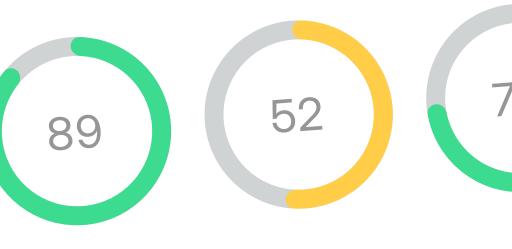


7 Ways to Test Smarter with Sauce Labs

Insights Best Practices Guide

Test #13045
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View full report



Launch

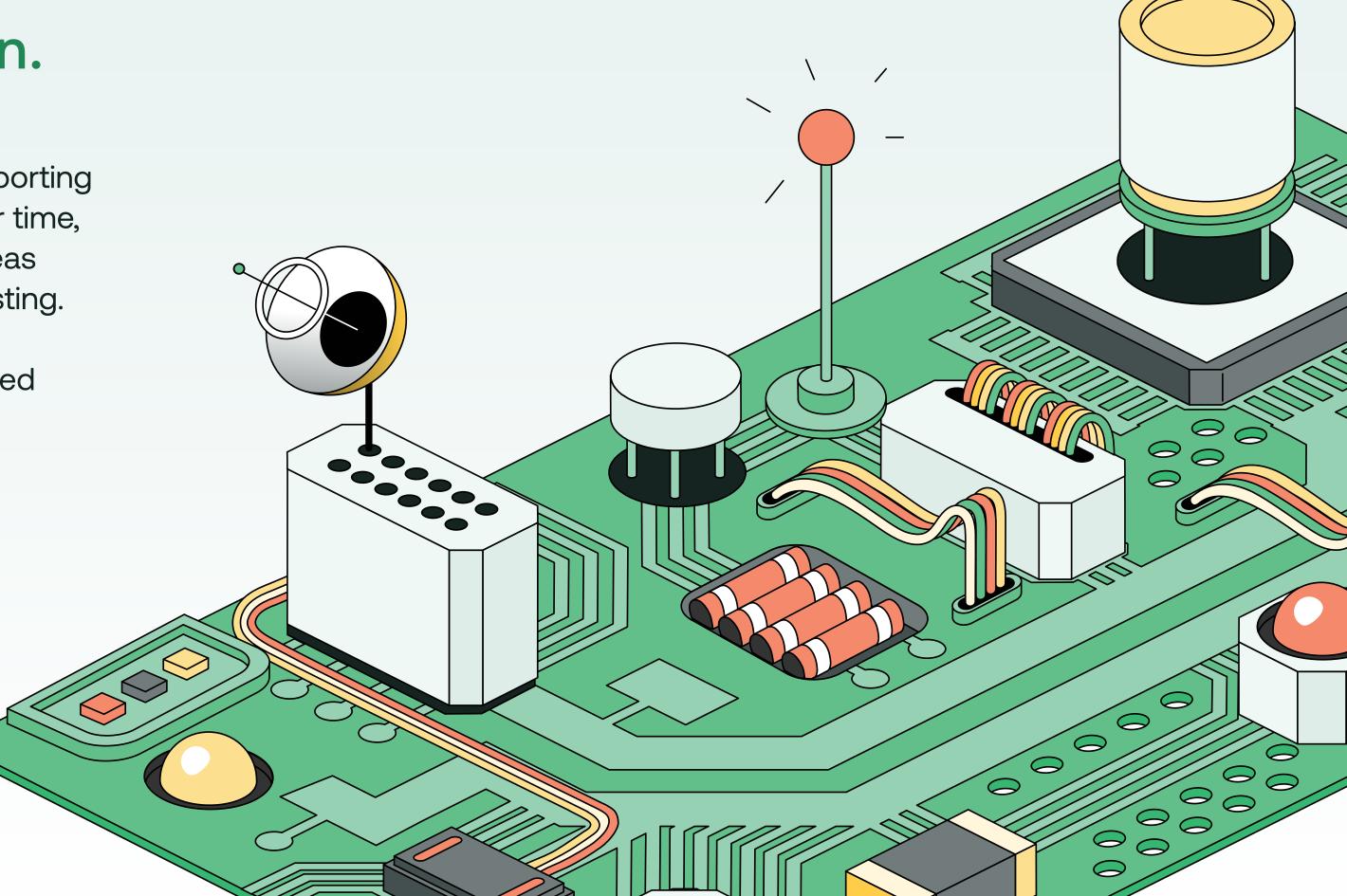
You've built out your test suite, are running tests, and are well on your way to shipping higher-quality software.

But now that you are running more tests, you're generating far more data about your app quality and your test quality. What if you could use this data to improve test performance so you can test even smarter?



