reasons that make a learning curve longer and adoption harder.

Syntax Sugar

We found a reason why people get stuck while trying to implement a test case.

Most of programming languages including JavaScript were designed by people with mathematical background. So this statement appears clear and simple for a programmer:

```
{\tt Deposit('John', 'O\'Connor', 17.99);}
```

Programmer easily reads this as:

```
Deposit $17.99 to John O'Connor
```

So what is the difference between these notations? We found that the first and most important difficulty lays in so called *syntactical sugar*. Symbols ' "; , . () [] { } & \$ \$ # @ do have meaning for language notation however are not important for understainding the matter.

This is true even for programmers. When switching from similarly looking languages some differences easily cause frustration. For example, the same construct:

```
$a = "Number " + 1;
```

Means text concatenation in JavaScript, however the same is mathematical operation in PHP.

Comparison like:

```
if( value == "OK" )
```

Is good for JavaScript or C# world and leads false results in Java.

So even if we have programming skills it is still a problem to switch from one language to another and may produce potential issues.

Data Tables

With Keywword Driven and Data Driven approach we get a table that represents a sequence. Sequence of patients to proceed, sequence of user logins etc.

And sometimes we feel the lack of common debugging facilities: - run keyword for only one line, - start from specific row, - or stop before processing specific line.

So here we get to a point where the table should better be a part of the script rather than just external data source.

State of The Art

RVL reflects a common trend in programming languages where computational power and flexibility are sacrificed towards clarity and readability.

Some language is reduced to a reasonable subset in the sake of more concise and focused presentation. Just couple of examples.

Jade template engine simplifies writing HTML pages by clearing syntax sugar (< > / %) so HTML code:

```
<body>
  Hello, World!
</body>
```

Gets reduced to more textual view:

```
body
p.greeting Hello, World!
```

Go language is promoted as Go is expressive, concise, clean, and efficient. In fact its authors sacrificed many advanced features of common programming languages (classes, inheritance, templates) to get more clarity. This is extremely important because sophisticated features produce sophisticated problems that are hard to nail down. And if you deal with high-load distributed systems minor gain through use of unclear feature may lead to major unpredictable loss.

RVL Concepts

RVL's goal is to minimize the struggling.

- 1. We assume that one should have minimal care about the syntax sugar and syntax rules. This means that we must avoid braces, quotes or any special symbols ' " ; , . () [] { } & \$ % # @ and make it possible to maintain the script without them.
- 2. We want script to be close to Keyword Driven and Data Driven testing concept. So test data and test results should be representable as data tables. This reduces the struggling of attaching the data feed to a test set.

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3. We still want to have a solid language. We seek for a balance between clarity and power of language. So we want the script to be implemented on the same language. Both keyword, scenarios and data feeds should be done in a same way. This means one RVL skill is requried for everything.

- 4. In many cases grids or tables are used to represent test data. So we want the script itself to be a grid. So all parts of it includeing data tables are debuggable as a part of the solid script.
- 5. When we think about working with table data the most common format that comes to our mind is XLS, XLSX or CSV. These formats are supported by powerful tools that make it easier to prepare data for feeding into the test set. So RVL is itself an .xls spreadsheet so its logic is expressed right there.
- 6. Even with Spreadsheet there is a question what may be entered into the particular cell. With RVL we have an editor where you start from left to right and each cell has limited number of options. So if you don't know language it will guide you.

Columns

RVL script is a spreadsheet containing set of 7 columns in fixed order:

RVL (+Add New	\						
	Flow	Type	Object	Action	ParamName	ParamType	ParamValue	Н
1	Flow	Туре	Object	Action	Param Name	Param Type	Param Value	
2								
3								
4 ▶		Action	Global	DoLaunch	cmdLine	string	calc	
5		Param			wrkDir	string	0	
6		Param			attachIfExists	boolean	true	
7		Param			attachToWindow	string	Calculator	
8	#	My scenario go	es here					
9		Action	_1	DoLClick	×	number	18	
10		Param			У	number	15	
11		Action	Add	DoLClick	×	number	21	
12		Param			Y	number	19	
13		Action	_2	DoLClick	×	number	14	
14		Param			У	number	13	
15		Action	Equals	DoLClick	×	number	12	
16		Param			У	number	23	
17								

Column View

• 1st Flow -- Control flow. This column dedicated to specifying structural information such blocks, Branches (If-Else), loops.

