



Handling of "Dynamically-Exchanged Session Parameters"

English Edition

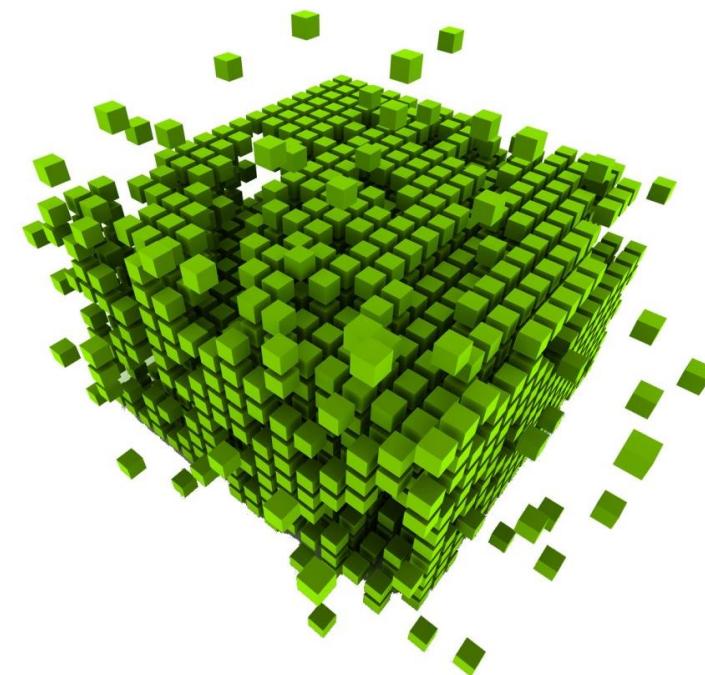


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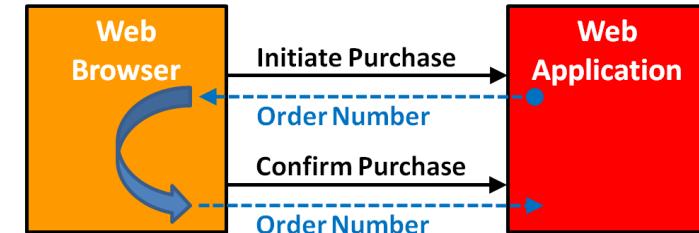
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1 Overview

This document explains how the handling of **dynamically-exchanged session parameters** can be configured in the ZebraTester GUI.

1.1 What are "dynamically-exchanged session parameters"?

Some web applications use unique values to keep track of each individual session. These "session-context" values are usually dynamically generated CGI- or form-parameter that are exchanged between the web application and the web browser. If you would repeat the same web surfing session you would observe that the values of these session-tracking parameters are constantly updated by a more or less random algorithm. A good example could be a purchase order number in web shop application. If during a load test execution ZebraTester would simply echo the session-tracking values that were observed during the test recording stage, the load test run would fail.



The values of these dynamically-exchanged session parameters are always generated by the web server first and sent to the web browser. The web browser will then send these values back to the web server as part of future page requests. In other words: if a parameter value is not issued by the web server first, that value is NOT to be considered as a dynamically-exchanged session parameter for the scope of this documentation. For example, user names and passwords which are entered in login forms are NOT dynamically-exchanged session parameters.

In contrast to session cookies which are automatically handled by ZebraTester, "dynamically-exchanged session parameters" require some manual configuration to allow ZebraTester to locate and handle these parameters. ZebraTester's **Var Finder** menu will assist you with the task of **finding and handling these dynamically-exchanged session parameters in an intuitive and simple fashion**.

1.2 Why "dynamically-exchanged session parameters" require manual configuration in the ZebraTester GUI?

Correctly understanding and processing these dynamic session values is a requirement for ZebraTester to simulate hundreds or even thousands of web user sessions from only one computer system.

During the execution of a load test ZebraTester simulates only the strictly required functionality of a web browser. As an example the automated handling of session cookies occurs with no on-screen rendering and without relying on a JavaScript engine. In a nutshell ZebraTester simply simulates the network traffic that is usually generated by a web browser, without the need that for each simulated user to run a browser instance.

Doing so is **up to hundred times more efficient** from a CPU/memory requirement point of view then using real web browser instances. This allows ZebraTester to simulate hundreds or even thousands of web users from a single machine.

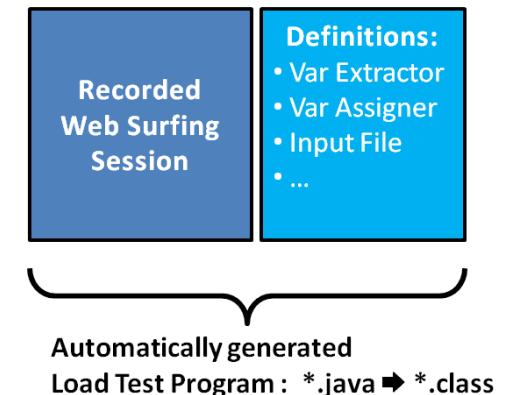
This is a technical solution that allows you the execution of high-performance load tests with minimal hardware resources.

1.3 How does the manual configuration work?

The manual configuration of a "dynamically-exchanged session parameter" works in such a way that the parameter's value is extracted into a variable (Extract Var) when it is first received from the web application. The value of the variable is then sent back to the web application in subsequent requests (Assign Var).

During the manual configuration of this process - i.e. when extracting of a value into a variable, as well as when assigning a variable to a parameter - the ZebraTester GUI behaves as if the displayed value is already dynamically-exchanged. **In reality the GUI only creates a definition of how that specific value needs to be extracted to a variable and then assigned to subsequent requests.** These definitions are then incorporated in the automatically generated load test program and executed at run time during the load test for each simulated user. The definitions are also stored in the *.prxdat files as an integral addition to the recorded web surfing session. This means that the core of a recorded web surfing session is not modified by creating definitions and remains still "intact" in the original condition.

You can always delete any previously created definition, without the need to record the web surfing session again.



The usage "dynamically-exchanged session parameters" is heavily dependant on the technologies used by the application you are planning to test. Some web applications exclusively rely on cookies for session tracking purposes and don't require you to manually configure handling of session parameters. On the other hand there are web applications that heavily rely on these session parameters and even a simple application made up of a few web pages might use a number of "dynamically-exchanged session parameters". Most of the "dynamically-exchanged session parameters" are purely technical in nature and do not correspond directly to end-user data fields which are displayed in the web browser.

After recording a new web surfing session, you have always to check whether "dynamically-exchanged session parameters" are used or not used by the web application. This can be done by calling the **Var Finder** menu.

As you will see the following example, the ZebraTester GUI assists you with **powerful features** in order to quickly and easily handle "dynamically-exchanged session parameters".

2 Illustrated Example

Hint: Before you start the configuring dynamically-exchanged session parameters you should delete or filter-out all unwanted URL calls from your recorded web surfing session. For example, you should delete all calls to Google Analytics because you just want to stress your web application, not Google Analytics.

Click on the **Var Finder** menu after you have deleted or filtered-out all unwanted URL calls in Main Menu:

The screenshot shows the PRX: Main Menu interface in Mozilla Firefox. The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, History, Bookmarks, Tools, and Help. The address bar shows the URL <http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/htdocs/index.html?applyFilter=1&filterCache=1&filterError=1>. The main window displays the 'Main Menu' with various tools like Proxy Sniffer, Web Admin, Help, and Project Navigator. A toolbar at the top right includes Page Break, Recorded Items (32), Recording State (STOPPED), and recording controls (Start Recording, Stop Recording, Reset Recording). Below this is a red header bar for 'Recorded Session (BS_TEST_BKT_Noteneingabe.pxdat) Test Noteneingabe'. A toolbar below the header includes Filter, Apply Filter, Save, Export, Var (circled in red), and View. The main content area shows a table of recorded requests. The first row shows a request for 'Page #1: Seite aufrufen' with a duration of 0.41 sec and a content size of 17'736 bytes. The second row shows a request for 'Page #2: Anmelden' with a duration of 0.00 sec and a content size of 17'736 bytes. A red arrow points from the bottom right towards the 'Var' button in the toolbar.

Item	Test	Offset	Position	Content Size	Time	HTTP Request ↳ HTTP Response
x 1	[1]	0.00 sec		17'736 bytes	47 ms	GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/ ↳ 200 (OK) TEXT/HTML
Total:		0.41 sec		17'736 bytes		1 Request , 43.68 kbytes/sec

The **Var Finder** menu scans briefly the recorded web surfing session and as a result displays a list of all CGI parameters and all HTML form parameters that are sent via HTTP(S) requests to the web application. The list includes all the **parameter names** as well as their **parameter values** (column "Recorded Value").

Note here that each **combination of parameter name AND parameter value** is shown only once in the list. The column "First Assign" shows in which URL this combination was sent for the first time to the web application.

Hint: review the column "**Host**" to verify that only the hostname of the server you want to load test is listed. If you find unwanted hostnames, return to the main menu and delete or filter-out the unwanted URL calls. Then click on the **Refresh Icon** in the Var Finder menu (top right corner).

delete or [filter out](#) all unwanted URL calls to external web servers such as advertising servers or session tracking servers (for example Google Analytics). This can be performed in the Proxy Sniffer Main Menu. After that you can disable the column Host in the list below.' Step 2: 'Then call this Var Finder Menu again and review the column Recorded Value in the list below. Try to judge which values could be [dynamically-exchanged session parameters](#). If a value is a large number or a cryptic string it is probably a dynamically-exchanged session parameter. Hint: Parameters which are named __VIEWSTATE or __EVENTVALIDATION are always dynamically-exchanged session parameters. On the other hand, recorded values which contain a user name or a password of a login account entered in a HTML Form are normally not dynamically-exchanged session parameters. In such a case you can use a [Input File](#) to assign an own username and password for each simulated user.' Step 3: 'For each potential dynamically-exchanged session parameter, click on the icon on the left hand of the Parameter Name and follow the instructions.' Below these instructions is a note: 'To get an overview about which parameters are already processed as a dynamically-exchanged session parameter you can click on the Refresh Icon at the upper right corner of this window. Already processed parameters are characterized in that a variable name is shown in the column Var Name.' There is also a checkbox 'Disable Instructions for using the Var Finder.' The main table is titled 'Potential Dynamically-Exchanged Session Parameters - Condensed List of all transmitted HTML Form and CGI Parameters, composed overall recorded URLs:' with columns: First Extract, First Assign, Host, Parameter Name, and Recorded Value. The 'First Extract' and 'First Assign' columns are highlighted with a red border. The 'Recorded Value' column contains several long, complex strings of characters. A red arrow points to the 'Cookies' menu item, and another red arrow points to the 'Refresh' menu item."/>

