



Lightning Talks

Presented at the Software Test and
Performance Conference 2008

matt.heusser@gmail.com

San Mateo, California April 17, 2008

Markus Tiede




Automated GUI Testing:
common misbeliefs

Markus.Tiede@bredex.de

If tools did spam...

Subject	Sender	Date
SPAM Phenomenal Software Development Program ***SPAM***	Markus Tiede	11:08

 **Thunderbird thinks this message is junk.** This is Not Junk

Subject: ***SPAM*** Phenomenal Software Development Program ***SPAM***
From: [Markus Tiede <Markus.Tiede@bredex.de>](mailto:Markus.Tiede@bredex.de)
Date: 11:08

Dear my friend,

you don't know me but I got your email address from the web and I am writing to you because I found a phenomenal program on one of my hard drives.

With this program you are able to create software

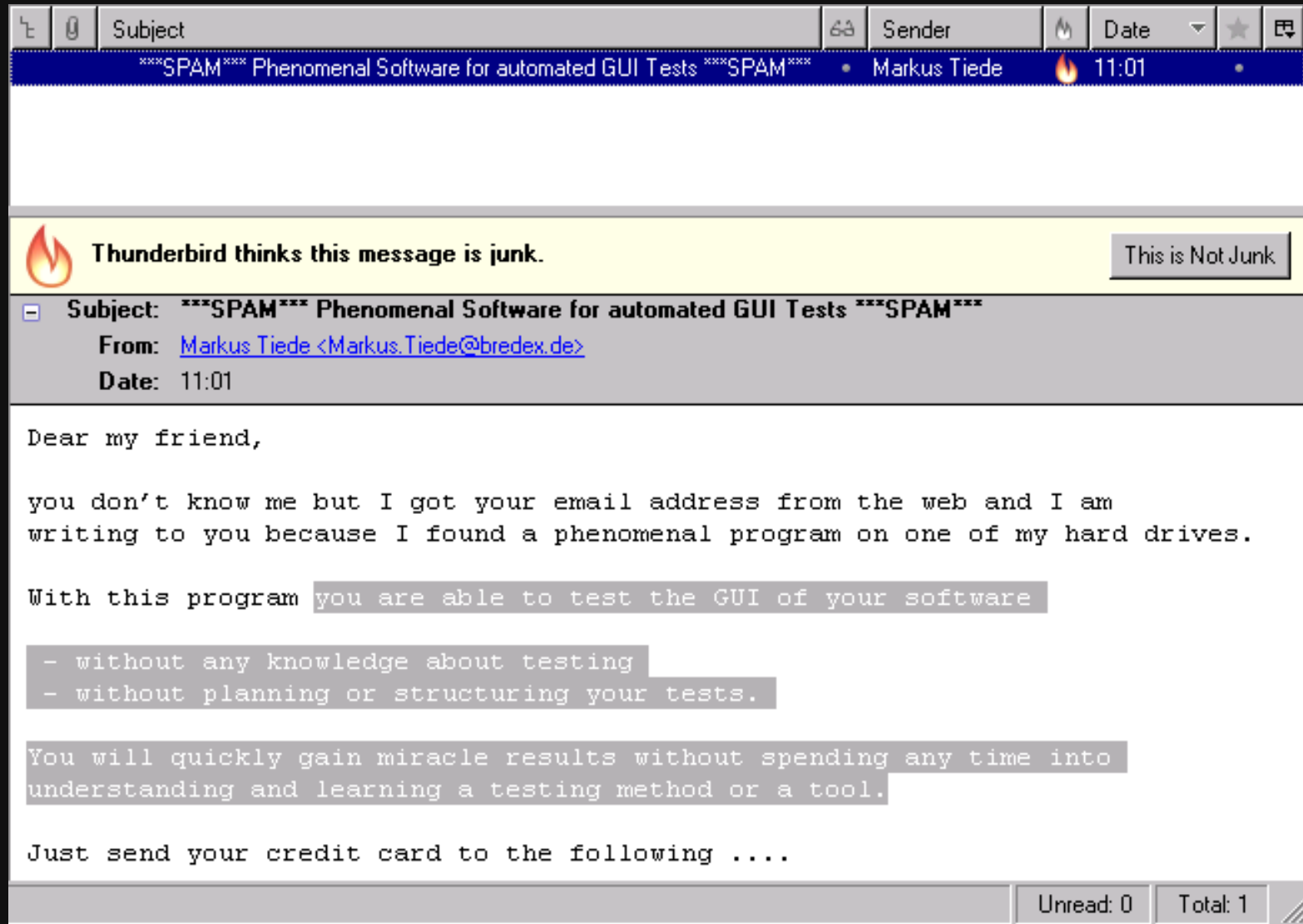
- without any knowledge about software development and programming languages.
- without planning or structuring your program.

You will quickly gain miracle results without spending any time into understanding and learning a software development method or a tool.

Just send your credit card to the following

Unread: 0 Total: 1

Not so ridiculous...?



The screenshot shows a Thunderbird email client window. The header bar includes a search icon, a 'Subject' field, a 'Sender' field, a 'Date' field, and a star icon. The email header is highlighted in blue and contains the text: '***SPAM*** Phenomenal Software for automated GUI Tests ***SPAM*** • Markus Tiede 11:01'. Below the header is a yellow warning bar with a flame icon and the text 'Thunderbird thinks this message is junk.' and a button labeled 'This is Not Junk'. The email body is displayed in a monospaced font and contains the following text:

Subject: ***SPAM*** Phenomenal Software for automated GUI Tests ***SPAM***
From: [Markus Tiede <Markus.Tiede@bredex.de>](mailto:Markus.Tiede@bredex.de)
Date: 11:01

Dear my friend,

you don't know me but I got your email address from the web and I am writing to you because I found a phenomenal program on one of my hard drives.

With this program you are able to test the GUI of your software

- without any knowledge about testing
- without planning or structuring your tests.

You will quickly gain miracle results without spending any time into understanding and learning a testing method or a tool.

Just send your credit card to the following

At the bottom right of the window, there are two status boxes: 'Unread: 0' and 'Total: 1'.

Why do we believe?

- Capture-Replay tools make us believe!
 - “automate testing as easy as recording a test”
 - it is highly praised as a “miracle cure”
- People cling to this promise
 - automated testing should not involve any effort
 - as it is described as a simple task

... and take up the offer for the “miracle cure” ...

Side effects

- Not enough forward planning for resources
 - Not enough time set aside to...
 - ... learn to use tools
 - ... design tests
 - ... build a testing infrastructure
- automated tests are often doomed to fail

Learn to spot the spam

- automated testing is an important task
 - “You can’t get something for nothing!”
- Take it as seriously as software development

Thank you for listening...

... for any outstanding questions: stand 10

Markus Tiede

Markus.Tiede@bredex.de