Also it contains information about single row and multi row comments. Possible values are limited by the list:

- \# or // single row comment
- /* begin of multi row comment (comment is valid up to line starting with */)
- */ end of multi row comment started earlier from /*
- If conditional branch. Row type must be Condition. The row may be followed with one or more ElseIf statements, zero or one Else statement and then should end with End.
- 2nd Type Type of operation specified in this row. One of:
- Action row defines an action. Action is a call for operation for one of the objects. Object is defined in the next column. See Actions.
- Param signals that this row contains action parameter or condition parameter defined in last 3 columns (ParamName, ParamType and ParamValue).
- Output this type of row must go after last Param for an action and defines a variable that should accept output value returned from the call to the Action.
- Variable this row defines or assigns value to a local or global variable. See Variables.
- Assert first row for the Assertion. See Assertions.
- Condition
- 3rd Object Id of the object to be used for action. Rapise provides set of predefined global objects and objects recorded/learned from the AUT.
- \bullet 4th Action One of the actions. DoAction, DoClick, GetText etc.
- 5th ParamName see Params for more information on last 3 columns
- 6th ParamType
- 7th ParamValue

In addition to these columns there may be any number of other columns used for storing supplementary data, comments, calculations, thoughts etc. Additional columns may be utilized for script itself (i.e. contain expected values or reference data).

Comments

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Single Row Comments

RVL has two types of single line comments depending on the purpose.

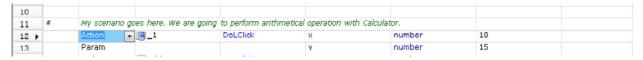
Sometimes comment is used to exclude line of code from execution.

	Flow	Type	Object	Action	ParamName	ParamType	ParamValue	Н
2								
3	//	Action	Global	DoLaunch	cmdLine	string	calc.exe	

There is a special type of single row comments intended to put long text comments into the document.

Single row comment is displayed as long text providing that: 1. Flow is set to # or // 2. Text is completely typed into the Type cell. 3. Other cells after Type are empty.

In such case the text is displayed through the whole line:



Multiple Row Comments

Used to disable several rows of script:

28								
29	1+							
30		Assert			message	string	TBD	
31		Action	Global	GetCurrentDir				
32		Condition		output IsTrue				
33	*/							

Conditions

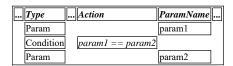
Conditions used in If and Assert statements.

Types of Conditions

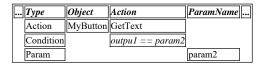
Condition accepts one or two Params.

- 1. There might be just one Param. Such condition is called unary, for example param1 is true or output1 is true.
- 2. There might be second *Param*. Such condition is called *binary*, for example param1 == param2.
- 3. Condition parameter may be either Param or Action output.
- 4. Param is some fixed value, variable or expression.

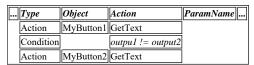
Binary condition with two Params named param1 and param2:



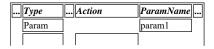
Binary condition with Action and Param named output1 and param2:



Binary condition with two $\it Actions$ named output1 and output2:



Unary condition with Param param1:



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Condition	param1 IsFalse	
-----------	----------------	--

Unary condition with Action output1:

 Type	Object	Action	ParamName
Action	MyButton	GetEnabled	
Condition		outpu1 IsTrue	

All Conditions

Unary conditions with Param

Caption	Description
param1 IsTrue	Check if param1 is true
param1 IsFalse	Check if param1 is false
param1 IsNull	Check if param1 is null
param1 IsNotNull	Check if param1 is NOT null
param1 IsSet	Check if param1 is NOT null, false, 0, empty string or undefined
param1 IsNotSet	Check if param1 is null, 0, false, empty string or undefined

Unary conditions with Action

Caption	Description
output1 IsTrue	Check if output1 is true
output1 IsFalse	Check if output1 is false
output1 IsNull	Check if output1 is null
output1 IsNotNull	Check if output1 is NOT null
output1 IsSet	Check if output1 is NOT null, false, 0, empty string or undefined
output1 IsNotSet	Check if output1 is null, 0, false, empty string or undefined