First Extract	First Assign	Host	Parameter Name	Recorded Value
8 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	__VIEWSTATE	MEPDwULLTEzODU5OTQ3NjYPZBYCZg9kFglCAw8Wh4EVGV4dAUNRXZlbnRvIET
8 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	__EVENTVALIDATION	MwEWBwkJKZ/cBgytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbv07HdwLq4o7+DwLs4sHSDAKpis6RCwOkjurK4x8Q
8 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddlTheme	EventoBlue
8 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName	
8 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$Password	
8 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$LoginButton	
8 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	node	Anmelden
12 CGI Param.	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	TabKey	dff1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d
12 CGI Param.	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState	WebTab_MeineAnlaesseDoz
15 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode	ennnnnnnn
15 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	__VIEWSTATE	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView2
15 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	__EVENTVALIDATION	MEPDwUKMTI3MzYyNjY1OA9kFgJmD2QWAglDD2QWHAIDdxYCHgRUZkh0BQ1FdmVudG8gQIw
15 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	ctl00\$webPartMode	MwEWKgKKnrm4z1CwkytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbv07HdwKegfWWDAL6ruLZDgK01ubaCwLEpp6nAwL
15 Form Param	a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch	-	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl10	Ansichtsmodus
				AnlassNummer

In the Var Finder menu you can also **turn off** the option to the **displays the help text** and **hide the column "host"**.

The screenshot shows the 'Potential Dynamically-Exchanged Session Parameters' section of the Var Finder. At the top left is a checkbox labeled 'Disable Instructions for using the Var Finder.' A red arrow points to this checkbox. Below it is a dropdown menu set to '3' characters which also has a red arrow pointing to it. A toolbar below the dropdown contains three buttons: 'First Extract' (blue), 'First Assign' (red, currently selected), and 'Host' (green with a checked checkbox). Below the toolbar is a table with three rows, each containing a magnifying glass icon and the text 'Form Param. a4ou-www-evento06-b.b'. The 'Host' column header has a red arrow pointing to it.

The next step is to identify which of the shown parameters are actually dynamically-exchanged. Usually they can be identified quite easily:

- If you see in the "Recorded Value" column a **parameter value** that you have **entered yourself in an HTML form** while recording the web surfing session, this is not a "dynamically-exchanged" parameter. For example, the data entered for a login account (username and password) are not "dynamically-exchanged session parameters".
- If the **parameter value** is a **cryptic string** or a **cryptic number**, this is almost always a "dynamically-exchanged session parameter". For example a value like "wEWBwKJkZ/cBgKyytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbvO7HDwLq4o7".
- If the **parameter value** is a **long number** and you have not entered this number into a HTML form, it is often a "dynamically-exchanged session parameter" (for example the number "56481"). Here you can also try to guess the meaning of the parameter name. For example, if the parameter has the name "EventID", this is probably a "dynamically-exchanged session parameter".
- If the **parameter value** is a **short number**, this is often not a "dynamically-exchanged session parameter" (for example the number "1001"). Note here that short simple numbers are often references (keys) of database records, and that their parameter names often resemble the name of the DB-Keys.

Hint: If you can contact a developer of the web application you can ask him or her to tell you if a parameter is "dynamically-exchanged". However, this is often not necessary because you can find out by yourself with a little bit of effort – as shown on the next pages in this document.

In this example, the values of a few candidate "dynamically-exchanged session parameters" are highlighted in yellow:

The screenshot shows a browser window titled "PRX: Var Finder - Mozilla Firefox" displaying a list of session parameters. The parameters are listed in a table with columns: First Extract, First Assign, Var Name, Parameter Name, and Recorded Value. Some parameter names and their recorded values are highlighted in yellow.

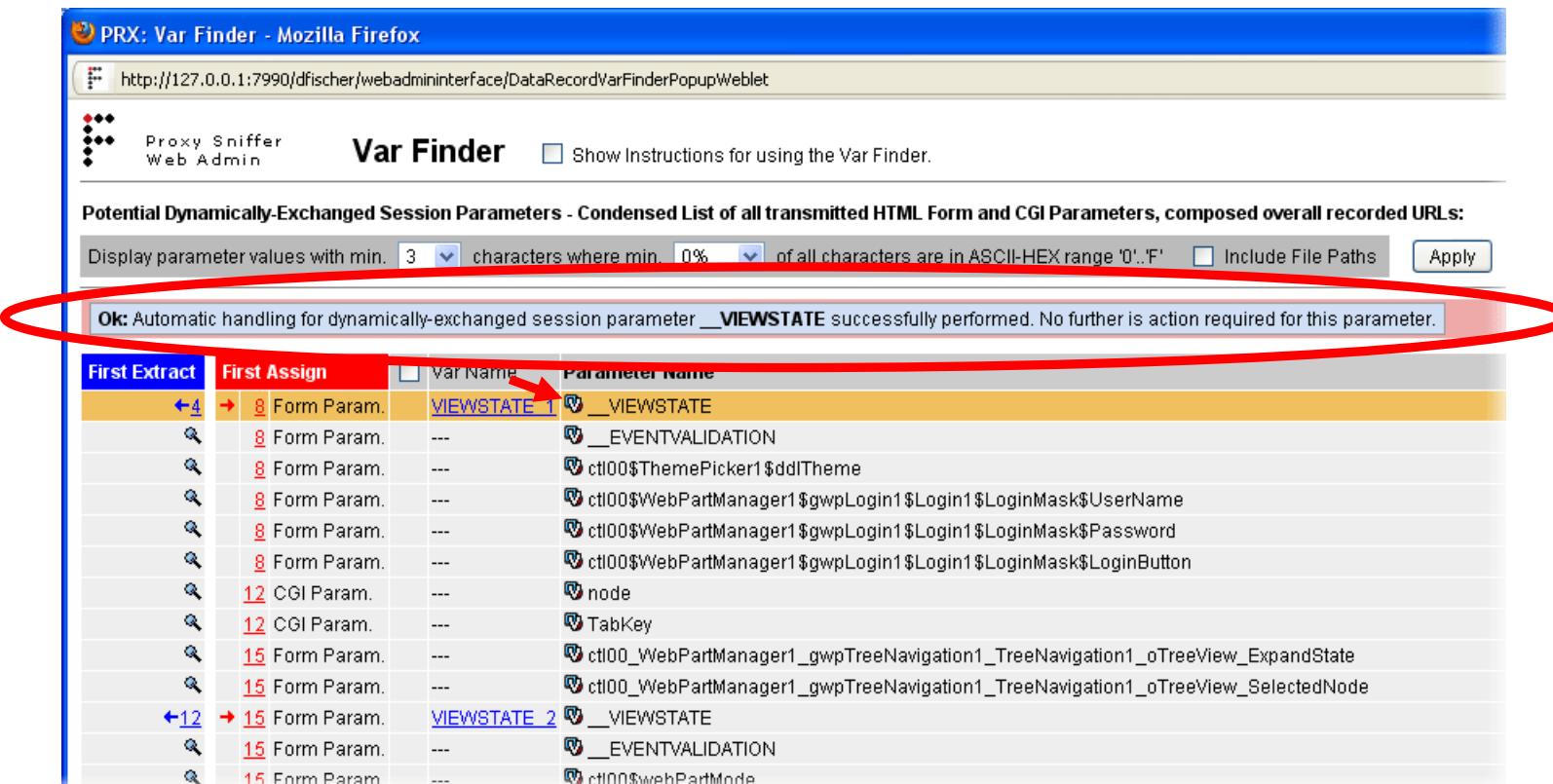
First Extract	First Assign	Var Name	Parameter Name	Recorded Value
		8 Form Param.	__VIEWSTATE	NwEPDwULLTEzODU5OTQ3NjYPZBYCZg9kFglCAw8WAh4EVGV4
		8 Form Param.	__EVENTVALIDATION	NwEWBwKJkZ/cBgKytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbv07HDwLq4o7+DwLs4sHSDAKpi
		8 Form Param.	ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddlTheme	EventoBlue
		8 Form Param.	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName	
		8 Form Param.	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$Password	
		8 Form Param.	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$LoginButton	Anmelden
		12 CGI Param.	node	df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d
		12 CGI Param.	TabKey	WebTab_MeineAnlaesseDoz
		15 Form Param.	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState	ennnnnnnn
		15 Form Param.	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView
		15 Form Param.	__VIEWSTATE	NwEPDwUKMTI3MzYyNjY1OA9kFgJmD2QWAgID2QWHAIDD2QWHAIDDxYCHgRUZXh
		15 Form Param.	__EVENTVALIDATION	NwEWKgKNm4zlCwKytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbv07HDwKegfWWDAL6ruLZDgKD
		15 Form Param.	ctl00\$webPartMode	Ansichtsmodus
		15 Form Param.	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl10	AnlassNummer
		15 Form Param.	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl11	Suchen
		18 CGI Param.	IDAnlass	56481
		22 Form Param.	__VIEWSTATE	NwEPDwULLTE2NzI2NjQ4MjkPZBYCZg9kFglCAw8WAh4EVGV4d
		22 Form Param.	__EVENTVALIDATION	NwEWHALVjqujDAKytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbv07HDwKegfWWDAL6ruLZDgK01
		22 Form Param.	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$ddlGradingScale	1001
		22 Form Param.	Comment_846317	Test
		22 Form Param.	846317	1002
		22 Form Param.	845171	1006
		22 Form Param.	Comment_860885	Test
		22 Form Param.	850885	1010
		22 Form Param.	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$btnSave	Speichern
		26 CGI Param.	IdAnlass	56481

These are the parameters **__VIEWSTATE**, **__EVENTVALIDATION**, **node**, **IDAnlass** and **IdAnlass**.

In many cases, "dynamically-exchanged session parameters" can be **automatically handled**. Now go through the potential candidates you have identified in the Var Finder and click on the  V-icon next to the parameter name:

First Extract	First Assign	<input type="checkbox"/> Var Name	Parameter Name
	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 __VIEWSTATE
	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 __EVENTVALIDATION
	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddlTheme

The parameters **__VIEWSTATE** and **__EVENTVALIDATION** are often used in Windows web server applications. After clicking on the  V-icon you should see a success message indicating that ZebraTester was able to correctly handle the parameter. The highlighted success message is shown:



The screenshot shows the ZebraTester Var Finder interface within a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The title bar reads "PRX: Var Finder - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/DataRecordVarFinderPopupWeblet". The main content area is titled "Var Finder" and displays a table of potential dynamically-exchanged session parameters. A red box highlights a success message at the top of the table: "Ok: Automatic handling for dynamically-exchanged session parameter __VIEWSTATE successfully performed. No further action required for this parameter." Below this message, the table lists various parameters, with the first two rows being highlighted in yellow. Red arrows point from the text instructions above to the V-icons in the first two rows of the table.

