

Automation Anywhere Tool for Student University Result



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Abstract: Automation is the future for organizational processes. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is the solution for software automation in various domains like IT, Finance and accounting, Supply chain and so on. In this paper we propose a RPA solution for education domain. This paper shows the automation process for result analysis of student's examination results. The automation process takes input as the university result in pdf form. We performed automation on this input file using Automation anywhere tool. Our result shows that all the work is error free. Also time required for this analysis is around 94.44% less as compared to manual analysis by human.

Index Terms: RPA, , Automation Anywhere.

I. INTRODUCTION

In this 21st century, competition among the organizations forcing them to reinvent faster methods to market their products and services. They need to increase their revenue while keeping expenses under control. Automation is the key to achieve this. Nowadays organizations are concentrating more on automation [2]. Process Automation is mainly divided into two parts- 1] Hard Automation 2] Soft Automation. Hard automation refers to machines or robots that perform task which is specific or fixed but required repetitive steps. Whereas soft automation is advanced version of hard automation which allows different tasks to performed as per requirement. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) comes under soft automation [6].

Blue prism invented the term Robotic process automation (RPA). By mid-2017, this term is accepted by many software providers and now there were around 50 automation tools. These tools differ on many dimensions e.g. deployment approach, functionality [9].

According to Institute for Robotic Process Automation (IRPA), RPA is nothing but the application of technology. By this technology, employees in any organization can configure software or robot, manipulate data, can communicate with other systems, can give responses, can process transactions

automatically. [12]. RPA technology is used in digital environment. In organizations, humans perform specific digital tasks. Those tasks can be automated or action of human can be copied by using RPA technology [1]. Manual processes which are done by human workers can be automated through RPA which is simply software. That software BOT is programmed to perform multiple steps such as read data, write data, modify data, numerical calculations on data and so on [6]. According to Santiago et al [7], RPA is software which provides solutions to processes that are based on rules, includes repetitive tasks, structured data and has deterministic outcome. Manual Processes in business organization includes dealing with Enterprise Resourcing Planning (ERP), Customer Relationship Management (CRM), spreadsheets. Repetitive tasks in these processes include copying, pasting, extracting, merging, transferring data from one system to another. [7]. Benefits of RPA is as follows [2]

I. Benefits of RPA

Parameter	Increase	Decrease
Cost		↓
Accuracy	↑	
Execution Time		↓
Security	↑	
Confidentiality	↑	

Robotic Process Automation can expedite back-office tasks in commercial industries, remote management tasks in IT industries and conservation of resources in multiple sectors [6].

In paper [12], they mentioned detailed areas where RPA can be applied. Below fig.1 from [12] shows areas for RPA.



Fig 1. Areas for RPA implementation

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Though RPA can be applied effectively in various domain, there is risk associated with it. In paper [3], they have mentioned some of the risk as -

- If there is some minor error in logic then RPA can make mistakes faster and with certainty
- There may be no human check while automating tasks.
- Poor data quality or the insufficient definition of business rules can lead,
- for example, to the ordering of the wrong parts –fast and in big quantities.
- According to RPA vendors their tools are straight forward and no expert is required for implementation but for fully efficient automation RPA experts are required.

Processes having features as Rules based, Manual repetitive & time consuming, structured data, High Volume and frequency, Minimum Scale, Transactional can be automated [4].

II. RELATED WORK

Audrey Bourgooin et al[8], proposed new method to identify process which can be automated. Their method is applicable to automate processes from different business domains. The end user need not have the expertise in RPA for using the automated processes. They classified processes into categories of Not Suitable for RPA, less Suitable for RPA, moderately suitable for RPA and Highly Suitable for RPA. Their approach is four step processes as:

- 1) Validation of process for RPA eligibility based on level of maturity and standardization
- 2) Evaluation of RPA potential of a process
- 3) Evaluation of RPA relevance
- 4) RPA Classification of process

SsuChieh Lin et al [10] proved application of RPA in factory is successful. According to them operator could be replaced and aim of unmanned factory can be achieved.