Binary conditions with Params

Caption	Description
param1 == param2	Check if param1 equals to param2
param1!=param2	Check if param1 NOT equal to param2
param1 > param2	Check if param1 is more than param2
param1 >= param2	Check if param1 is more or equal to param2
param1 <= param2	Check if param1 is less or equal to param2
param1 < param2	Check if param1 is less than param2
param1 contains param2	Check if param1 contains param2 as substring
CmpImage param1, param2	Compare 1st image and image represented by param2

Binary conditions with Action and Param

Caption	Description
output1 == param2	Check if output1 equals to param2
output1!=param2	Check if output1 NOT equal to param2
output1 > param2	Check if output1 is more than param2
output1 >= param2	Check if output1 is more or equal to param2
output1 <= param2	Check if output1 is less or equal to param2
output1 < param2	Check if output1 is less than param2
output1 contains param2	Check if output1 contains param2 as substring
CmpImage output1, param2	Compare 1st image and image represented by param2

Binary conditions with Actions

Caption	Description
output1 == output2	Check if output1 equals to output2
output1 != output2	Check if output1 NOT equal to output2
output1 > output2	Check if output1 is more than output2
output1 >= output2	Check if output1 is more or equal to output2
output1 <= output2	Check if output1 is less or equal to output2
output1 < output2	Check if output1 is less than output2
output1 contains output2	Check if output1 contains output2 as substring
CmpImage output1, output2	Compare 1st image and image represented by output2

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And, Or Conditions

It is possible to make more complex conditions by using And and Or keyword in the Flow column.

Flow	Type	 Action	ParamName	ParamType	ParamValue
If	Param		param1	variable	Result1
	Condition	param1 IsFalse			
And	Param		param1	variable	Result2
	Condition	param1 IsTrue			

This pice forms a condition checking that Result1 is false AND Result2 is true at the same time.

Flow	Type	Object	Action	ParamName	Param Type	Param Value
If	Action	MyButton	GetEnabled			
Condition		output1 IsFalse				
Or	Param			param1	variable	Result1
Condition		param1 IsTrue				

This pice forms a condition checking that MyButton is Enabled OR Result2 is true at the same time.

Examples

Condition is never used alone. You may find examples of conditions in chapters devoted to Assertions and If-Then-Else.

Actions

In RVL Action always refers to an operation performed with object.

Flow	Type	Object	Action	ParamName	Param Type	ParamValue
	Action	MyButton	DoClick	X	number	5
	Param			у	number	7

If row type is Action then there must be Object and Action cells defined.

Note: In this example we call an operation that would look in JavaScript as follows:

SeS('MyButton').DoClick(5,7);

 ${\tt Object} \ is \ an \ ID \ of \ learned \ or \ Global \ object. \ Available \ objects \ may \ be \ found \ in \ the \ {\tt Object} \ \ {\tt Tree:}$

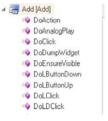


Object tree contains list of available objects, including: 1. Local objects (1) learned recorded or learned from the application under test. 2. Global object. Always available set of objects containing most common utility functions and operations. 3. Functions. Represent global JavaScript functions. Each time you define a global function in .user.js file it becomes available for calling from RVL with special object ID Functions.



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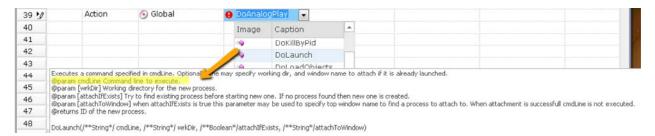
Each Object has its own set of actions. You may also see them in the object tree:



An Action may have any number of parameters. See Params for more info.

Editing Action

An Action may have both mandatory and optional params. When action is selected from the dropdown its params are displayed:



By default RVL editor pre-fills only mandatory params for you when you select an action from the dropdown. In this example DoLaunch has one mandatory parameter cmdLine so here is what you get when you select it:

39	Action	Global	DoLaunch	cmdLine	string	
40 🕨				▼		
41						
42						

However the situation is differs if you hold the Shift key while choosing an Action from the dropdown:

39	Action	Global	DoLaunch	cmdLine	string		
40 1	Param		1		string	4	
41 0	Param			attachIfExists	boolean	false	
42 0	Param			attachToWindow	string	null	

You may see that all parameters are applied in this case.

• Note: if you you already have have the same action and select it with Shift key again, no optional params are applied. You need to clean the Action cell and re-select it with Shift if you want to achieve the desired effect.