First Extract	First Assign	<input type="checkbox"/> Var Name	Parameter Name
←4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 __VIEWSTATE
←4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 __EVENTVALIDATION
←4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddlTheme
←4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1>Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName
←4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1>Login1\$LoginMask>Password
←4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1>Login1\$LoginMask>LoginButton
←4 → 12 CGI Param.	12 CGI Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 node
←4 → 12 CGI Param.	12 CGI Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 TabKey
←4 → 15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState
←4 → 15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode
←4 → 15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 __VIEWSTATE
←4 → 15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 __EVENTVALIDATION
←4 → 15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	<input type="checkbox"/>	 ctl00\$webPartMode

Once the **_VIEWSTATE** and **_EVENTVALIDATION** parameters have been configured for automatic handling the Var Finder menu will look as shown below. Please note that it only took you 2 mouse clicks in order to configure dynamic handling of your session parameters!

The screenshot shows the ZebraTester Var Finder interface in Mozilla Firefox. The title bar reads "PRX: Var Finder - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/DataRecordVarFinderPopupWeblet". The main window has a toolbar with "Proxy Sniffer", "Web Admin", "Var Finder" (selected), "Show Instructions for using the Var Finder.", "Help", "Search", "Cookies", "Verify", "Refresh", and "Close". Below the toolbar, a message box says "Ok: Automatic handling for dynamically-exchanged session parameter _EVENTVALIDATION successfully performed. No further action is required for this parameter." A table lists potential dynamically-exchanged session parameters. The columns are: First Extract, First Assign, Var Name, Parameter Name, and Recorded Value. Several rows are highlighted with red boxes around the "Var Name" and "Parameter Name" columns. These include rows for "VIEWSTATE_1", "EVENTVALIDATION_1", "VIEWSTATE_2", "EVENTVALIDATION_2", and "VIEWSTATE_3", "EVENTVALIDATION_3". Other rows show various session parameters like "node", "TabKey", "ct00\$ThemePicker\$ddlTheme", etc.

First Extract	First Assign	Var Name	Parameter Name	Recorded Value
4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_1	_VIEWSTATE	/wEPDwULLTEzODU5OTQ3NjYPZBYCZg9kFgICAw9kFhoCAw
4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_1	_EVENTVALIDATION	/wEWBwKJkZ/cBgKyytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbvO7HDwLq4o7+Dv
8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	...	ct00\$ThemePicker\$ddlTheme	EventoBlue
8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName	Anmelden
8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$Password	df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d
8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$LoginButton	WebTab_MeineAnlaesseDoz
12 CGI Param.	12 CGI Param.	...	node	ennnnnnnn
12 CGI Param.	12 CGI Param.	...	TabKey	ctl00\$WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode
15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState	/wEPDwUKMTI3MzlyNy10A9kFgJmD2QWAgID2QWHAID
15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode	/wEWKgKNm4zICwKyytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbvO7HDwKegfWW
15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	...	ct00\$webPartMode	Ansichtsmodus
15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl10	AnlassNummer
15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl11	Suchen
18 CGI Param.	18 CGI Param.	...	ct00\$IDAnlass	56481
18 → 22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_2	_VIEWSTATE	/wEPDwULLTE2Nzl2NjQ4MjkPZBYCZg9kFgICAw9kFhoCAw
18 → 22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_2	_EVENTVALIDATION	/wEWHALVjqujDAKyytHeCwLDxaG9AgKbvO7HDwKegfWW
22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$ddlGradingScale	1001
22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	...	Comment_846317	Test
22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	...	846317	1002
22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	...	845171	1006
22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	...	Comment_850885	Test
22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	...	850885	1010
22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	...	ct00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$btnSave	Speichern
26 CGI Param.	26 CGI Param.	...	IdAnlass	56481

Left still remains the handling of the parameters **node**, **IDAnlass** and **IdAnlass**.

If the following warning message is displayed after clicking on the icon (as shown in the below example for the **node** parameter):

The screenshot shows the ZebraTester Var Finder interface in Mozilla Firefox. A red circle highlights the warning message:

***** Warning: Automatic handling for dynamically-exchanged session parameter was only partially performed in 3 of 4 cases *****

Automated assignment to HTTP request parameter **node** has failed for the following items:
12

Hint: click step by step on each item number above. Perform semi-automatic handling for each item by clicking on the first icon in the search result.

First Extract	First Assign	Var Name	Parameter Name	Recorded Value
←4	→ 8 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_1	__VIEWSTATE	AwEPDwULLTEzODU5OTC
←4	→ 8 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_1	__EVENTVALIDATION	AwEWBwKJkZ/cBgKyttHeC
		---	ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddlTheme	EventoBlue
		---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName	
		---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$Password	
		---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$LoginButton	Anmelden
←12	12 CGI Param.	node	node	df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-
		---	TabKey	WebTab_MeineAnlaesseD
		---	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState	ennnnnnnn
		---	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode	ctl00_WebPartManager1_c
		VIEWSTATE_2	__VIEWSTATE	AwEPDwUKMTI3MzYnJYjC

This indicates that the automatic handling of the parameter **node** partially failed. The text of the error message says that the value of the **node** parameter cannot be automatically assigned to the HTTP request of item number 12.

The best approach in such cases is to first get an **overview** of all URLs in where the **value** assigned to **node** occurs. For this purpose you can use the **Search Overall** menu which searches a text fragment over the entire recorded web surfing session.

		8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$Web
		12 CGI Param.	node	node
		12 CGI Param.	---	TabKey
		12 Form Param.	---	

With a mouse click on the blue arrow in the "First Extract" column, the **Search Overall** menu is directly invoked with the **value** of parameter **node**.

PRX: Search Overall Visible Items - Mozilla Firefox

http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/PopupSearchRecordedDataWeblet?action=search&searchTextWebAdminHashtableAttributeName=varFinderSe...

Proxy Sniffer Web Admin

Search Overall Visible Items

Search ASCII Text: df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d Match Case Include URL-Encoded Values

Inside: HTTP Request Header HTTP Request Content Not Inside: Referer
 HTTP Response Header HTTP Response Content Cookies

Search

Item 9 GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/
← Found in Response Content Line 164 Position 713 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1

Item 12 GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/SuchResultat.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1
→ Found in Request Header Line 1 Position 47 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=WebT:
← Found in Response Content Line 34 Position 70 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1
← Found in Response Content Line 189 Position 841 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1

Item 15 POST http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/SuchResultat.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1
→ Found in Request Header Line 1 Position 48 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=WebT:
← Found in Response Content Line 34 Position 70 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1
← Found in Response Content Line 189 Position 841 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1
← Found in Response Content Line 405 Position 95 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1
← Found in Response Content Line 414 Position 99 MA.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&IDAnlass=56
← Found in Response Content Line 414 Position 322 MA.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&IDAnlass=56
← Found in Response Content Line 414 Position 793 en.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&IDAnlass=56

Item 18 GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dt
→ Found in Request Header Line 1 Position 65 en.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&IDAnlass=56
← Found in Response Content Line 25 Position 88 en.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&IDAnlass=56
← Found in Response Content Line 124 Position 157 en.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&IDAnlass=56
← Found in Response Content Line 168 Position 841 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1

Item 22 POST http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dt
→ Found in Request Header Line 1 Position 66 en.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&IDAnlass=56

Item 23 GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/MessagePage.aspx
← Found in Response Content Line 167 Position 703 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1

Item 26 GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten.aspx?IDAnlass=56481
← Found in Response Content Line 168 Position 703 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1

Total 18 Results

Done

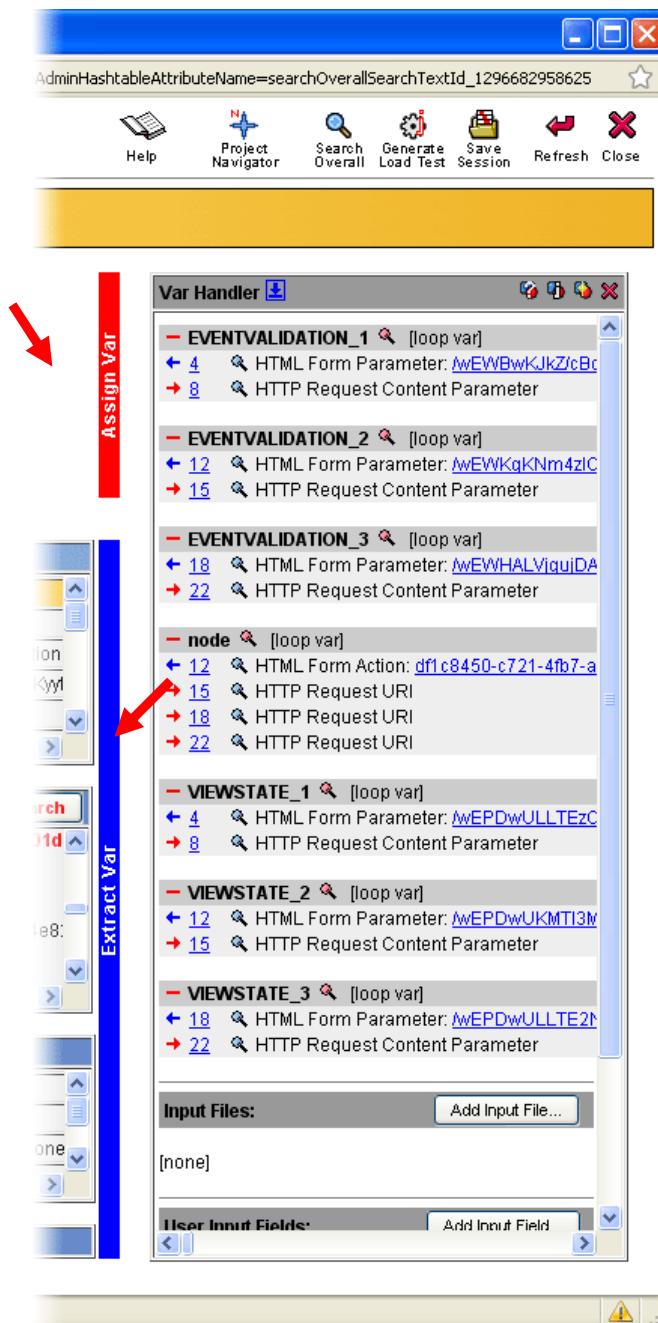
Item 9 GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dt
← Found in Response Content Line 164

In the content of the **Search Overall** menu you can see that the value of the parameter **node** was **received** first from the web application in item number 9 (URL no. 9). This is represented by the blue arrow to the left ←.

