An Industrial Case Study in Compiler Testing

11th International Conference on Software Language Engineering

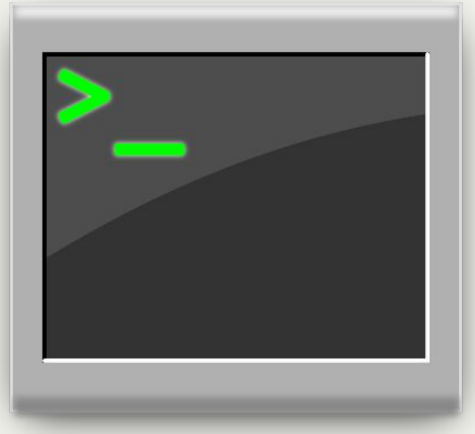
Dr. Vadim Zaytsev aka @grammarware

raincode

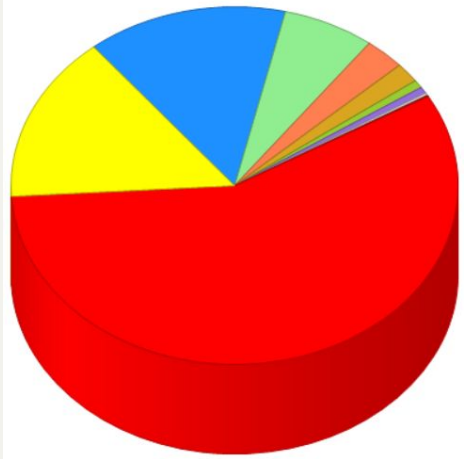
LABS

compiler experts

Introduction



- I am @grammarware
- MSc (ru, nl), PhD (nl/de)
- Ex-researcher (UKL, CWI)
- Ex-lecturer (UvA)
- Now @ Raincode [Labs]
- Chief Science Officer
- Writes compilers for a living
- Last project: TIALAA (4GL)
  - There Is A Life After AppBuilder
  - https://www.raincode.com/technical-landscape/tialaa/



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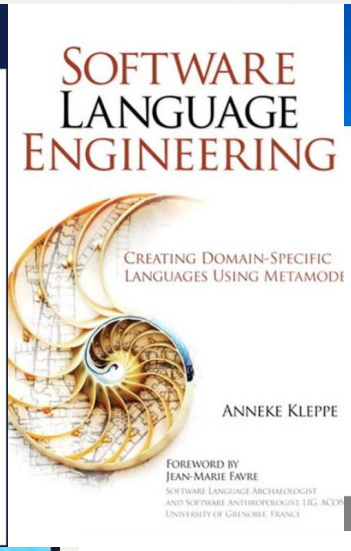
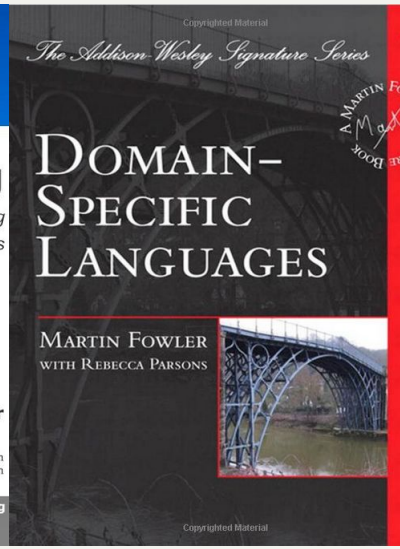
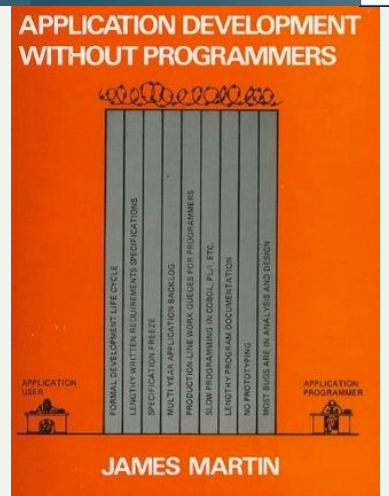
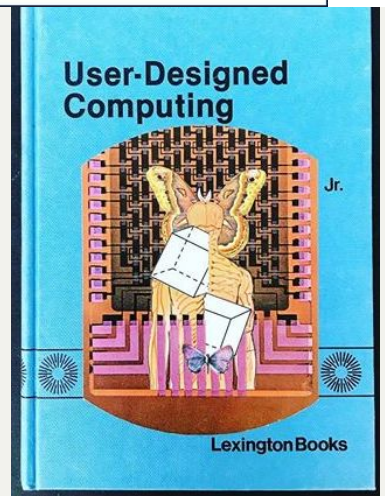
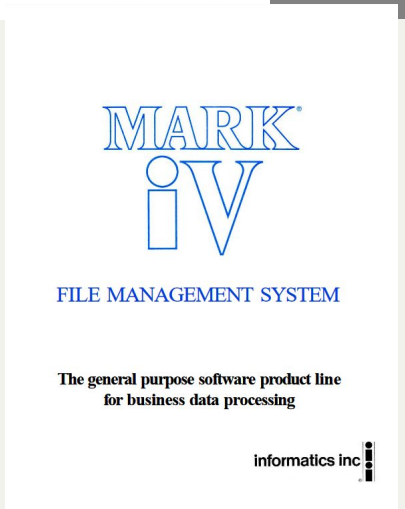
4GLs are [Badly Designed] DSLs