Examples

Action without parameters



Action with single parameter. In RVL each parameter takes one line with Action=Param. However for the 1st param there is an exception. It may occupy the same line as Action itself:

	ian in Username:		
Action	ы Username_	DoSetText	txt

Action with many parameters: Global 39 Action DoLaunch cmdLine strina Param wrkDir string 40 M Param attachIfExists boolean false 41 / Param attachToWindow string null 42 1

Variables

RVL variables useful for storing intermediate results as well as accessing and passing global values to external JavaScript functions.

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Variables may be used in Params to Conditions and in Actions.

Declaring and Assigning

This line declares variable without any values. Its value may be assigned later:

Flow Type	Object Action	ParamName	ParamType	Param Value
Variable		MyVar1		

This line and assigns value 5 to a variable MyVar2:

Flow Type	Object	Action	ParamName	Param Type	ParamValue
Variable			MyVar2	number	5

If variable is declared earlier then assignment just changes its value. If variable is not yet declared then assignment is actually declaration with assignment.

Using

Any Params value may accept a variable:

	Type	 ParamName	ParamType	Param Value
[Param	text	variable	MyVar1

Any Params value may accept an expression using variables:

Туре	 ParamName	Param Type	ParamValue
Param	text	expression	MyVar2 + 4

Any Action may write its return value to a variable using Output statement:

Flow	Type	Object	Action	ParamName	Param Type	ParamValue
	Action	Global	DoTrim	str	string	text to trim
	Output				variable	MyVar1

Output value may then be as a param value in actions, conditions, assertions and expressions.

Local Variables

By default declared variables are assumed as local: variable may be used only within current RVL script and not visible from other RVL scripts or JavaScript code.

Global Variables

You may have a JavaScript variable defined in user Functions file (*.user.js), i.e.:

```
// Piece from MyTest1.user.js
var globalVar = "Value";
```

Then in the RVL you may declare globalVar as global and access it (read or assign values). Declaring variable as global is simple:

Flow Type	Object	Action	ParamName	ParamType	Param Value
Variable		Global	globalVar		

Global variables are useful for exchanging sharing between different RVL scripts or between RVL and JavaScript.

Examples

Variables may be declared as Local or Global. Declaration may or may not contain initial value

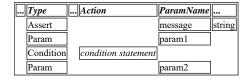
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	31	assigned earlier then kee		
Variable		Global	g_bookName	
Declare globa	al variable and ass	ign its value		
Variable		Global	g_genre	string
Declare local	variable witout va	lue		
Variable		Local	OsVersion	
Declare local	variables and ass	ign initial values		
Variable		Local	StringVar	string
Variable		Local	NumVar	number
Variable		Local	BoolVar	boolear
ariable may accept outp	out from the Action:			
Declare local	variable witout va	lue		
Variable		Local	OsVersion	
Action	Global	GetOsVersion		
Output				variable
ariable may be used as i			1	
Use variable	as a parameter			
Action	A Tester	Message	message	variable

Assertions

Assert is an essential operation for testing and validation. RVL provides special structure for it to make it more readable.

Assertion has 2 parts: 1st row is Assert containing assertion message and then goes Condition:



Assertion first line is always the same except the $Param\ Value$.

In RVL Action always refers to an operation performed with object.

 Type	Object	Action	ParamName	ParamType	ParamValue
Assert			message	string	Assertion text to be displayed in the report
Param			param1	string	Text1
Condition		param1!=param2			
Param			param2	string	Text2

Examples

Compare object property InnerText with expected value:

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nnerText=Sister Carrie		
		message
□ Sister_Carrie	GetInnerText	
	output1 == param2	
		param2
he screen:		
bject 'Sister_Carrie' exists		
		message
⊙ Global	DoWaitFor	objectId
	output1 IsSet	
value '74':		
ariable Age contains value '74'		
		message
		param1
	param1 == param2	
		param2
	Sister_Carrie ne screen: Dject 'Sister_Carrie' exists G Global	☐ Sister_Carrie GetInnerText output1 == param2 ne screen: Dject 'Sister_Carrie' exists Global DowaitFor output1 IsSet value '74': priable Age contains value '74'

If-Else

If using for branching statements in RVL.