We also see that the parameter value of **node** is **sent back** to the web application in the items 12, 15, 18, and 22. These transmissions are represented by the red arrow to the right →.

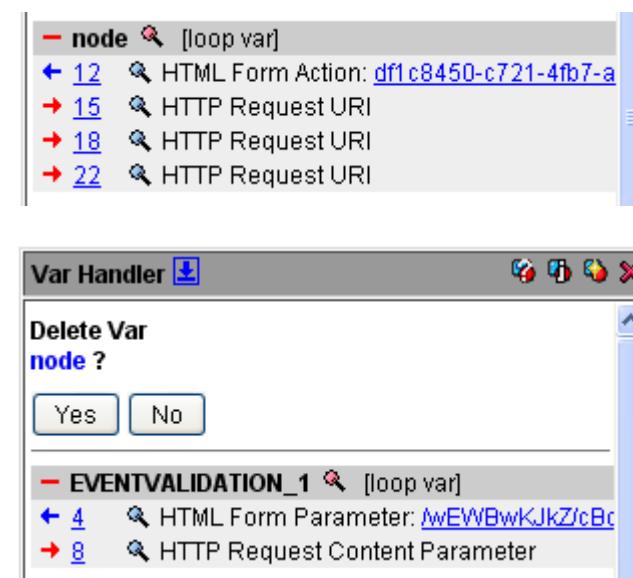
Because the error message in the Var Finder menu indicated that the automatic assignment did fail for item 12, the value of the parameter was probably extracted too late by the automatic algorithm (after, or in the response of item 12). But the value needs to be extracted in the response of item number 9.

By clicking on the **URL Details / Var Handler** link you can check in the "**Var Handler**" area which definitions have been automatically created:

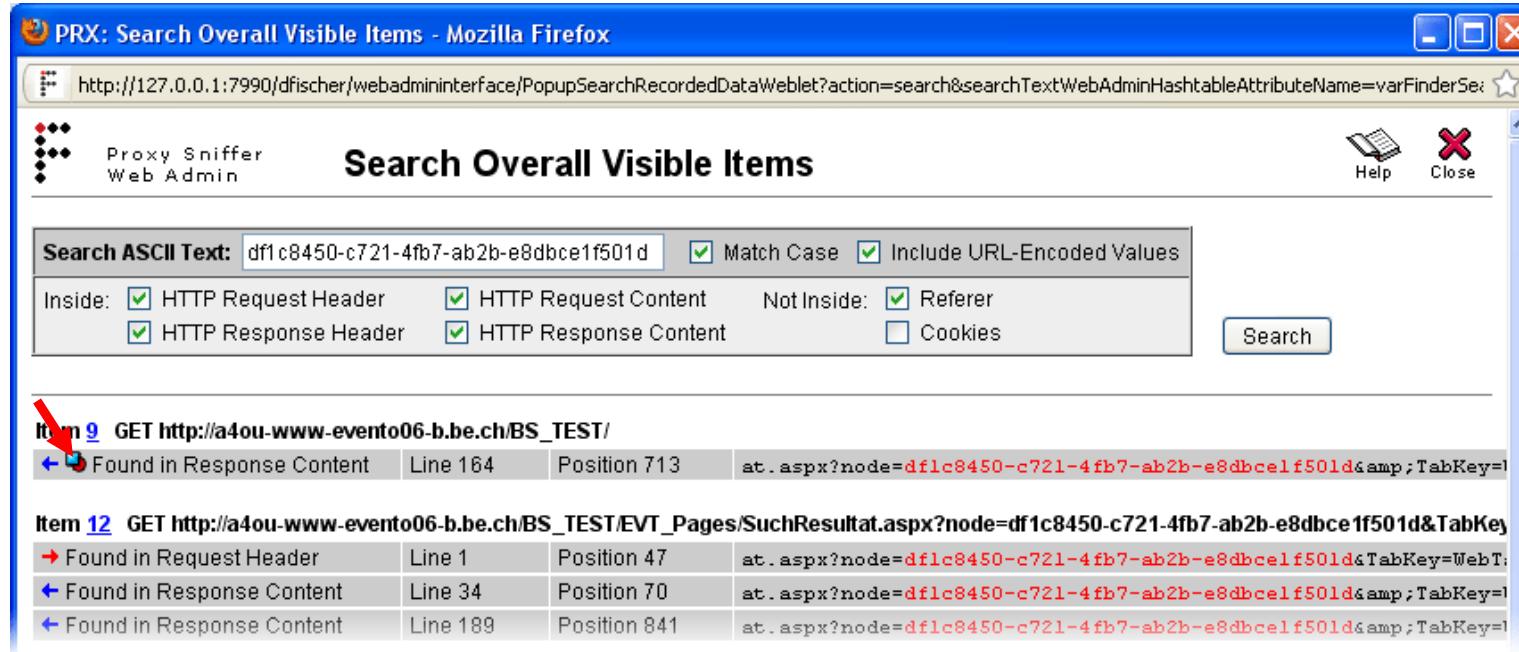


As the extraction of the value of the **node** parameter by the automatic algorithm occurred too late it has to be manually extracted in item 9. After that the value should also be manually assigned to the corresponding HTTP(S) request-parameter in item number 12.

As you can see from the screenshot below a number of steps that assign the node variable in various requests are already present. It is probably more efficient to first **delete** all of the automatically generated handlings for **node** in the **Var Handler** menu and then reconfigure everything:



Then configure the extraction for the value of **node** from the **Search Overall** menu - with a click on the "Var Extract" icon  (item 9):



The screenshot shows the 'Search Overall Visible Items' dialog box. In the search bar, the text 'df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d' is entered. Below the search bar, there are several search options: 'Match Case' (checked), 'Include URL-Encoded Values' (checked), and checkboxes for 'Inside:' (HTTP Request Header, HTTP Request Content, HTTP Response Header, HTTP Response Content) and 'Not Inside:' (Referer, Cookies). A 'Search' button is located to the right of these options. The main area displays search results for two items:

Item	Request	Line	Position	Value
Item 9	GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/	Found in Response Content	Line 164	Position 713 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1
Item 12	GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/EVT_Pages/SuchResultat.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1	Found in Request Header	Line 1	Position 47 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=WebT
		Found in Response Content	Line 34	Position 70 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1
		Found in Response Content	Line 189	Position 841 at.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=1

By clicking on the "Var Extract" icon  the "**Var Extractor Wizard**" is invoked:

PRX: Var Extractor Wizard - Mozilla Firefox

http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/PopupVarExtractorTextLinePatternWizard?displayIndex=9&varExtractorWizardRecordedValueId=searchOverallSearchTextId_*

Proxy Sniffer Web Admin

Var Extractor Wizard

Item 9: ➔ GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/
➔ 200 (OK) "TEXT/HTML" (30'501 bytes)

Search and Extract Var. Recorded Value = "df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d"

Search Result: Line 164: Token No. 13 a) Select any Search Result - the first result is already preselected.

Line	Offset	Unique Text Fragment
153	-9	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView1_navigationInitial_ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwp1
155	-9	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView1
157	-7	display:block;
160	-4	EVT_Pages/Bm_PersonBearbeitenDoz.aspx?node
160	-4	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView1
160	-4	Meine Personendaten
164	±0	WebTab_MeineAnlaesseDoz
164	±0	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView2
164	±0	Meine Anlässe
168	+4	EVT_Pages/MeinStundenplanDoz.aspx?node
168	+4	37894ff8-313b-444a-bdd9-675bc4e82926&TabKey
168	+4	WebTab_LektionenDoz
168	+4	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView3
172	+8	EVT_Pages/MeinStundenplanGrafisch.aspx?node
172	+8	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView4
172	+8	Mein Stundenplan (Grafisch)

Done

The **Var Extractor Wizard** first searches the **value** of **node** in the response of item 9 (**Recorded Value**, displayed in **blue color**)

After the parameter value was found by the wizard the entire data content of the HTTP response of Item 9 is automatically divided into "unique text fragments", which are presented in a list.

The only thing you need to do is to **select one of the "unique text fragments"**. The selected text fragment will later be used as a "relative anchor" or as a "search pattern" to determine a line-offset to the parameter's value that needs to be extracted.

You can basically select any text fragment. However, you should consider the following two conditions:

1. **The selected text fragment should preferably be located close to the extracted value.** In the column "Offset" you see how close a text fragment is. You should select a text fragment which has only a small negative or positive "offset".

2. **The selected text fragment should be "stable" during the load test execution (static text).** The text fragment itself should not represent a value of another "dynamically-exchanged session parameter".

For example, it would be **wrong** to select the text fragment "**37894ff8-313b-444a-bdd9-675bc4e82926&TabKey**". Instead it is **correct** to select the text fragment "**WebTab_MeineAnlaesseDoz**" (as shown in this example).

PRX: Var Extractor Wizard - Mozilla Firefox

http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/PopupVarExtractorTextLinePatternWizard?displayIndex=9&varExtractorWizardRecordedValueId=searchOverallSearchText

Var Extractor Wizard

Item 9: → GET http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/
← 200 (OK) "TEXT/HTML" (30'501 bytes)

Search and Extract Var. Recorded Value = "df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d"

Search Result: Line 164: Token No. 13 a) Select any Search Result - the first result is already preselected.

Line | Offset | Unique Text Fragment b) Select any Text Fragment near line 164 whose value will not change during load text execution.

153 -8	↳	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView0
155 -9	↳	ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView0
157 -7	↳	display:block;
160 -4	↳	EVT_Pages/Bm_PersonBearbeitenDoz.aspx?node
160 -4	↳	ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView1
160 -4	↳	Meine Personendaten
164 ±0	↳	WebTab_MeineAnlaesseDoz
164 ±0	↳	ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView2
164 ±0	↳	Meine Anlässe
168 +4	↳	EVT_Pages/MeinStundenplanDoz.aspx?node
168 +4	↳	37894ff8-313b-444a-bdd9-675bc4e82926&TabKey
168 +4	↳	WebTab_LektionenDoz
168 +4	↳	ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView3
172 +8	↳	EVT_Pages/MeinStundenplanGrafisch.aspx?node
172 +8	↳	ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView4
172 +8	↳	Mein Stundenplan (Grafisch)

Ok: Successful Cross-Check for Extracting the Recorded Value.
The Real Value will be extracted during the load test execution for each simulated web session.

c) Map to Var Name: vNode

Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain HTML form parameters or CGI parameters with the same recorded value.
 Try URL-encoding
 Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain the recorded value (full binary replacement overall requests).

