

OnlineTestCase support for failure on failed connection

Motivation:	<i>Some people like their unit tests to fail on failure</i>
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 Gianecchini](#)

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>