Wil M. P. van der Aalst et al [11], emphasized that RPA can be used to interact with two different types of information systems as if they were human. They have also mentioned some research questions related to RPA:

1. What characteristics make processes suitable to be supported by RPA?
2. How to let RPA agents learn? How to coach RPA agents?
3. How to control RPA agents and avoid security, compliance, and economic risks?
4. Who is responsible when an RPA agent “misbehaves”?
5. How can RPA agents and people seamlessly work together?

In order to observe and verify benefits and results of RPA, they [7] conducted a case study on BPO provider. According to them productivity is main advantage of RPA but time reduction in time is not achieved in their case study.

In paper [1], M. Ratia et al showed that due to use of RPA technologies in Health care industry, human labor work in daily business work is reduced, quality of the work is improved, scalability is enhanced, productivity increased, costs are reduced. Overall efficiency of organization is improved. They analyzed the potential value of RPA through Walter et al.’s(2001) framework to gain better understanding of the direct and indirect value functions in the context of

private healthcare in Finland.

According to them, when the process is digital, routine, and requires a lot of human resources, and also when using human resources is either too expensive, inefficient, or the amounts of data to be processed are enormous, then utilization of RPA is justifiable [1]

Different RPA Providers

RPA tools are software programs that operate on the user interface of other computer systems in the way a human would do [3].

As per Forrester Wave 2017 report[5] best RPA vendors are: Automation Anywhere, UiPath, NICE, BluePrism, EdgeVerve, Workfusion, Pega/OpenSpan.

According to the report, Automation anywhere has highest score for BOT development and core functions where as UiPath and Blueprism has highest score for Control room, system management, reporting, and resilience.

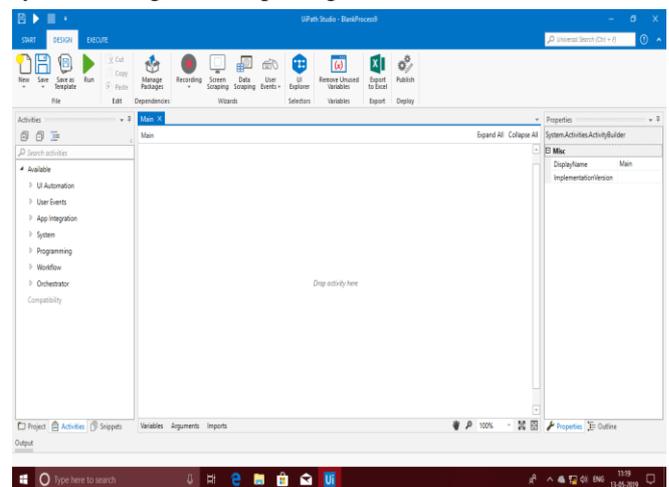


Fig 2: GUI of UiPath Community Edition [14]

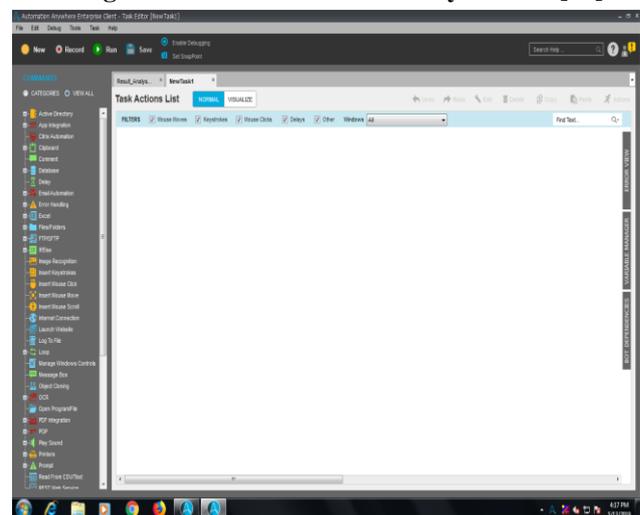


Fig 3: GUI of Automation Anywhere Client [13]