ExtractVar

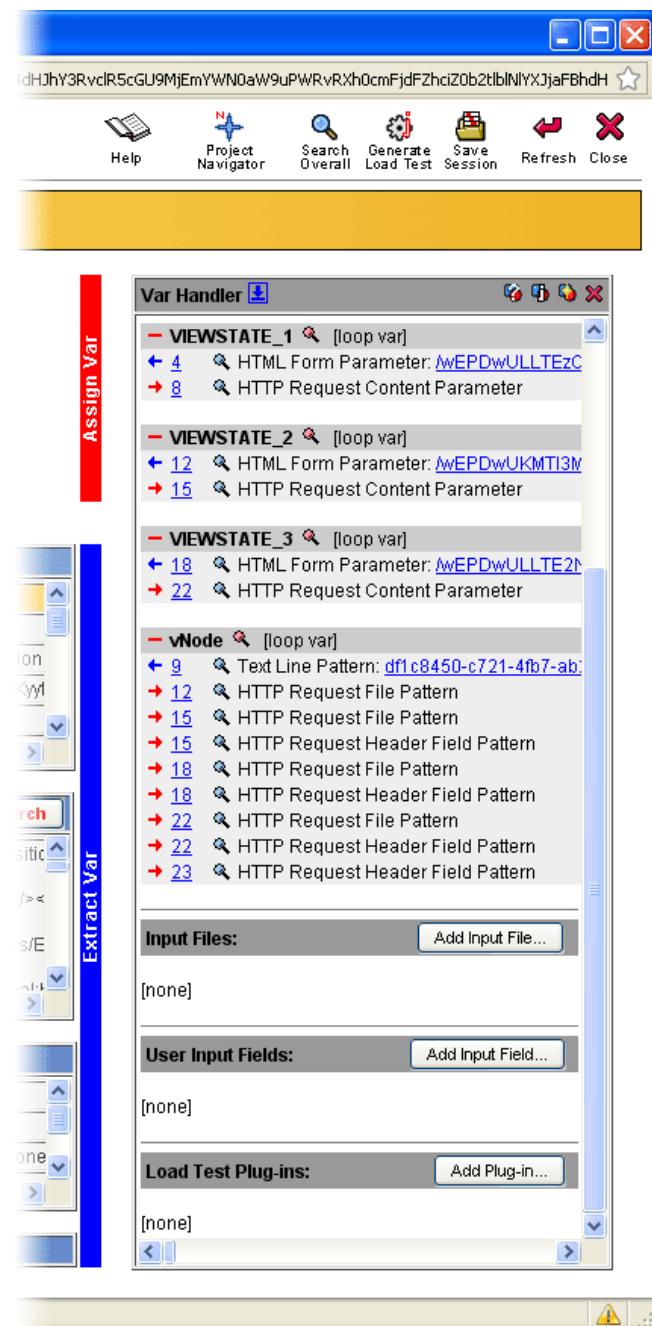
Done

After you have selected the text fragment the **Var Extractor Wizard** displays a **success message**. You then have to **enter a name for the variable** in which the **value** of node will be extracted to.

You should use a unique and meaningful name for the variable. The definition of the new variable is then automatically created by the wizard.

At the bottom of the window you'll see **two checkboxes**. Their default values should be left unchanged as a rule. This means that the extracted value is automatically assigned to all relevant HTTP requests.

After clicking on the "**Extract Var**" button the corresponding variable definitions will be created by the wizard and shown in the "**URL Details / Var Handler**" menu.



The manual configuration of the "dynamically-exchanged session parameter" node is now complete.

Only the handling of the parameters **IDAnlass** and **IdAnlass** needs to be configured.

Call the **Var Finder** menu again or click on the **Refresh Icon** at the top right corner of the **Var Finder** window.

PRX: Var Finder - Mozilla Firefox

http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/DataRecordVarFinderPopupWeblet

Proxy Sniffer Web Admin

Var Finder

Show Instructions for using the Var Finder.

Potential Dynamically-Exchanged Session Parameters - Condensed List of all transmitted HTML Form and CGI Parameters, composed overall recorded URLs:

Display parameter values with min. 3 characters where min. 0% of all characters are in ASCII-HEX range '0..F' Include File Paths

First Extract	First Assign	Var Name	Parameter Name	Recorded Value
← 4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_1	__VIEWSTATE	AwEPDwULLTEzODU5OTQ3NjY
← 4 → 8 Form Param.	8 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_1	__EVENTVALIDATION	AwEWBwKJkZtBgKyytHeCwLDx
8 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddlTheme	EventoBlue
8 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName	
8 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$Password	
8 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$LoginButton	Anmelden
← 9 12 CGI Param.	12 CGI Param.	vNode	node	df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8db
12 CGI Param.	---	---	TabKey	WebTab_MeineAnlaesseDoz
15 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState	ennnnnnnn
15 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpT
← 12 → 15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_2	__VIEWSTATE	AwEPDwUKMTI3MzYyNjY1OA9kf
← 12 → 15 Form Param.	15 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_2	__EVENTVALIDATION	AwEWKgKNm4zICwKyytHeCwLd
15 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$webPartMode	Ansichtsmodus
15 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl10	AnlassNummer
15 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl11	Suchen
18 CGI Param.	---	---	IDAnlass	56481
← 18 → 22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_3	__VIEWSTATE	AwEPDwULLTE2NzI2NjQ4MjkP2
← 18 → 22 Form Param.	22 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_3	__EVENTVALIDATION	AwEWHALVjqujDAKyytHeCwLDx
22 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$ddlGradingScale	1001
22 Form Param.	---	---	Comment_846317	Test
22 Form Param.	---	---	846317	1002
22 Form Param.	---	---	845171	1006
22 Form Param.	---	---	Comment_850885	Test
22 Form Param.	---	---	850885	1010
22 Form Param.	---	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$btnSave	Speichern
26 CGI Param.	---	---	IdAnlass	56481

Done

As you can see in this example, the parameter **IDAnlass** has the same value as **IdAnlass** (56481). The only reason why the parameter is shown twice is that the developers of the web application have used two different parameter names for the same thing.

One possibility would be to extract the value of this parameter by hand - as shown before – by using the Var Extractor Wizard. This would also assign the value of the parameter to all relevant URLs in one step.

To minimize effort you can first try automatic variable handling for both parameters. On success two new variables should be defined (IDAnlass and IdAnlass).

This screenshot shows that the automatic handling of **IDAnlass** was successful:

PRX: Var Finder - Mozilla Firefox

http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/DataRecordVarFinderPopupWeblet

Var Finder Show Instructions for using the Var Finder.

Help Search Cookies Refresh Close

Potential Dynamically-Exchanged Session Parameters - Condensed List of all transmitted HTML Form and CGI Parameters, composed overall recorded URLs:

Display parameter values with min. 3 characters where min. 0% of all characters are in ASCII-HEX range '0'..F' Include File Paths

Ok: Automatic handling for dynamically-exchanged session parameter **IDAnlass** successfully performed. No further is action required for this parameter.

First Extract	First Assign	Var Name	Parameter Name	Recorded Value
← 4 → 8 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_1	VIEWSTATE_1	__VIEWSTATE	AwEPDwULLTEzODU5OT
← 4 → 8 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_1	EVENTVALIDATION_1	__EVENTVALIDATION	AwEWBwKJkZ/cBgKyytHeC
8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddITheme		EventoBlue
8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName		
8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$Password		
8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$LoginButton		
← 9 → 12 CGI Param.	vNode	vNode	node	Anmelden
12 CGI Param.	---	TabKey		df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2k
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState		WebTab_MeineAnlaesse
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode		ennnnnnnnn
← 12 → 15 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_2	VIEWSTATE_2	__VIEWSTATE	ctl00_WebPartManager1_
← 12 → 15 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_2	EVENTVALIDATION_2	__EVENTVALIDATION	AwEPDwUKMTI3MzYyNjY1
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$webPartMode		AwEWKgKNm4zlCwKyytHeC
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl10		Ansichtsmodus
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl11		AnlassNummer
← 15 → 18 CGI Param.	IDAnlass	IDAnlass	IDAnlass	Suchen
18 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_3	VIEWSTATE_3	__VIEWSTATE	56481
18 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_3	EVENTVALIDATION_3	__EVENTVALIDATION	AwEPDwULLTE2Nzl2NjQz
22 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$ddlGradingScale		AwEWHALVjqujDAKyytHeC
22 Form Param.	---	Comment_846317		1001
22 Form Param.	---	846317		Test
22 Form Param.	---	845171		1002
22 Form Param.	---	Comment_850885		1006
22 Form Param.	---	850885		Test
22 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$btnSave		1010
← 15 → 26 CGI Param.	IDAnlass	IDAnlass	IDAnlass	Speichern
26 CGI Param.	IDAnlass	IDAnlass	IDAnlass	56481

Done

Similarly the automatic handling of **IdAnlass** succeeded:

PRX: Var Finder - Mozilla Firefox

http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/DataRecordVarFinderPopupWeblet

Proxy Sniffer Web Admin

Var Finder

Show Instructions for using the Var Finder.