Sauce Labs provides a centralized view for deep analytics and reporting across your test suite. This allows you to interpret test results over time, identify failure patterns across various platforms, and discover areas within your application that would benefit from more thorough testing.

With this best practices guide, you'll learn seven ways to get started with Insights so you can begin optimizing your test processes.



Populate your data

To get the most out of the Sauce Labs analytics, you must ensure the data your tests generate is accurate, relevant, and properly structured.

Because Sauce Labs leverages data that is provided by each test, your test code should be set up to make it easily readable by Sauce Labs. Here's how.

Set unique test names

Unique test names make it easier to track the performance of specific tests so you can optimize them over time. Because Sauce Labs Insights groups tests by name, make sure the name you provide for each test is unique. Use the test method name, and verify that all method names are unique across all test builds. When setting up the test, add the following code with your unique test name:

```
sauceOptions.put("name", testinfo.getDisplayName());
```

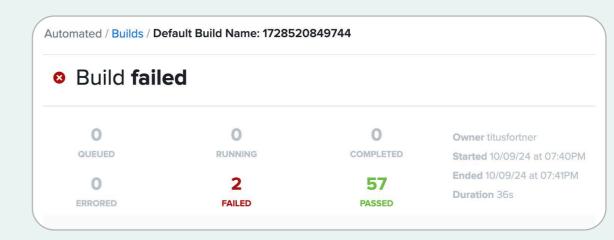
Leverage tags to manage tests

Tags can help you organize your tests in a logical manner so you can analyze larger subsets of tests like specific builds or features. Here's how to add a tag to your test:

```
sauceOptions.put("tags", context.getTags());
```

Group tests with a build name

Test jobs, or builds, have a name and number that gets incremented after each execution. Grouping your tests by build name helps you track the performance of your testing for a specific build over multiple test runs so you can easily compare test performance results.



Here's what this looks like in the Results View.

The best way to assign a build name is to use the environment variables in your CI tool. For example, here's what it looks like in Jenkins:

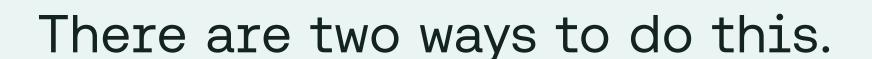
sauceOptions.put("build", System.getenv("BUILD_NAME") + ": " + System.getenv("BUILD_NUMBER"));

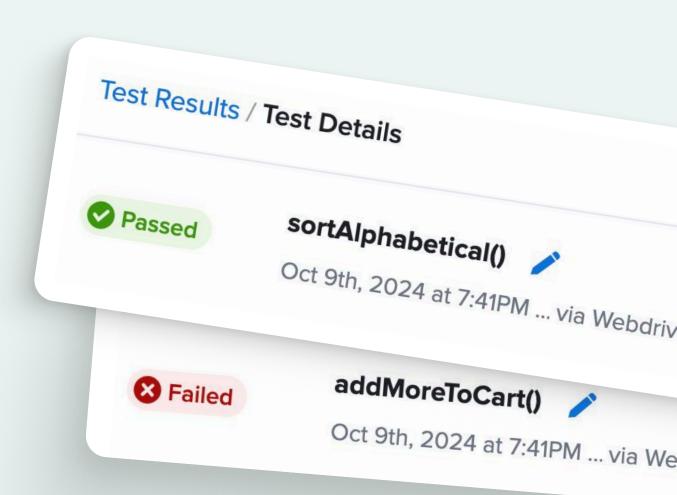
Set results to improve reporting accuracy

While the Sauce Labs Platform can help you test at scale, it doesn't necessarily know the intention of the test. That's where you come in.

Setting the Pass/Fail status of your tests is the key to giving the Sauce Labs Platform the context it needs to fuel its results.

By telling the system whether the test was a pass or a fail at the end of the session, you can then use Insights to analyze why tests are failing so you can improve your process.





Add a line of code in the JavaScript Executor:

```
((RemoteWebDriver) driver).executeScript("sauce:job-result=passed");
```

While this method works most of the time, a problem with the test that causes the driver to become unstable could force the test to quit unexpectedly before it is finished, which means the Platform won't be able to leverage the results.

To ensure the result gets sent every time regardless of driver performance, we recommend using a REST client.

Here's what that looks like using Java's SauceREST library:

```
SauceREST rest = new SauceREST(DataCenter.US_WEST);
String sessionId = ((RemoteWebDriver) driver).getSessionId().toString();
rest.getJobsEndpoint().changeResults(String.valueOf(sessionId), true);
```

Explore!

Now that you have Insights set up, it's time to start exploring what you can do.

Go to the Insights tab on your Sauce Labs platform to see all your options for analyzing test results.

Resolve pervasive issues with Failure Analysis

WHAT IS IT:

Failure Analysis helps you optimize test efficiency and efficacy by identifying common failure patterns within your test suite so you can solve problems at their root.