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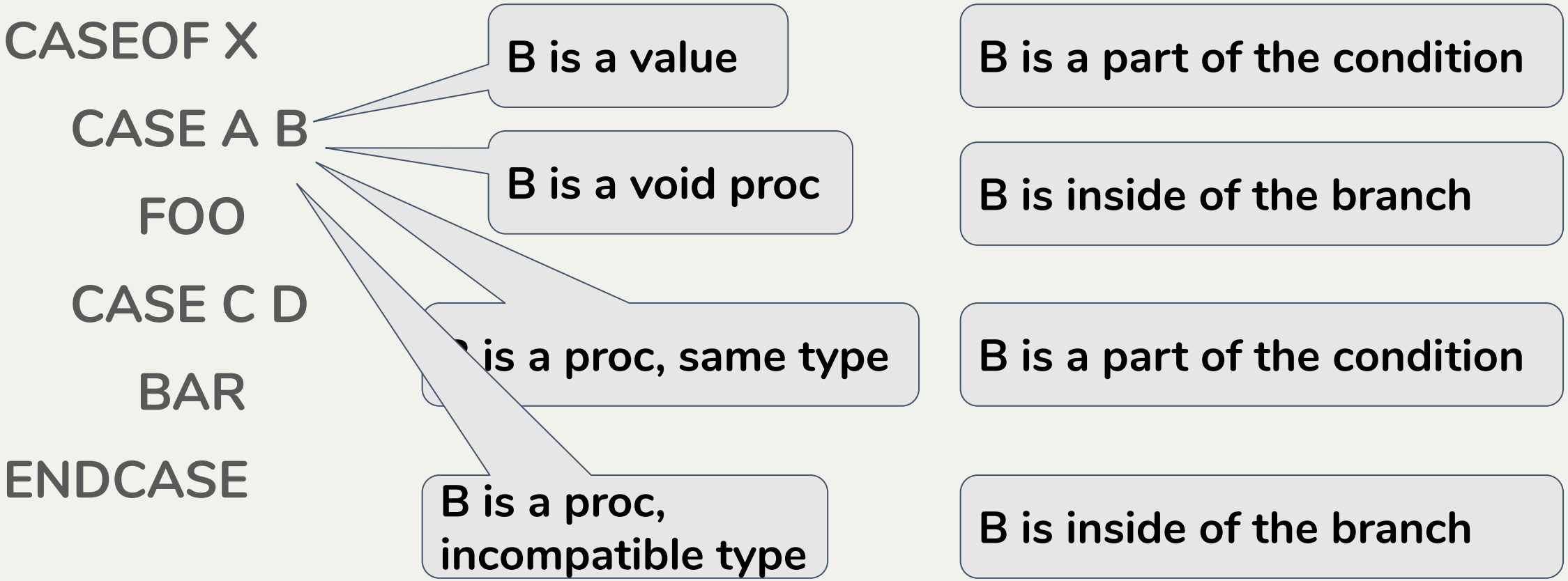
AppBuilder concepts are dialectic

- A “rule” is program
  - not declarative
- A “set” is a lookup table
  - not a set at all
- A “view” is a model
  - in MVC terms
- “SetEncoding” is a getter
  - while “SetVisible” is a setter

AppBuilder rule syntax is ambiguous



AppBuilder typing is not name-unique

MAP A IN A TO A

MAP A OF B TO X // might mean A OF C OF B

MAP A OF B OF C (N) TO X // the index may refer to A, B or C

AppBuilder semantics is *special*

- TRUNC(X, -3)
- DATE('00-00-0000')
- DATE('00-00-0000')+1
- DATE('00-00-0000')-1
- USE RULE X // closes the window if client-client call
- MAP A TO B

Need for testing methodology

DESPERATE

need for

compiler testing

methodology

D-tests: direct access to runtime

```
[TestMethod]
[TestCategory("runtime"), TestCategory("time")]
[TestCategory("CSL:D")]
public void D_TimeAutoMilliDots()
{
    CslTime time;
    for (int h = 0; h < 24; h++)
        for (int m = 0; m < 60; m++)
            for (int s = 0; s < 60; s++)
                for (int f = 0; f < 1000; f++)
                {
                    time = new CslTime($"{h:D2}.{m:D2}.{s:D2}.{f:D3}");
                    Assert.AreEqual(h, time.Hours);
                    Assert.AreEqual(m, time.Minutes);
                    Assert.AreEqual(s, time.Seconds);
                    Assert.AreEqual(f, time.MilSecs);
                }
}
```

R-tests: yes/no recognition

```
[TestMethod]
[TestCategory("recognise"), TestCategory("rule"), TestCategory("clear")]
[TestCategory("CSL:R")]
| 0 references | Vadim Zaytsev, 128 days ago | 1 author, 3 changes
public void R_ClearChar()
{
    Rule root = Parser.Parse(
        "dcl\n" +
        "   L_RESULT char(50);\n" +
        "enddcl\n" +
        "map 'hello' to L_RESULT\n" +
        "clear L_RESULT\n" +
        "print L_RESULT\n" +
        "");
    Assert.AreEqual(root.Lines.Count, 0);
    Assert.IsTrue(FatalSmellFinder.NoProblems(root));
}
```