Help Search Cookies Verify Refresh Close

Potential Dynamically-Exchanged Session Parameters - Condensed List of all transmitted HTML Form and CGI Parameters, composed overall recorded URLs:

Display parameter values with min. 3 characters where min. 0% of all characters are in ASCII-HEX range '0'..F' Include File Paths

OK: Automatic handling for dynamically-exchanged session parameter **IdAnlass successfully performed. No further action is required for this parameter.**

First Extract	First Assign	Var Name	Parameter Name	Recorded Value
← 4 → 8 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_1	VIEWSTATE	__VIEWSTATE	AwEPDwULLTEzODU5OT
← 4 → 8 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_1	EVENTVALIDATION	__EVENTVALIDATION	AwEWBwKJkZcBgKyytHeC
8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddlTheme	ctl00\$ThemePicker1\$ddlTheme	EventoBlue
8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$UserName	Anmelden
8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$Password	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask\$Password	dflc8450-c721-4fb7-ab2k
8 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask>LoginButton	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpLogin1\$Login1\$LoginMask>LoginButton	WebTab_MeineAnlaesse
← 9 → 12 CGI Param.	vNode	node	node	ennnnnnnn
12 CGI Param.	---	TabKey	TabKey	ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_ExpandState	ctl00/WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode	ctl00_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_SelectedNode	AwEPDwUKMTI3MzYyNjY1
← 12 → 15 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_2	VIEWSTATE	__VIEWSTATE	AwEWKgKNm4zICwKyytHeC
← 12 → 15 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_2	EVENTVALIDATION	__EVENTVALIDATION	Ansichtsmodus
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$webPartMode	ctl00\$webPartMode	AnlassNummer
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl10	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl10	Suchen
15 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl11	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$SuchregisterWP1\$ctl11	56481
← 15 → 18 CGI Param.	IDAnlass	IDAnlass	IDAnlass	AwEPDwULLTE2Nzl2NjQz
18 → 22 Form Param.	VIEWSTATE_3	VIEWSTATE	__VIEWSTATE	AwEWHALVjqujDAKyytHeC
18 → 22 Form Param.	EVENTVALIDATION_3	EVENTVALIDATION	__EVENTVALIDATION	1001
22 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$ddlGradingScale	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$ddlGradingScale	Test
22 Form Param.	---	Comment_846317	Comment_846317	1002
22 Form Param.	---	846317	846317	1006
22 Form Param.	---	845171	845171	Test
22 Form Param.	---	Comment_850885	Comment_850885	1010
22 Form Param.	---	850885	850885	Speichern
22 Form Param.	---	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$btnSave	ctl00\$WebPartManager1\$gwpBrn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten1\$btnSave	56481
← 23 → 26 CGI Param.	IdAnlass	IdAnlass	IdAnlass	

← Done →

The Var Handler Definitions look now like this:

The screenshot shows the ZebraTester Var Handler Definitions window. It lists several variable definitions under different categories:

- EVENTVALIDATION_1**: [loop var] (4 HTML Form Parameter: [_wEWBwKJkZtBc](#), 8 HTTP Request Content Parameter)
- EVENTVALIDATION_2**: [loop var] (12 HTML Form Parameter: [_wEWKqKNm4zIC](#), 15 HTTP Request Content Parameter)
- EVENTVALIDATION_3**: [loop var] (18 HTML Form Parameter: [_wEWHALViqujDA](#), 22 HTTP Request Content Parameter)
- IDAnlass**: [loop var] (15 HTML Hyperlink: [56481](#), 18 HTTP Request URI, 22 HTTP Response URI)
- IdAnlass**: [loop var] (23 HTML Hyperlink: [56481](#), 26 HTTP Request URI)
- VIEWSTATE_1**: [loop var] (4 HTML Form Parameter: [_wEPDwULLTEzC](#), 8 HTTP Request Content Parameter)
- VIEWSTATE_2**: [loop var] (12 HTML Form Parameter: [_wEPDwUKMTI3M](#), 15 HTTP Request Content Parameter)
- VIEWSTATE_3**: [loop var] (18 HTML Form Parameter: [_wEPDwULLTE2M](#), 22 HTTP Request Content Parameter)
- vNode**: [loop var] (9 Text Line Pattern: [df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab](#), 12 HTTP Request File Pattern)

Review of the result: By clicking on the **parameter value** in **Var Handler** menu the **Search Overall** menu is opened. In there you can check that all the extractions/assignments for **IDAnlass** and **IdAnlass** are correct:

The screenshot shows the PRX: Search Overall Visible Items - Mozilla Firefox window. The search term is "56481". The results list several items where the value "56481" was found:

- Item 15 POST** http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/SuchResultat.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b
 - Found in Response Content Line 414 Position 149 amp;IDAnlass=56481"> C_64005_B2
 - Found in Response Content Line 414 Position 843 amp;IDAnlass=56481">Qualifizier
- Item 18 GET** http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b
 - Found in Request Header Line 1 Position 111 Old&IDAnlass=56481
 - Found in Response Content Line 25 Position 138 amp;IDAnlass=56481" id="aspnetF
 - Found in Response Content Line 124 Position 207 amp;IDAnlass=56481&Print=tr
 - Found in Response Content Line 342 Position 214 spx?IdAnlass=56481&Modus=Pa
- Item 22 POST** http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b
 - Found in Request Header Line 1 Position 112 Old&IDAnlass=56481
- Item 23 GET** http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/MessagePage.aspx
 - Found in Response Content Line 294 Position 172 spx?IdAnlass=56481">zur ck<
- Item 26 GET** http://a4ou-www-evento06-b.be.ch/BS_TEST/Evt_Pages/Brn_QualifikationDurchDozenten.aspx?IdAnlass=56481
 - Found in Request Header Line 1 Position 69 spx?IdAnlass=56481
 - Found in Response Content Line 25 Position 92 spx?IdAnlass=56481" id="aspnetF
 - Found in Response Content Line 124 Position 161 spx?IdAnlass=56481&Print=tr
 - Found in Response Content Line 342 Position 214 spx?IdAnlass=56481&Modus=Pa

Total 13 Results

All looks good in this example; the definitions for the assignment of both variables have been created (item 18, 22 and 26). The **Search Overall** menu does not show any additional red arrows pointing right →, which are not covered by a corresponding definition in the Var Handler.

After this step the configuration of all "dynamically-exchanged session parameters" is complete. The parameters **_VIEWSTATE**, **_EVENTVALIDATION**, **IDAnlass** and **IdAnlass** were handled automatically, but the parameter **node** had to be manually configured.

The screenshot shows the 'Project Navigator - Execute Load Test' interface. At the top, it says 'PRX: Execute Load Test - Mozilla Firefox' and the URL is 'http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/PopupDirectoryNavigatorStartLoadTestWeblet?selectDirB64=Q'. Below the title, there's a 'Proxy Sniffer Web Admin' icon. The main area is titled 'Execute Load Test Job: BS_TEST_BKT_Noteneingabe'. A table lists the following parameters:

Load Test Input Parameter	Value
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> save as template	BS_TEST_BKT_Noteneingabe.xml
Execute Test from	Host: Local Exec Agent
Number of Concurrent Users	1
Load Test Duration	1 min
Max. Loops per User	1
Startup Delay per User	200 Milliseconds
Max. Network Bandwidth per User	unlimited Downlink unlimited Uplink

We then strongly suggest to perform a functional test by performing a trial run of the load test with **only one simulated user** that executes **only one loop**.

The functional check should successfully complete, i.e. without any errors.

You are now ready to perform a load test simulating a larger number of users.

3 Other Ways to Extract and Assign Variables - Structured Data Access

The Var Extractor Wizard shown in the previous example extracts the variables using a **text-token-based algorithm**. This algorithm is technology-independent and works for all data that is NOT received in a raw binary format.

Apart from the text-token based extractor ZebraTester also supports the following extractor patterns

- Left and Right Boundary Based Variable Extractor

The screenshot shows the ZebraTester interface with the following components:

- Top Bar:** ZBA: URL Details / Var Handler, Help, Project Navigator, Search Overall, Generate Load Test, Save Session, Refresh, Close.
- Recorded Data:** Item 34 on Page 2 : next page → GET http://cldemo.apicasystem.com/AllTickets.aspx ← 200 (OK) "TEXT/HTML" (6'258 bytes).
- HTTP Request Header:** Shows various HTTP headers including GET /AllTickets.aspx HTTP/1.1, Host: cldemo.apicasystem.com, User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.14), Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9, Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5, Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate.
- HTTP Response Header:** Shows the response header: HTTP/1.1 200 OK, Server: Microsoft-IIS/7.5, Vary: Accept-Encoding, X-AspNet-Version: 4.0.30319, Cache-Control: private, Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8.
- HTTP Response Content:** Shows the response content as HTML code, including the form fields: EVENTTARGET, EVENTARGUMENT, VIEWSTATE, and VIEWSTATEENCRYPTED.
- Extract Var:** A red arrow points to the 'Assign Var' section of the 'Var Handler' configuration window.
- Var Handler Configuration:**
 - Extract Var Using Left and Right Boundaries:**
 - Left Boundary:** <option value="
 - Right Boundary:** 1
 - Occurrence:** fixed to 1 (radio button selected)
 - Occurrence All:** checkbox (unchecked)
 - Random Extraction:** checkbox (unchecked)
 - Save Length:** 0
 - Save OffSet:** 0
 - Test Extract:** button
 - Recorded Value:** [none]
 - Hint:** This Var Extractor extract a text based on the left and right boundaries inside the HTTP response header/content.
 - Example:** we have to extract user name from several lines :

User name:	John Watson
Email:	John.Watson@somewhere.com

Extract Parameters:

Left Boundary:	User name:
Right Boundary:	Email

Result: Recorded Value: John Watson
- Unique Hyperlinks Extract:** Shows two links: U1 (WebResource.axd) and U2 (http://ec2-204-236-223-80.compute-1.amazonaws.com/apica/?page=home).
- Verification Algorithm:** Shows a test string: "option value="FC Internazionale Milano"".

- RegExp Based Variable Extractor

- JsonPath Based Variable Extractor

The screenshot displays the ZebraTester interface with the following components:

- Top Bar:** Shows the URL `127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/htdocs/dataRecordDetails.html?displayIndex=2&varHandlerContextEncoded=%26action%3DextractVarMenu%26varExtractorType%3D2...`, the title **URL Details / Var Handler**, and a menu bar with Help, Project Navigator, Search Overall, Generate Load Test, Save Session, Refresh, and Close.
- Recorded Data Tab:** Shows a recorded HTTP request to `https://snippets.cdn.mozilla.net/us-west/bundles-pregen/Firefox/release/en-us/default.json` with status `200 (OK) "APPLICATION/JSON" (14'806 bytes)`.
- HTTP Request Header Panel:** Lists the recorded headers:
 - 1 GET /us-west/bundles-pregen/Firefox/release/en-us/default.json
 - 2 Host: snippets.cdn.mozilla.net
 - 3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.15; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
 - 4 Accept: */*
 - 5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
 - 6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
 - 7 Connection: Keep-Alive
- HTTP Response Header Panel:** Lists the recorded response headers:
 - 1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
 - 2 Content-Type: application/json
 - 3 Content-Length: 14806
 - 4 Connection: keep-alive
 - 5 Date: Mon, 02 Dec 2019 21:58:37 GMT
 - 6 Last-Modified: Mon, 02 Dec 2019 13:34:44 GMT
 - 7 x-amz-expiration: expiry-date="Sat, 01 Feb 2020 00:00:00 GMT"
- HTTP Response Content Panel:** Displays the JSON content of the response:


```
1 {"messages": [{"template": "eoy_snippet", "template_version": "1.0.0", "content": {"donation_form_url": "https://donate.mozilla.org/?utm_s..."}]}
```
- Var Handler Panel (Right):** Configured to extract the `template_version` field from the JSON response using the JSONPath expression `$.messages[0].template_version`. It shows the recorded value `"1.0.0"` and options for assigning the variable automatically to all requests containing form or CGI parameters with the same value, or using URL-encoding.

