RPA Specialization

Course 3: UI Automation and Selectors

Wildcards in Selectors

Wildcards in Selectors

Wildcards are symbols that enable the user to replace zero or multiple characters in a string when dealing with dynamically changing attributes in a selector. When a wildcard is used, or a variable is added between selectors, it is known as customizing selectors.

Types:

- Asterisk (*) – replaces zero or more characters
- Question mark (?) – replaces a single character

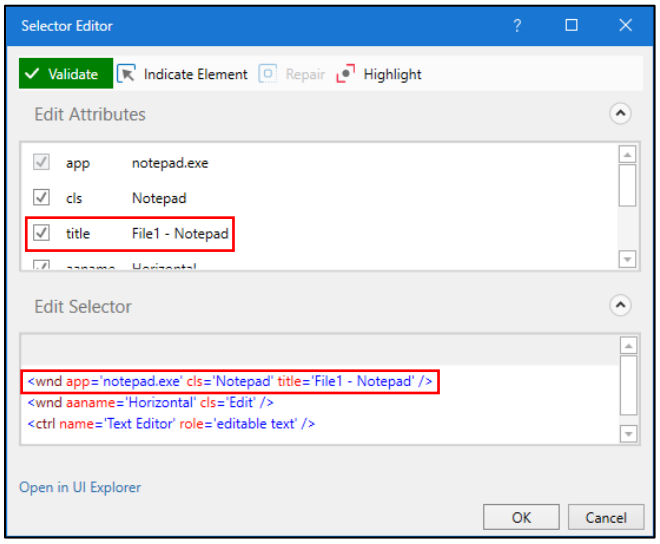
Let's now understand how to use wildcards while building selectors with the help of some scenarios.

Scenario 1

A user is building an automation project that can read data from multiple text files having naming conventions like: File1.txt, File2.txt, and File3.txt

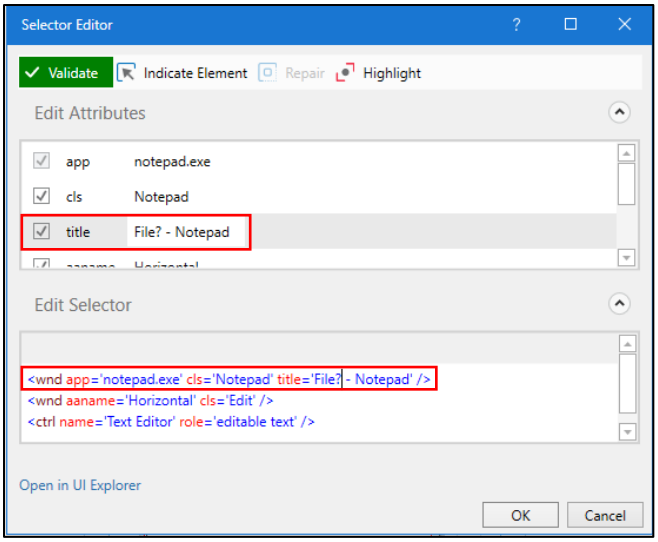
In this scenario, the user thought of using the '?' wildcard to make the selector more robust and reliable.

Let us look at the selector created **before** using the wildcards.



Notice the title of the file in the selector, i.e., **'File1 – Notepad'**. Using this selector, the user cannot read data from multiple files as it is only applicable for File1.txt.

Let us look at the selector created **after** using the wildcards.



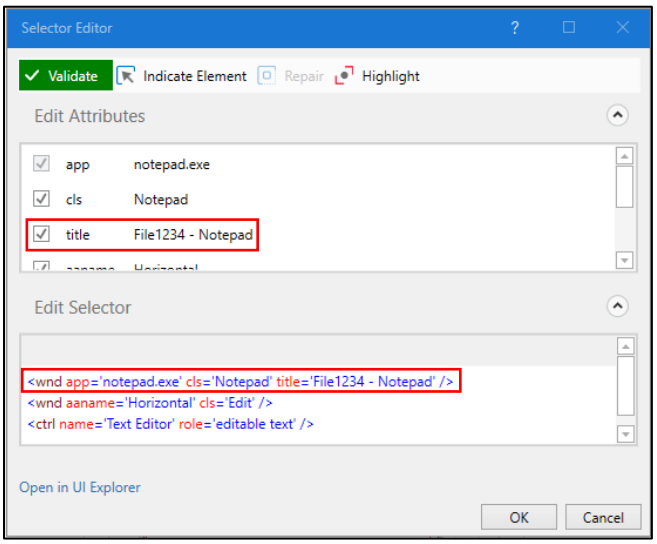
Notice the title of the file in the selector i.e., **'File? – Notepad'**. Wildcard **' ? '** enable the user to replace a single character in the file name. Using this selector, the user can now read data from multiple files.

Scenario 2

The user is now building an automation project that can read data from thousands of files having naming conventions like: File1234.txt, File2345.txt, File3456.txt, and so on.

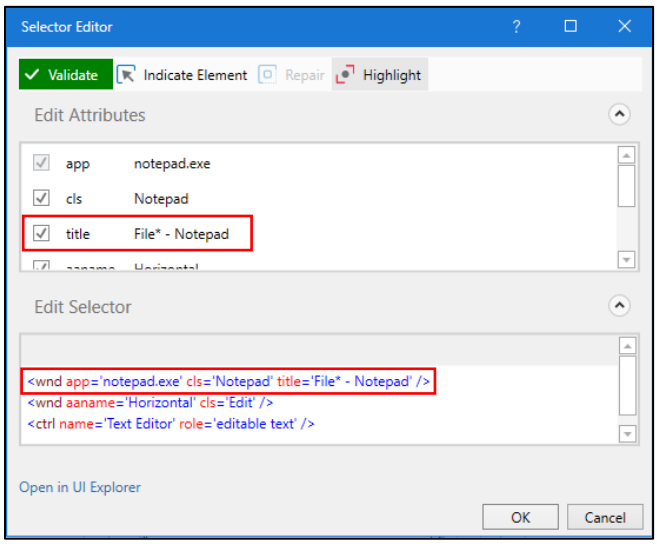
In this scenario, to make the selector more robust and reliable the user thought of using **' * '** wildcard.

Let's look at the selector created **before** using the wildcard.



Notice the title of the file in the selector i.e., **'File1234 – Notepad'**. Using this selector, the user cannot read data from multiple files as it is only applicable for File1234.txt.

Let's look at the selector created **after** using the wildcard.



Notice the title of the file in the selector i.e., **'File* – Notepad'**. Wildcard **' * '** enables the user to replace zero or more characters in the file name. Using this selector, the user can now read data from multiple files.

To know more, visit: https://docs.uipath.com/studio/docs/selectors-with-wildcards