Existing Approach

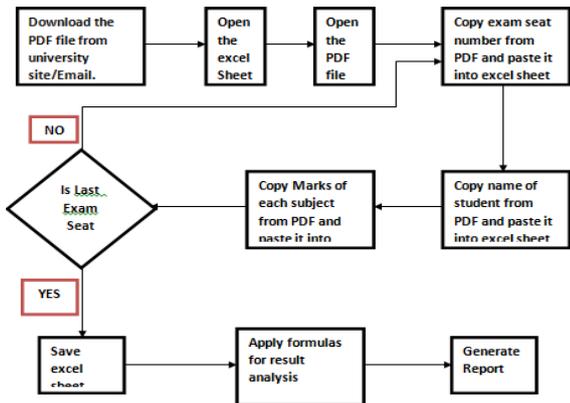


Fig 4: Flowchart for Manual Approach

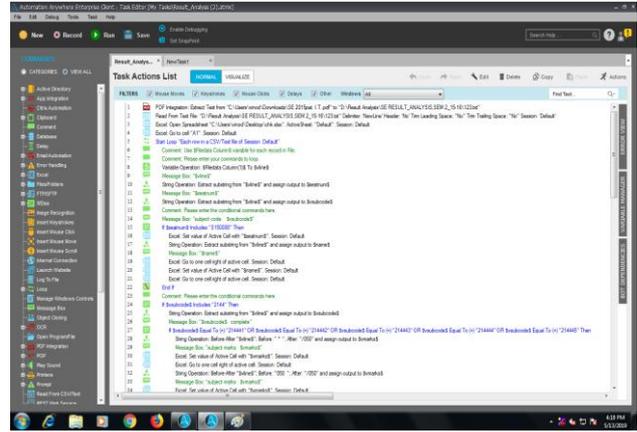


Fig 7: BOT created in Automation Anywhere

Proposed Approach

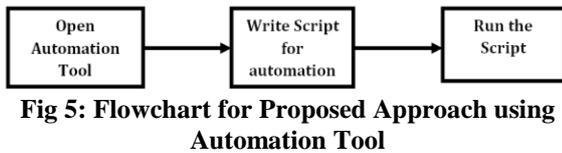


Fig 5: Flowchart for Proposed Approach using Automation Tool

We proposed the new approach for result analysis using automation tool. We have written logic for the same. Though writing script is time consuming, it can be reused every time result is declared.

Fig 8: Result Entries in Excel by BOT

III. IMPLEMENTATION

This Paper shows the performance of a BOT implemented for the result analysis process. The PDF copy of the result from Savitribai Phule Pune University is the sample input for this system. Result copy is as shown in Fig 6. There are around 650 pages for this PDF. Manually extracting the data is very timing consuming and prone to error.

We have automated this task using Automation Anywhere Tool. This is perfect task for automation as it includes features mentioned in [4] i.e. rule based, structured data, manual repetitive and time consuming, high volume of data.

After successful execution of the task all the entries from PDF to excel are done automatically without human intervention. And from those entries proper analysis can be done for each subject

SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY, S.E. (2015 COURSE) EXAMINATION, OCT 2018

COLLEGE : ██████████

BRANCH CODE: 29-S.E. (2015 PAT.) (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

DATE : 12 FEB 2019

SEM. :1	OE	TH	[OE+TH]	TW	PR	OR	Tot%	Grd	Grd Pts	Crd Pts
214441	030/050	019/050	049/100				FF	04	F	00
214442	0167/050	0227/050	0387/100				FF	04	F	00
214443	027/050	015/050	042/100				FF	04	F	00
214444	015/050	022/050	037/100				FF	04	F	00
214445	022/050	027/050	049/100					C	05	20
214446				018/025	030/050			64	A	08
214447				018/025	020/050			50	B	06
214448				017/025	020/050			49	C	05
214449				019/025				76	O1	09
210250C				PP				PP	00	00

