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In this paper I examine the shortcomings and core design flaws of Python's standard unittest module, focusing specifically on the programmer's ability to extend unittest. I then discuss the requirements for an extensible testing framework and introduce test_harness, an alternative framework designed from the ground up to address these fundamental issues. Finally, examples drawn from real-world, unittest-based test suites are reformulated using test_harness to demonstrate the power of the new framework.

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