Basic branch statement has 2 parts: 1st row is If flow with Condition:

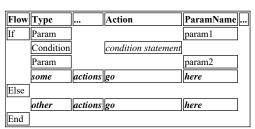
If

Flow	Type		Action	ParamName	
If	Param			param1	
	Condition		condition statement		
	Param			param2	
	some	actions	go	here	
End					

Actions after If condition and up to End statement are executed when condition is truth.

If-Else

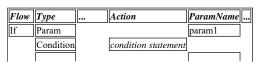
If-Else statement is similar to If with one extension. It contains an alternative Else section that is executed when If condition is false:



If-ElseIf

ElseIf is a way to establish a chain of conditions. Each condition is evaluated with previous is false.

If-Else statement is similar to If with one extension. It contains an alternative Else section that is executed when If condition is false:



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	Param			param2
	some	actions	go	here
ElseIf	Param			param1
	Condition		condition statement	
	Param			param2
	other	actions	go	here
End				

There may be many ElseIf blocks:

Flow	Type		Action	ParamName	
If	Param			param1	
	Condition		condition statement		
	Param			param2	
	some	actions	go	here	
ElseIf	Param			param1	
	Condition		condition statement		
	Param			param2	
	other	actions	go	here	
ElseIf	Param			param1	
	Condition		condition statement		
	Param			param2	
	other	actions	go	here	
End					

And there might also be an Else block in the end:

Flow	Туре		Action	ParamName	
If	Param			param1	l
	Condition		condition statement		
	Param			param2	1
	some	actions	go	here	
ElseIf	Param			param1	
	Condition		condition statement		
	Param			param2	
	other	actions	go	here	
ElseIf	Param			param1	
	Condition		condition statement		
	Param			param2	
	other	actions	go	here	
Else					
	other	actions	go	here	l
End					

Examples

Check if Log In link available. If so, do login.

If	Action	Global	DoWaitFor
	Condition		output1 IsSet
#	If actions		
	Action	Log_In	DoClick
	Action	Username_	DoSetText
	Action	Password_	DoSetText
***************************************	Action	ctl00\$MainContent\$LoginUser\$Logi	DoClick
End			

Check if we use old version of OS and assign a variable ${\tt OldWindows}$ accordingly:

	Variable		Local	OldWindows
If	Action	Global	GetOsType	
	Condition		output1 contains param2	
	Param			param2
#	If actions			
*****************	Variable			OldWindows
Else				
#	Else actions			
	Variable			OldWindows
End				

Parameters

Last 3 columns in RVL always using for passing parameters.

ParamName	ParamType	ParamValue
text	string	John Smith
x	number	5
у	number	7
forceEvent	boolean	true

- 5th column ParamName name of the parameter. This column's intention is readability and it does not affect execution. However it names input parameters and makes it easier to understand each provided input option.
- 6th column ParamType value type. May be basic type (number, string, boolean, object) as well as additional types:
- o expression any valid JavaScript expression that may involve global variables and functions and local variables.
- variable parameter value is read from variable.
- o objectid ID of one of the learned Objects.
- 7th column ParamValue value acceptable for a specified ParamType. For boolean it is true or false. For number is is any floating point number (i.e. 3.14). For string just any text without quotes or escape signs.

Param Rows

In RVL each parameter takes one row:

 Туре	 ParamName	ParamType	Param Value
 Param	text	string	John Smith
 Param	х	number	5
 Param	у	number	7
 Param	forceEvent	boolean	true

Mixed Rows

In some cases it is convenient to mix param cells with Action or Condition.

For example 1st param of the Action may share the Action row:

Flow	Type	Object	Action	ParamName	Param Type	Param Value
	Action	MyButton	DoClick	X	number	5
	Param			у	number	7

And this is equivalent to putting it to the next row: Flow|Type |Object |Action | ParamName |ParamType |ParamValue :-- |:-- |:-- |:-- |:-- |:-- | Action | MyButton | DoClick | | | | Param | | | x | number | 5 | Param | | | y | number | 7

Or param2 of the condition may be on the same place:

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 . Type	Object	Action	ParamName	ParamType	ParamValue
Param			param1	string	Text1
Condition		param1!=param2	param2	string	Text2

Is equivalent to: ... | Type | Object | Action | ParamName | ParamType | ParamValue :- |:-- |:-- |:-- |:-- | Param | | | param1 | string | Text1 | Condition | | param1!=param2 | | | | Param | | | param2 | string | Text2

This allows saving space while keeping same readability.