SGPA1 : ██████, TOTAL CREDITS EARNED : 9

Fig 6: PDF result copy of SPPU

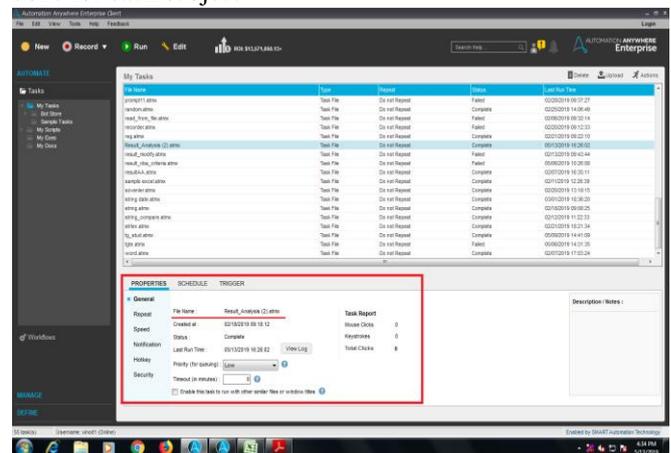


Fig 9: Properties of BOT Created

The BOT we created work without any mouse or keyboard click. In properties, it clearly shows the task report in which total clicks mentioned is "0". We can Schedule this BOT to be executed on particular date/time. We can execute this BOT based on some trigger.

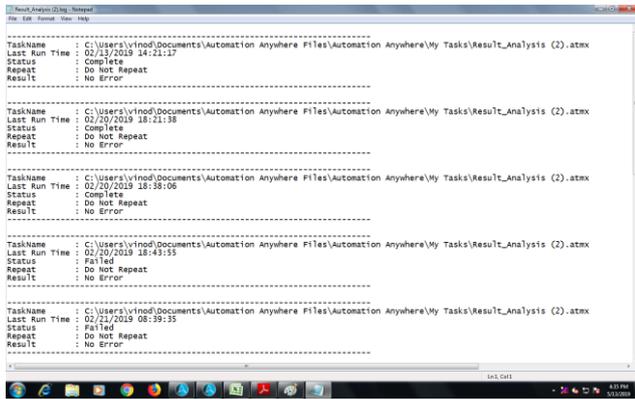


Fig 10: Log File for BOT

After the successful execution of BOT, log file for the same is created which includes information of task name, last run, status and results, which gives the details of the existing errors, if any.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Below graph shows the experimental results for manual approach. It shows as the number of employees increased the time required is reduced. But on an average time required is 3 hrs.

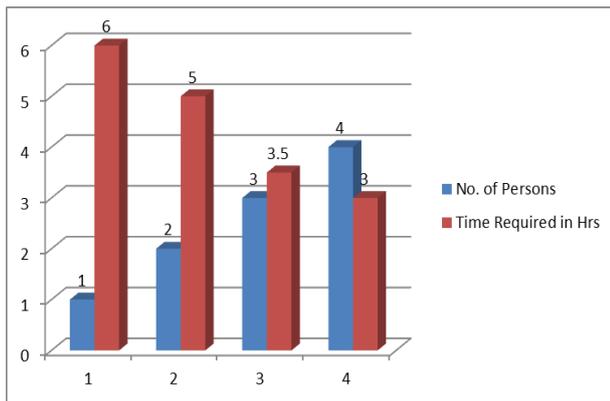


Fig 11: Graph for Number of Persons vs Time required

This graph in Fig 12 shows comparison of time taken by single employee and BOT. It clearly shows that result analysis using automation tool takes 94.44% less time as compared to manual process.

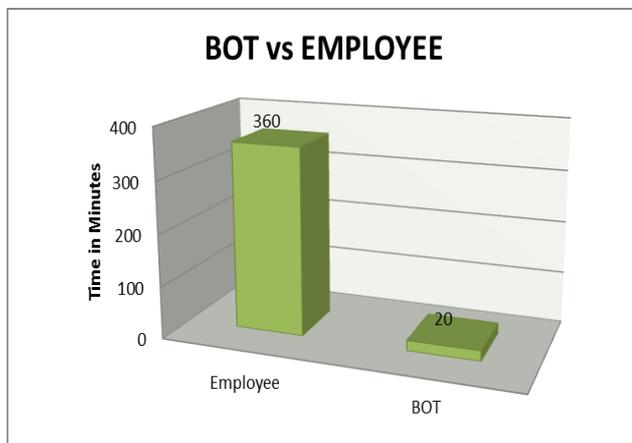


Fig 12: Graph for BOT vs Employee

V. CONCLUSION

Application of Robotic process automation in any organizations is interesting area of research. This paper shows the successful implementation of RPA for result analysis of university results in an academic institute. This automation will help the organization to utilize less human resources for such automated processes with effective time saving results with error free analysis.

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