OnlineTestCase support for failure on failed connection

Motivation:	*Some people like their unit tests to fail on failure*
Contact:	Ben Caradoc-Davies
Tracker:	http://jira.codehaus.org/browse/GEOT-2320
Tagline:	OnlineTestCase support for failure on failed connection

This page represents the **current** plan; for discussion please check the tracker link above.

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Description

OnlineTestCase provides infrastructure for configuring online test case fixtures. The current behaviour disables the test if an exception is thrown in the connect() method. It is proposed that an optional key be added to the test fixture property file to change this behaviour to failing if connect() fails.

From the javadoc (proposed code):

The default behaviour of this class is that if `connect()` throws an exception, the test suite is disabled, causing each test to pass without being run. In addition, exceptions thrown by `disconnect()` are ignored. This behaviour allows tests to be robust against transient outages of online resources, but also means that local software failures in `connect()` or `disconnect()` will be silent.

To have exceptions thrown by `connect()` and `disconnect()` cause tests to fail, set `skip.on.failure=false` in the fixture property file. This restores the traditional behaviour of unit tests, that is, that exceptions cause unit tests to fail.

Discussion

- http://n2.nabble.com/Prevent-silent-failures-of-online-tests-td1954287.html
- http://n2.nabble.com/Proposal%3A-support-test-fixtures-that-fail-on-failed-connection--GEOT-1951--td1958345.html

Announcement of this proposal, and following discussion:

- http://n2.nabble.com/Proposal%3A-OnlineTestCase-support-for-failure-on-failed-connection-td2261751.html

Status

This proposal has been accepted. The implementation is complete.

Voting was:

- Andrea Aime: +1
- Ian Turton
- Justin Deoliveira
- Jody Garnett: +1
- Martin Desruisseaux
- Simone Giannecchini

Tasks

- ✅ Update implementation (patch attached to Jira issue above).
- ✅ Commit changes to subversion.
- ✅ Update documentation.

Implementation Changes

The optional key `skip.on.failure` may be added to an `OnlineTestCase` fixture property file. For example:

```
skip.on.failure = false
```

If this key is absent or set to `true`, the original behaviour is retained.

Documentation Changes

A note will be added to the testing page to record this optional behaviour:

- http://docs.codehaus.org/display/GEOT/5.+7+Testing