WHO IS IT FOR:

Developers and SDET individual contributors who want to uncover patterns impacting the overall test suite.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Use Failure Analysis to improve developer efficiency by streamlining the detection and triage of your most pervasive errors. It can also help validate an investment in test automation by showing larger patterns as a source of failure, allowing for global mitigation and faster time-to-market with better quality.

Learn more about Failure Analysis

Examine your test suite health with **Job Overview**

WHAT IS IT:

Job Overview gives you a comprehensive overview of your test suite, along with the ability to drill down into builds, operating systems, browsers, and frameworks.

WHO IS IT FOR:

QA leaders seeking insights into the current health of their tests.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Leverage enhanced reporting to uncover consistently passing, failing, or erroring jobs so you can **better communicate quality metrics across cross-functional teams,** improving their efficiency and collaboration.

Learn more about Job Overview

Adapt to issues quickly with **Job History**

WHAT IS IT:

Job History provides a visual overview of test performance over time, helping you identify patterns and issues with test stability across various platforms and browsers.

WHO IS IT FOR:

QA leaders who want to **dive deeper into test results and performance metrics** like errors, failures, and runtime.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

View time-specific test results, identify test anomalies or patterns, and make more targeted improvements by identifying long-term issues related to test performance and flakiness.

Learn more about Job History

Make the most out of each tool

The Insights tab within the Sauce Labs Platform is more than just a reporting tool. It's a powerful resource so you can optimize opportunities while proactively planning for future strategic needs.

Adaptive

Use Job Overview, Job History, and Trends to triage test failures right now and over time to better understand how to improve results.

Each tab allows you to filter your tests by platform, browser version, or device so you can quickly identify the exact tests to troubleshoot. Use tags to monitor custom test sets so you can analyze specific aspects of your test suite, such as a particular feature.

Proactive

Use Coverage and Usage to strategically plan how you test and what you should test for.

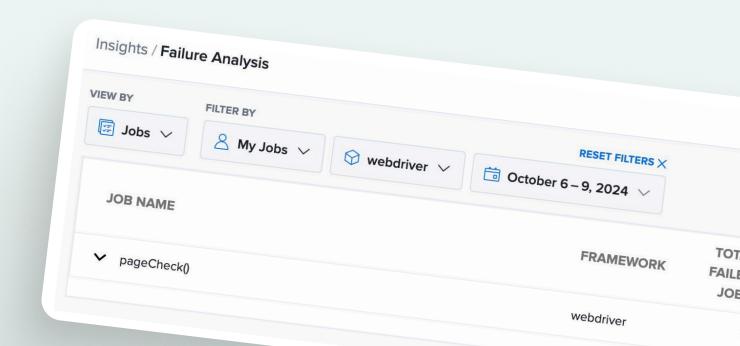
In addition to maximizing resources by testing the device/OS/browsers most important to your users and business, it can help you maximize your Sauce Labs investment by seeing if your team is utilizing its available sessions efficiently.



Troubleshooting failures 101

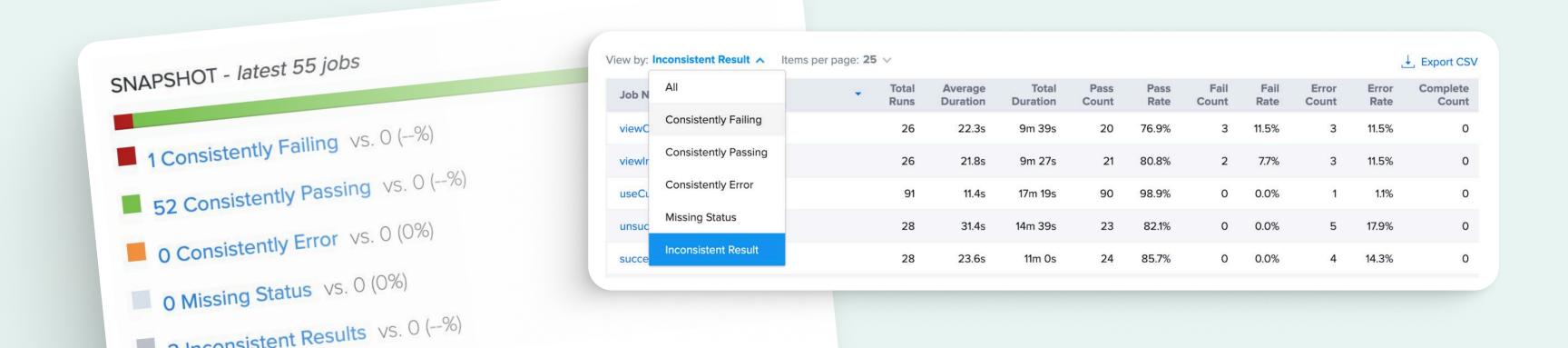
If you discover that your recent tests have an unusually high number of failures, it can often indicate a common cause. The Failure Analysis tool helps you speed up debugging by fixing the root issue so you can get code into production more efficiently.