P-tests: parsing

```
[TestCategory("CSL:P")]
0 references | Vadim Zaytsev, 76 days ago | 1 author, 7 changes
public void P_ClearChar()
{
    Rule root = Parser.Parse(
        "dcl\n" +
        "   L_RESULT char(50);\n" +
        "enddcl\n" +
        "map 'hello' to L_RESULT\n" +
        "clear L_RESULT\n" +
        "print L_RESULT\n" +
        "");
    Assert.AreEqual(2, root.Items.Count);
    var v1 = root.Items[0] as DeclarationBlock;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v1);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v1.Declarations.Count);
    var v2 = v1.Declarations[0] as Declaration;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v2);
    var v3 = v2.TypeRef as TypeChar;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v3);
    Assert.AreEqual(50, v3.Length);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v2.Names.Count);
    Assert.AreEqual("L_RESULT", v2.Names[0].Name);
    Assert.AreEqual(0, v2.Names[0].Occurs);
    var v4 = root.Items[1] as StatementBlock;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v4);
    Assert.AreEqual(3, v4.Statements.Count);
    var v5 = v4.Statements[0] as StmtMap;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v5);
    Assert.IsFalse(v5.New);
    var v6 = v5.Source as ExprLiteralString;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v6);
    Assert.AreEqual("hello", v6.Value);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v5.Target.Count);
    var v7 = v5.Target[0] as FieldSpec;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v7);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v7.Fields.Count);
    Assert.AreEqual("L_RESULT", v7.Fields[0]);
    Assert.IsFalse(v7.Brackets);
    Assert.AreEqual(0, v7.Indices.Count);
    var v8 = v4.Statements[1] as StmtClear;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v8);
    var v9 = v8.Target as FieldSpec;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v9);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v9.Fields.Count);
    Assert.AreEqual("L_RESULT", v9.Fields[0]);
    Assert.IsFalse(v9.Brackets);
    Assert.AreEqual(0, v9.Indices.Count);
    var v10 = v4.Statements[2] as StmtPrint;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v10);
    var v11 = v10.Value as FieldSpec;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v11);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v11.Fields.Count);
    Assert.AreEqual("L_RESULT", v11.Fields[0]);
    Assert.IsFalse(v11.Brackets);
    Assert.AreEqual(0, v11.Indices.Count);
}
```


```
1  ---------- bind ----------
2  rule CLECHA
3  ---------- rule ----------
4  dcl
5     L_RESULT char(50);
6  enddcl
7  map 'hello' to L_RESULT
8  clear L_RESULT
9  print L_RESULT
10 ---------- ast ----------
11 Block
12     Declare
13         Char
14             50
15         & L_RESULT
16 Block
17     Map
18         $ hello
19         @ L_RESULT
20     Clear
21         @ L_RESULT
22     Print
23         @ L_RESULT
```

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N-tests:
normalisation

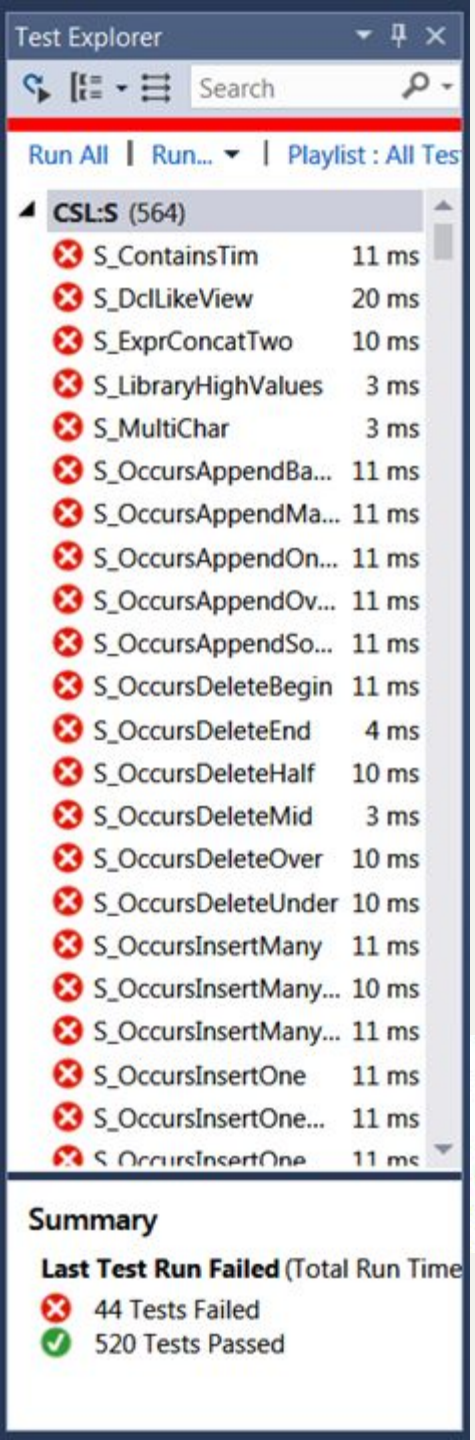
```
public void N_ClearBoolean()
{
    Rule root = FrontEnd.LoadFullRuleFromText(
        "dcl\n" +
        "   L_RESULT boolean;\n" +
        "enddcl\n" +
        "map true to L_RESULT\n" +
        "clea                    +
        "prin  l_result\n        +
        "", f                    indFromFile(@"C:\repositories\CSL\tools\siege\src\S_ClearBoolean.HpsBindFile"));
    Assert.AreEqual(2, root.Items.Count);
    var v1 = root.Items[0] as DeclarationBlock;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v1);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v1.Declarations.Count);
    var v2 = v1.Declarations[0] as Declaration;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v2);
    var v3 = v2.TypeRef as TypeBoolean;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v3);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v2.Names.Count);
    Assert.AreEqual("L_RESULT", v2.Names[0].Name);
    Assert.AreEqual(0, v2.Names[0].Occurs);
    var v4 = root.Items[1] as StatementBlock;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v4);
    Assert.AreEqual(3, v4.Statements.Count);
    var v5 = v4.Statements[0] as StmtMap;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v5);
    Assert.IsFalse(v5.New);
    var v6 = v5.Source as ExprLiteralBoolean;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v6);
    Assert.IsTrue(v6.Value);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v5.Target.Count);
    var v7 = v5.Target[0] as FieldSpec;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v7);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v7.Fields.Count);
    Assert.AreEqual("L_RESULT", v7.Fields[0]);
    Assert.IsFalse(v7.Brackets);
    Assert.AreEqual(0, v7.Indices.Count);
    var v8 = v4.Statements[1] as StmtClear;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v8);
    var v9 = v8.Target as FieldSpec;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v9);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, v9.Fields.Count);
    Assert.AreEqual("L_RESULT", v9.Fields[0]);
    Assert.IsFalse(v9.Brackets);
    Assert.AreEqual(0, v9.Indices.Count);
    var v10 = v4.Statements[2] as StmtPrint;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v10);
    var v11 = v10.Value as FieldSpec;
    Assert.IsNotNull(v11);
    Assert.AreEqual                  s.Count);
    Assert.AreEqual "L_RESULT",      v11.Fields[0]);
    Assert.IsFalse(                  ;
    Assert.AreEqual(0, v11.Indices.Count);
}
```

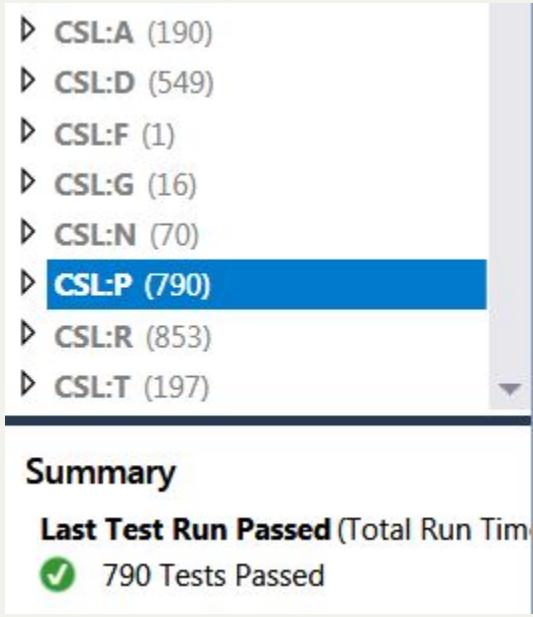
T-tests: typing

```
[TestMethod]
[TestCategory("typecheck"), TestCategory("rule"), TestCategory("clear")]
[TestCategory("CSL:T")]
| 0 references | Vadim Zaytsev, 41 days ago | 1 author, 5 changes
public void T_ClearDec15()
{
    SymbolTable table = new SymbolTable();
    AbstractTypes.one().PurgeLocalViews();
    table.Populate(FrontEnd.LoadRuleFromText(
        "dcl\n" +
        "   L_RESULT dec(15);\n" +
        "enddcl\n" +
        "map 42 to L_RESULT\n" +
        "clear L_RESULT\n" +
        "print L_RESULT\n" +
        ""), null);
    Assert.AreEqual(1, table.Count);
    Assert.IsTrue(table.IsDeclaredStrict("L_RESULT"));
    Assert.IsTrue(table.GetTypeOf("L_RESULT") is CastleTypeDecimal);
    Assert.AreEqual(15, (table.GetTypeOf("L_RESULT") as CastleTypeDecimal).Length);
    Assert.AreEqual(0, (table.GetTypeOf("L_RESULT") as CastleTypeDecimal).Scale);
}
```

```
1  ---------- rule ----------
2  dcl
3     L_RESULT dec(15);
4  enddcl
5  map 42 to L_RESULT
6  clear L_RESULT
7  print L_RESULT
8  ---------- ast ----------
9  ...
10 ---------- type ----------
11 decimal[15,0] L_RESULT
```