Failure Analysis works by grouping similar test failures together, helping you quickly see if multiple tests are failing for the same reason, such as a broken login page. Rather than go through tests one by one, you can identify and fix all those failures at once.



Another troubleshooting tip is to use the **Job Overview** page to see how tests have performed over the last week or month. This gives you a high-level view of the tests you're running and their results so you can identify spikes tied to recent work, which are easier to fix now rather than later in the future.

To aid in triage, the Job Overview tab includes a Snapshot section that differentiates jobs that always fail from jobs that fail intermittently. Click on any link in the Snapshot section to go to the Job History tab, where you can easily dig into both categories so you can divide and conquer test failures based on root cause and the difficulty of implementing a solution. Tip: Filter results by what you want or don't want to include to see specific issues, such as only bugs impacting Safari users.



Go deeper with Extended Debugging

Extended Debugging does what it says: this feature offers additional capabilities that you can use to gain deeper insight when diagnosing flaky tests or performance degradation.

Use Extended Debugging to collect the following additional data:

JavaScript (JS) Console Logs:

The JS console collects security errors, warnings, and messages that are explicitly logged by the browser. Use these logs to find out which components of your web app failed to load or ran into an error, what warnings were logged by the browser, and to get more information about app performance.

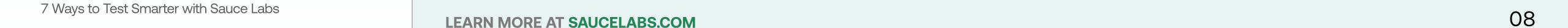
HTTP Archive Format Files:

HAR files collect all network requests and responses made and received by the browser during testing. Use HAR files to identify browser requests that time out, pinpoint requests slowing down the loading process, and locate faulty API calls.

Because Extended Debugging collects JS console logs and HAR files generated during testing, it can impact your overall test performance, so keep in mind that this isn't a tool you'll want to use for everyday testing.

To generate the JS console logs and HAR files, add the **extendedDebugging** capability to your Selenium test script and set it to true. Once a test with Extended Debugging enabled is complete, you can access the logs and files through Sauce Labs or with the REST API.

Learn more about Extended Debugging



Automate with Sauce Bindings

Sauce Bindings:

A growing collection of several Java libraries that automatically populate everything required to get the most out of the Sauce Labs Platform, reducing your need for maintenance, session cleanup, and status reporting.

Use one of the test runner plugins (JUnit 4, JUnit 5, and TestNG) to automatically:

Structure your Sauce tests

Store the method name as the test name

Populate the build name based on CI tool environment variables

Set existing tags from your tests

Set pass and fail information at the end of the test run

Learn more about Sauce Bindings >

Explore!

Improve test performance with **Trends**

WHAT IS IT:

Trends provides a quick overview of what's going on with your tests as a whole. Applying filters to the visualizations enables you to dig into the data to generate answers to specific questions about test performance.

WHO IS IT FOR:

QA leaders who want to **pinpoint exactly where to focus efforts,** identify improvement opportunities, and run a more efficient test suite.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Use interactive visualizations to **uncover persistent errors** so you can optimize test suite performance, efficiency, and use of resources.

Learn more about Trends

Test what matters to your users with **Coverage**

WHAT IS IT:

The Coverage report provides a breakdown of the browsers and mobile devices your organization tests against so you can make more informed decisions about where to focus testing resources.

WHO IS IT FOR:

QA leaders who want to ensure their testing strategy aligns with the browsers and devices most used by current or prospective customers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Gather user data through Google
Analytics to identify the browsers,
devices, and platforms your customers
use. In Insights, you can then specify the
type of coverage you wish to view by
selecting the Devices, Browsers, or OS
tab to ensure your testing is tailored to
your audience.

Learn more about Coverage

Plan and execute your test strategy with **Usage**

WHAT IS IT:

Usage provides an accurate view of your concurrency data and lets you compare it to your subscription limit so you can maximize your investment.

WHO IS IT FOR:

QA leaders who want to **understand testing patterns** at an organization level or team level.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Compare concurrency usage between teams across time to see who is contributing most. You can also visualize your maximum concurrency usage as it approaches the subscription limit so you can make informed decisions about your usage.

Learn more about Usage

About Sauce Labs

Sauce Labs is the leading cloud-hosted platform for automated testing of web and mobile applications, enabling fast delivery of high-quality software across the development lifecycle. Founded by the creators of Selenium, Sauce Labs has been the testing leader for over 15 years and now runs over 1 billion tests annually. Trusted by Fortune 500 companies like Toyota, Walmart, Verizon, and Fidelity Investments, its scalable, secure platform supports testing across thousands of operating systems, browsers, and devices while meeting the highest compliance standards.

For more information, please visit

saucelabs.com