S-tests: successful execution






```
[TestMethod]
[TestCategory("CSL:S")]
| 0 references | Vadim Zaytsev, 126 days ago | 1 author, 2 changes
public void S_CastDateToCharY() => RunAndCompare(new S_CastDateToCharY(), "59$$$");
```

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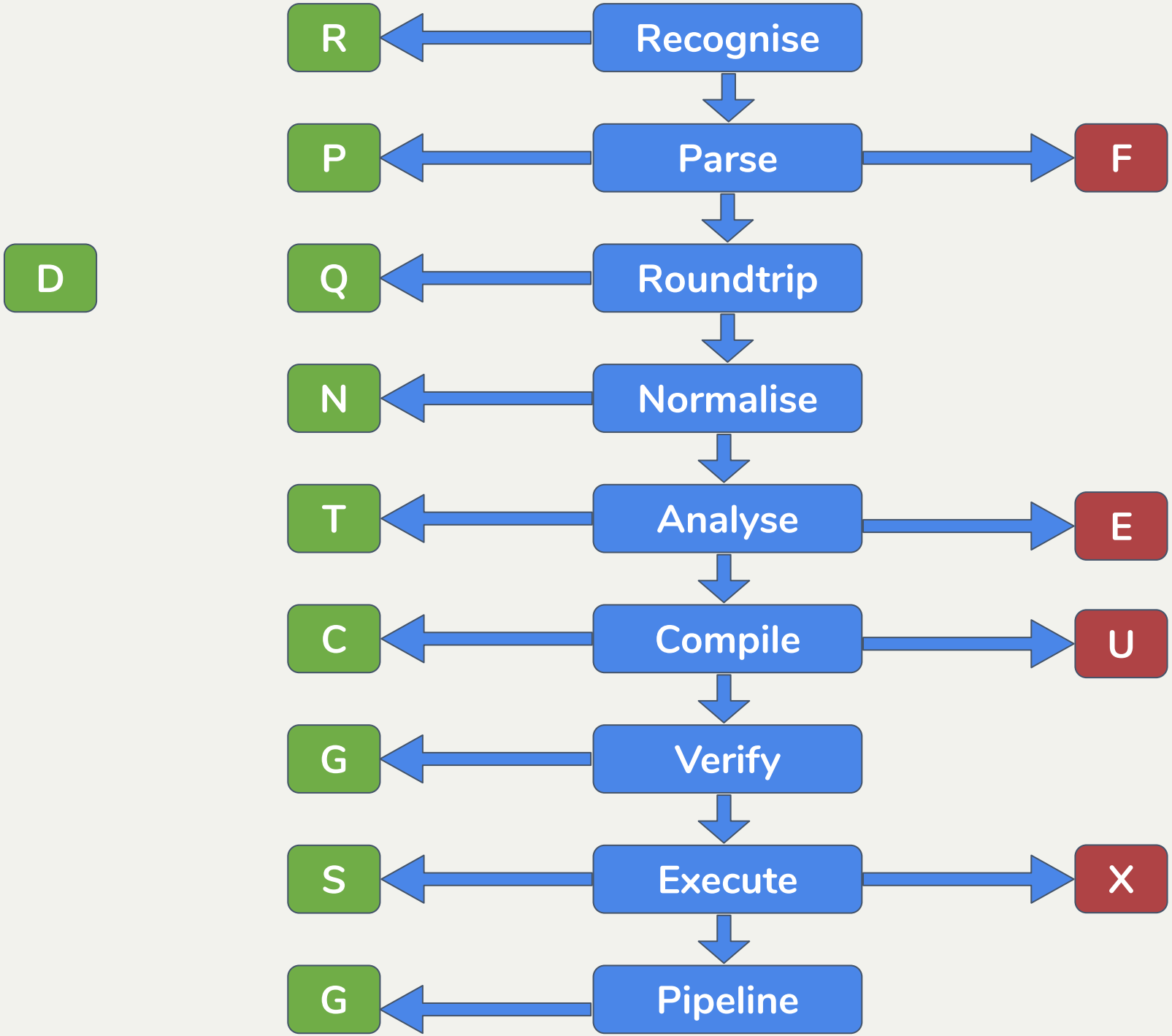
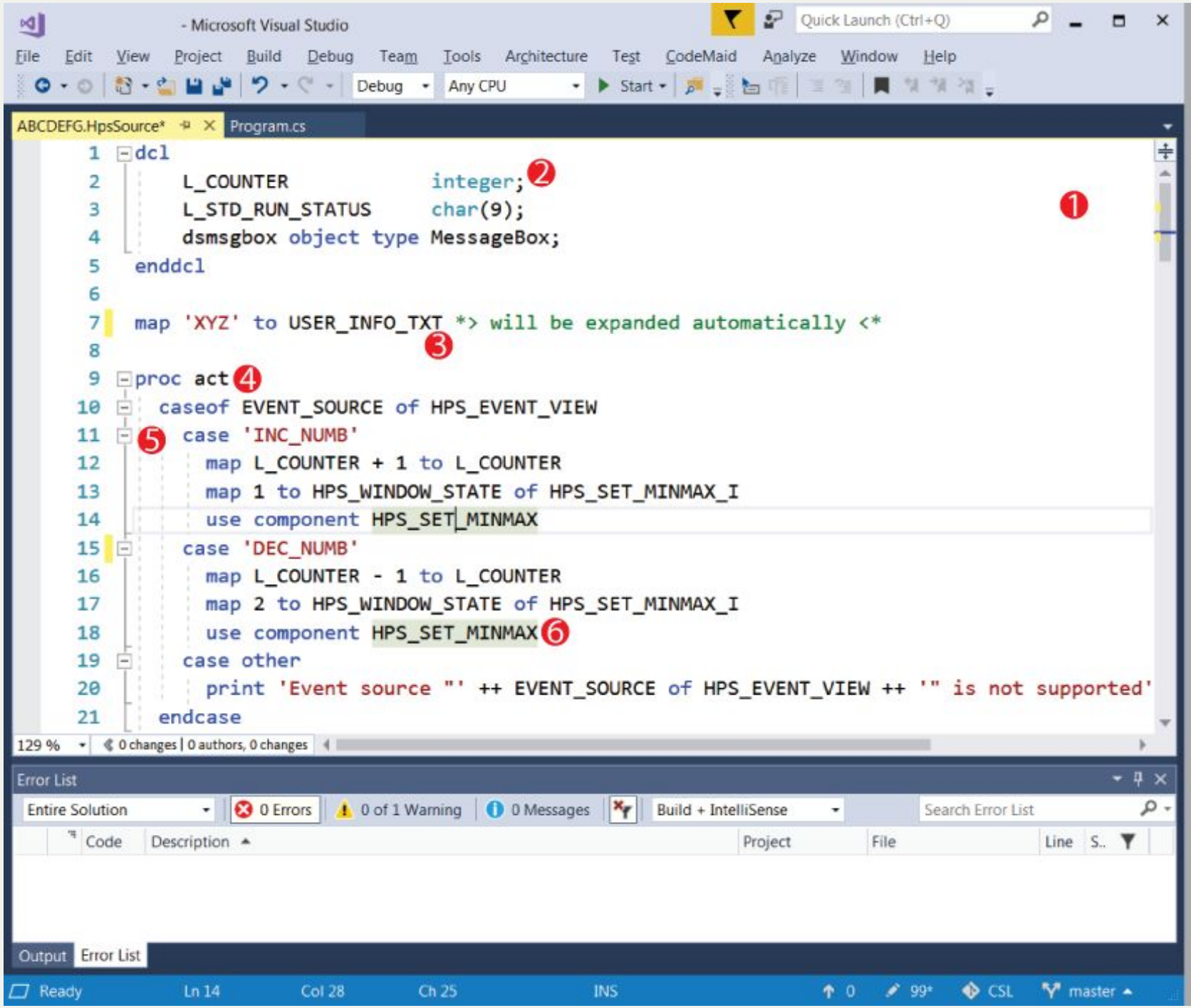
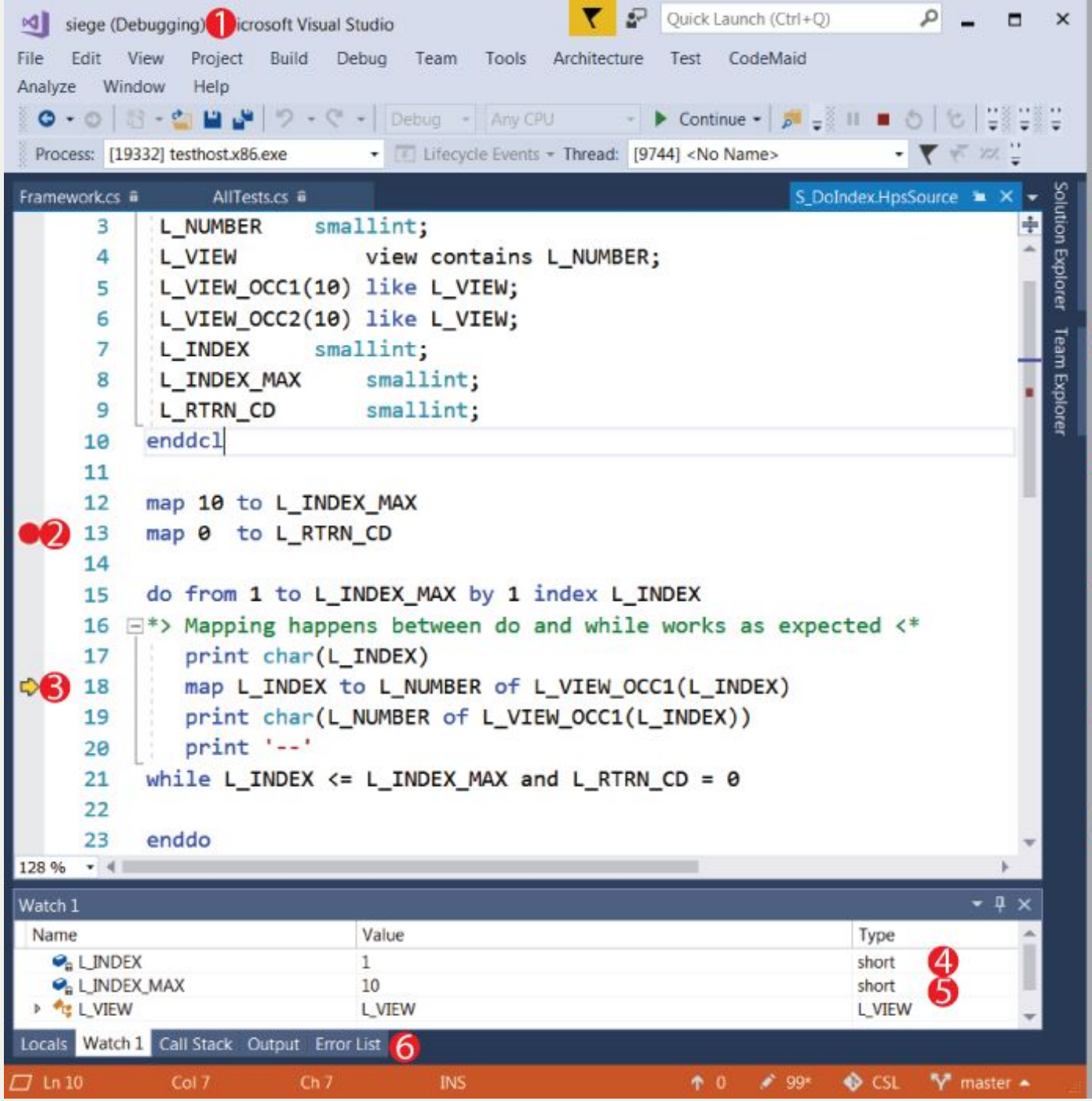

R
Recognise
P
Parse
F
D
Q
Roundtrip
N
Normalise
T
Analyse
E
C
Compile
U
G
Verify
S
Execute
X
G
Pipeline

Tests were used:

- Mostly during middle stages of the project
  - too little info early on
  - easy to test bugfixes for regression later on
- To measure progress internally
  - project planning
  - work distribution
- To report to the customer
  - challenging to communicate a CC process

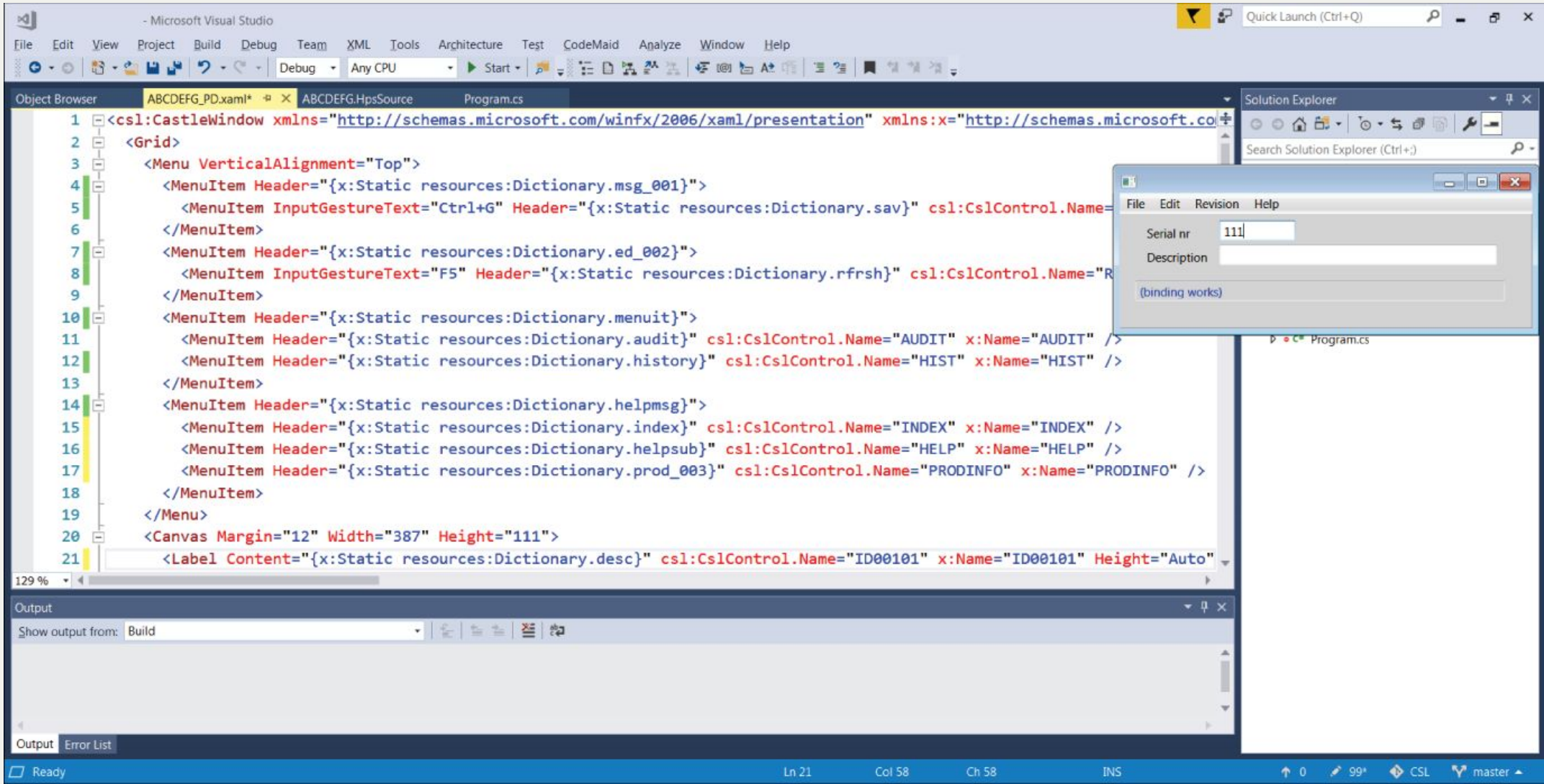


1. Native syntax
2. Data types
3. Symbol expanstion
4. Procedures
5. Code folding
6. System components



1. Debugging
2. Breakpoint
3. Currently executing
4. Watch on a field
5. Watch on a view
6. Locals show known views

TIALAA supports both client & server

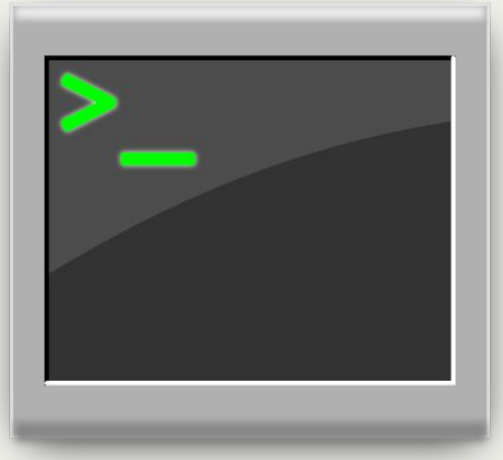


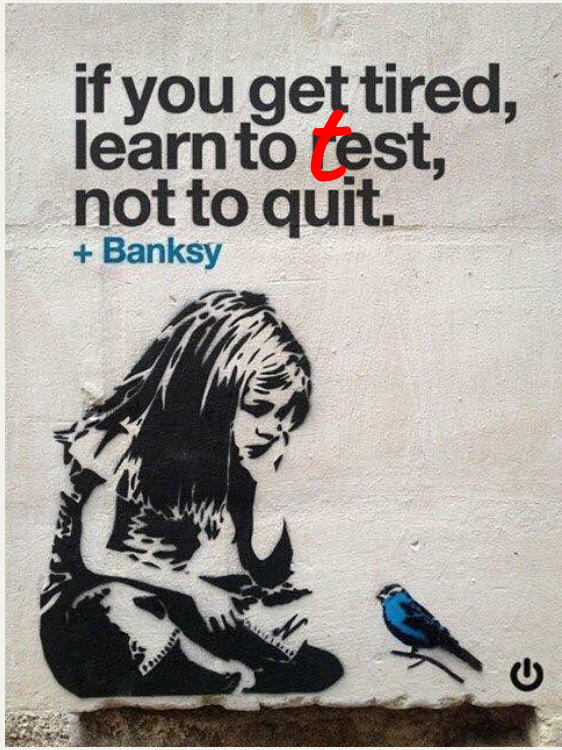
Pilot study results

- ~4 MLOC rules,
  ~13 MLOC bind files,
  ~4 MLOC sets,
  ~3 MLOC panels
- ~42k data structures, ~17k programs
- 100% compilation & verification
- Integration testing ongoing
- Go into production in a few months

Conclusion

- Follow @grammarware
- 4GLs are bad DSLs
- TIALAA is there to replace AppBuilder
  - https://www.raincode.com/technical-landscape/tialaa/
- Testing a compiler is a lot of work
- No out of the box solution
- No out of the box comprehensive methodology
- Existing papers are scarce and focused
- Request for SLEBoK!
  - http://slebok.github.io
- Thanks! Questions?





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Testing in TIALAA

- G-tests: can the compiler handle the customer's codebase?
- R-tests: can the parser recognise this input?
- F-tests: can the parser rightfully reject this input?
- P-tests: can the parser construct a good tree from this input?
- N-tests: can the normaliser rewrite this tree well?
- E-tests: can this input error be fixed automatically?
- T-tests: can this program be typed correctly?
- A-tests: can this program be rejected by static semantic analysis?
- C-tests: can this program be successfully compiled to produce a DLL?
- V-tests: can this program be compiled to a verified DLL?
- U-tests: can this problem be rightfully rejected during compilation?
- S-tests: can this program successfully execute to produce output?
- X-tests: can this program throw the right exception?
- D-tests: does this runtime library function work?

Dijkstra vs Goodenough

NOTES ON STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING

by

Prof.dr. Edsger W. Dijkstra

Program testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, but never to show their absence!

TOWARD A THEORY OF TEST DATA SELECTION*

John B. Goodenough
Susan L. Gerhart**
SofTech, Inc., Waltham, Mass.

We prove a fundamental theorem showing that properly structured tests are capable of demonstrating the absence of errors in a program.