- XPath Based Variable Extractor

The screenshot shows the ZebraTester interface with the following components visible:

- URL Details / Var Handler**: The main title bar.
- Recorded Data**: Tab selected in the top navigation bar.
- Analysed Record/Replay**: Tab in the top navigation bar.
- HTTP Request Header**: Shows recorded headers for a GET request to `/courses/TW/DOCS/w3schools/xml/guestbook.asp`. Headers include:
 - 1 GET /courses/TW/DOCS/w3schools/xml/guestbook.asp
 - 2 Host: www-db.deis.unibo.it
 - 3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.15; rv:68.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/68.0
 - 4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
 - 5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
 - 6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
 - 7 Connection: Keep-Alive
- HTTP Response Header**: Shows response headers for a 200 OK status:
 - 1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
 - 2 Date: Mon, 02 Dec 2019 22:38:26 GMT
 - 3 Server: Apache/2.4.10 (Debian)
 - 4 Last-Modified: Wed, 11 May 2016 10:19:04 GMT
 - 5 ETag: "1c5-5328e5efdf600-gzip"
 - 6 Accept-Ranges: bytes
 - 7 Vary: Accept-Encoding
- HTTP Response Content**: Shows the XML response content:


```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?><guestbook><guest><fname>Terje</fname><lname>Beck</lname></guest><guest><fname>
```
- Var Handler**: Panel on the right for extracting variables from the response.
 - Extract Var Using XPath Expression**: Section where `//fname` is entered as the XPath expression, occurrence is set to 1, and random extraction is unchecked.
 - Recorded Value**: Displays the value `"Terje"`.
 - Map to Var Name**: Input field for mapping the variable.
 - Extract**: Button to perform the extraction.
 - Input Files**: [none]
 - User Input Fields**: [none]

4 New Var Assign pattern

From 5.5-X version, ZebraTester allows you to assign variables using the pattern **{\$Var Name}**, if this pattern is used, all assignment in the request (URI, headers and Content) will be replaced by **{\$Var Name}** pattern, like below screenshots

Step 1: Extract a variable using the regex and assign using the **{\$Var Name}** pattern

The screenshot shows the ZebraTester interface with the following components visible:

- Toolbar:** Help, Project Navigator, Search Overall, Generate Load Test, Save Session, Save Session As, Refresh, Close.
- Recorded Data / Analyse Record/Replay:** Shows an item (49) on Page 2: Booking, GET https://cldemo.apicasystem.com/AllTickets.aspx, 200 (OK) "TEXT/HTML" (6'283 bytes).
- HTTP Request Header:** Shows a list of header fields including GET /AllTickets.aspx HTTP/1.1, Host: cldemo.apicasystem.com, User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.15, Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9, Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5, Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br.
- HTTP Response Header:** Shows a list of header fields including HTTP/1.1 200 OK, Server: Microsoft-IIS/7.5, Vary: Accept-Encoding, X-AspNet-Version: 4.0.30319, Cache-Control: private, Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8.
- HTTP Response Content:** Shows the HTML content of the response, including the page title "All tickets" and various script tags.
- Unique Hyperlinks Extract:** Shows two links: /WebResource.axd?d=SwCcMWJbC5HPR0GyMzbQbtBvCjnGUcMopW87tvI8Uit8R50NU80PEVSNB0QE3yO4B2yncMJIGpp_q and http://ec2-204-236-223-80.compute-1.amazonaws.com/apica/?page=home.
- Verification Algorithm:** Shows a test string: "option value="FC Internazionale Milano"".
- Var Handler:** This panel contains the configuration for extracting a session parameter:
 - Extract Var Using Regular Expression:** RegEx String: <option value="(.*)">, Capturing Group: 1, Occurrence: fixed to 6 (radio button selected), Occurrence All: unchecked, Random Extraction: unchecked.
 - Recorded Value:** "Bursaspor"
 - Map to Var Name:** Team: [Team] (checkbox checked), Assign with {\$Var Name} pattern (checkbox checked). A red arrow points to this checkbox.
 - Checkboxes:** Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain the same text pattern (unchecked), Assign var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain form or CGI parameters with the same recorded value (unchecked), Try URL-encoding (checked).
 - Buttons:** Extract, LC [global var], [loop counter].
 - Input Fields:** Input Files: [none], Add Input File... button.
 - User Input Fields:** User Input Fields: [none], Add Input Field... button.

Step 2: The part of request will be replaced by the {\$Var Name} where variable is assigned

The screenshot illustrates the ZebraTester V5.5 interface for handling dynamically-exchanged session parameters. The main window shows the URL Details / Var Handler tab, with the Var Handler panel open on the right.

URL Details / Var Handler:

- Item 55 on Page 2 : Booking → POST https://cdemo.apicasytem.com/AllTickets.aspx?team={\$Team}&test={\$Team}
- HTTP Request Header (1-7) and HTTP Request Content (1-6) are shown, with the value of ctl00\$MainContent\$TeamNamesDropDownList being highlighted.
- HTTP Response Header (1-7) and HTTP Response Content (1-8) are also displayed.
- HTTP Response Content shows the rendered HTML with the variable replaced by its assigned value.
- HTTP Response Content Verification Algorithm: [Test String] = "[83|updatePanel|MainContent_UpdatePanel2]"

Var Handler:

- LC [global var]
- ↳ [loop counter]
- Team ↳ [loop var] (highlighted with a red arrow)
- ↳ 49 Regexp Based Pattern: Bursaspor
- ↳ 55 HTTP Request Content Pattern
- ↳ 55 HTTP Request File Pattern
- ↳ 57 HTTP Request Content Pattern

Buttons and Menus:

- Help, Project Navigator, Search Overall, Generate Load Test, Save Session, Save Session As, Refresh, Close

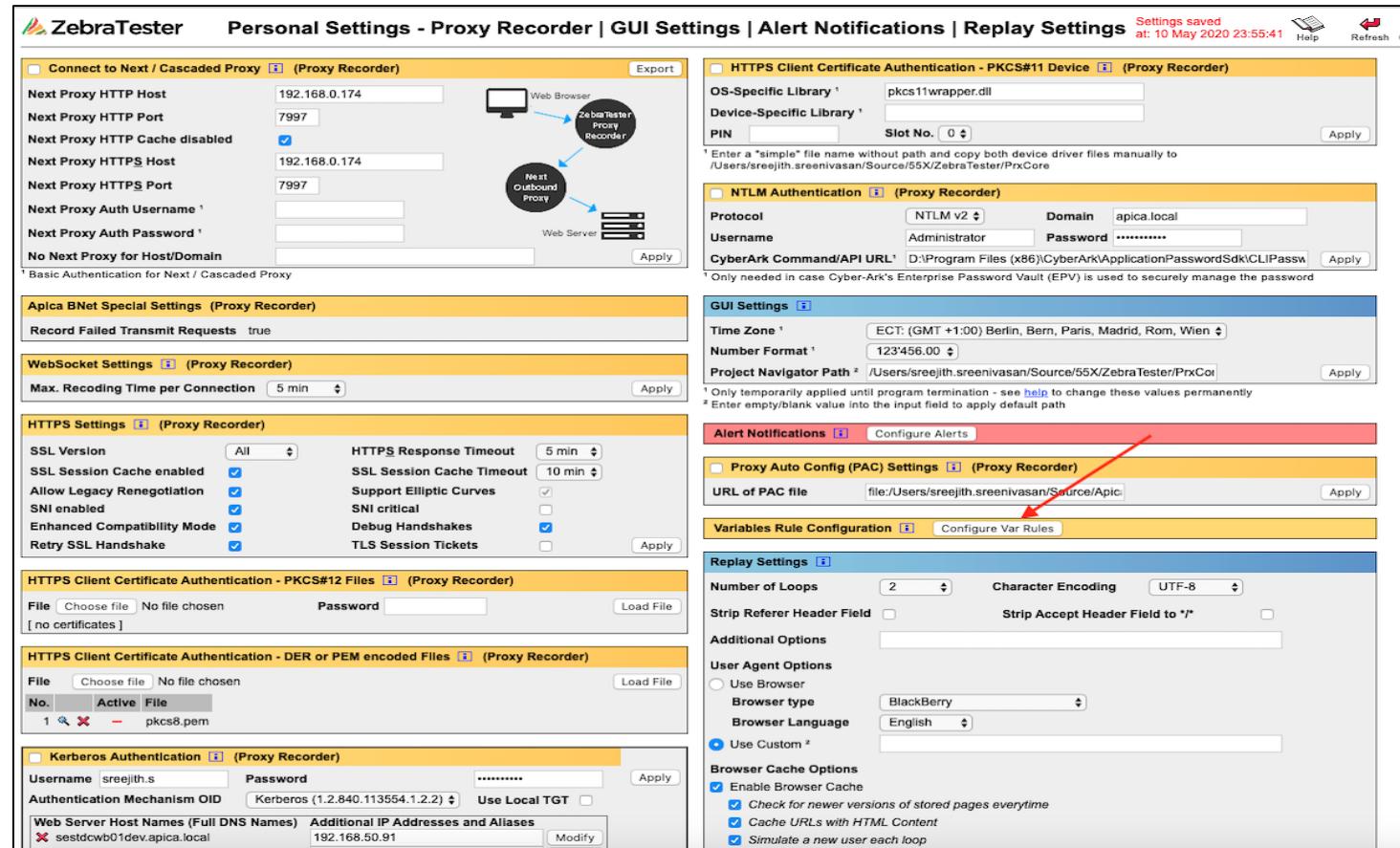
Also, you can directly go to the request and assign a variable like below screen shot

The screenshot shows the ZebraTester V5.5 interface with the following components:

- Top Bar:** ZBA: URL Details / Var Handler, Address bar: 127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/htdocs/dataRecordDetails.html?displayIndex=57.
- Toolbar:** Help, Project Navigator, Search Overall, Generate Load Test, Save Session, Save Session As, Refresh, Close.
- Recorded Data Tab:** Item 57 on Page 2: Booking → POST https://cldemo.apicasytem.com/AllTickets.aspx ← 200 (OK) "TEXT/PLAIN" (6'220 bytes).
- HTTP Request Header Panel:** Shows the recorded request details.
- HTTP Request Content Panel:** Shows the content: 1 {"team":"Bursaspor"}.
- Var Handler Panel:** Shows a list of variables and their patterns, including:
 - team_1 [loop var] → 49 Regexp Based Pattern: Bursaspor
 - viewstate_1 [loop var] → 14 Boundary Based Pattern: wEPDwUKLT...
 - viewstate_2 [loop var] → 49 Boundary Based Pattern: mAG8S9FoQL...
 - viewstate_3 [loop var] → 60 Boundary Based Pattern: wEPDwUKL...
 - viewstate_4 [loop var] → 67 Boundary Based Pattern: eEvZjTMG...
 - viewstate_5 [loop var] → 70 Boundary Based Pattern: CCDDGaSTA...
 - viewstate_6 [loop var] → 72 Boundary Based Pattern: 9mA3R+1R...
 - viewstate_7 [loop var] → 74 Boundary Based Pattern: Z1VcC8WN...
 - viewstategen_1 [loop var] → 14 Boundary Based Pattern: CA0B0334
 - viewstategen_2 [loop var] → 49 Boundary Based Pattern: AE3B0422
- Assign Var Button:** Located in the Var Handler panel, pointing to the 'HTTP Request Content' panel.
- Item 57: Edit HTTP Request Content Panel:** Shows the content: {"team": "\$team"}.
- HTTPTree Panel:** Shows the structure of the recorded requests.
- HTTP Response Content Panel:** Verification Algorithm: [None].

5 Variables Rule Configuration

From 5.5-X version, ZebraTester allows you to configure rules which can be applied on recordings to create Vars, Var Extractors and Var Assigners automatically based on those rules. **Configure Var Rules** option can be found in **Personal Settings** page as shown below.



If you click on Configure Var Rules option, **Variables Rule Configuration** page will be opened where you can add a new rule, modify or delete an existing rule and enable or disable an existing rule.

5.1 Add Rule

You can add a Boundary based rule or Regex Based Rule.

- **Rule Name:** The name of the rule to be added. The rule name should be unique for each rule.
- **Variable Prefix:** The prefix to be used while creating automatic variables based on this rule. The Variable Prefix should be unique.

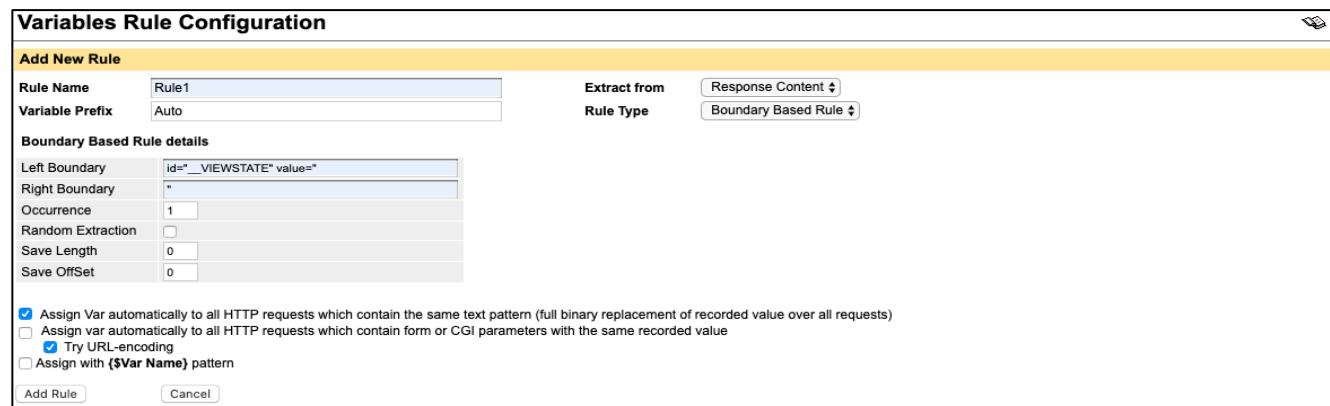
- **Extract from:** Where to extract the variables from. There are two options - **Response Header** and **Response Content**.
If Response Header is selected, the var extractors will be created from response headers.
If Response Content is selected, the var extractors will be created from response content.



- **Rule Type:** The type of the rule to be added. There are two options - **Boundary Based Rule** and **Regex Based Rule**.



- **Boundary Based Rule details:** These details will be used to extract a text based on the left and right boundaries inside the HTTP response header/content.



- **Regex Based Rule details:** These details will be used to extract a text based on the configured regular expression inside the HTTP response header/content.

Variables Rule Configuration

Add New Rule

Rule Name	Rule2	Extract from	Response Content
Variable Prefix	Auto	Rule Type	Regex Based Rule

Regex Based Rule details

RegExp String	<option value="(.*?)>
Capturing Group	1
Occurrence	1
Random Extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Save Length	0
Save Offset	0

Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain the same text pattern (full binary replacement of recorded value over all requests)
 Assign var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain form or CGI parameters with the same recorded value
 Try URL-encoding
 Assign with {\$Var Name} pattern

Add Rule **Cancel**

- **Assign Var Options:** Allows to configure how the automatically created vars will be assigned. There are two options –
 - Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain the same text pattern (full binary replacement of recorded value over all requests).
 - Assign var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain form or CGI parameters with the same recorded value. You can also try to match URL encoded text.
 - Assign with {\$Var Name} pattern.

If the Assign with {\$Var Name} pattern option is checked, all assignment in the request (URI, headers and Content) will be replaced by {\$Var Name} pattern.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain the same text pattern (full binary replacement of recorded value over all requests) <input type="checkbox"/> Assign var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain form or CGI parameters with the same recorded value <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Try URL-encoding <input type="checkbox"/> Assign with {\$Var Name} pattern
--

Once you click on the **Add Rule** button, the new rule will be listed in the **List of Rules** section. By default, the newly added rule will be enabled.

Variables Rule Configuration

Add New Rule

Rule Name	<input type="text"/>	Extract from	<input type="button" value="Response Content"/>
Variable Prefix	<input type="text"/>	Rule Type	<input type="button" value="Boundary Based Rule"/>

Boundary Based Rule details

Left Boundary	<input type="text"/>
Right Boundary	<input type="text"/>
Occurrence	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Random Extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Save Length	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Save Offset	<input type="text" value="0"/>

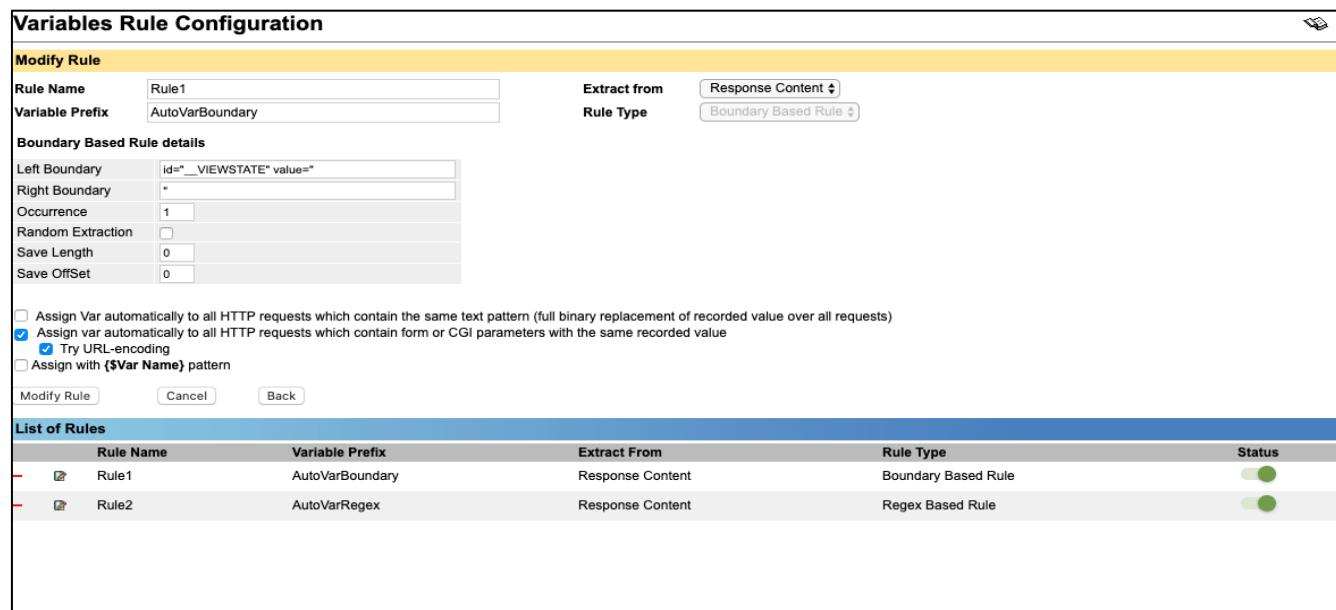
Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain the same text pattern (full binary replacement of recorded value over all requests)
 Assign var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain form or CGI parameters with the same recorded value
 Try URL-encoding
 Assign with **{\$Var Name}** pattern

List of Rules

Rule Name	Variable Prefix	Extract From	Rule Type	Status
Rule1	AutoVarBoundary	Response Content	Boundary Based Rule	<input checked="" type="button"/>
Rule2	AutoVarRegex	Response Content	Regex Based Rule	<input checked="" type="button"/>

5.2 Modify Rule

Click on the Modify icon  in **List of Rules** section to modify the rule details. **Note:** Rule Type cannot be modified.



The screenshot shows the 'Variables Rule Configuration' dialog. At the top, under 'Modify Rule', the 'Rule Name' is set to 'Rule1' and 'Variable Prefix' is 'AutoVarBoundary'. The 'Extract from' dropdown is set to 'Response Content' and the 'Rule Type' is 'Boundary Based Rule'. In the 'Boundary Based Rule details' section, the 'Left Boundary' is 'id="VIEWSTATE" value=' and the 'Right Boundary' is '='. The 'Occurrence' is '1', 'Random Extraction' is unchecked, 'Save Length' is '0', and 'Save OffSet' is '0'. Below these fields are several checkboxes: 'Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain the same text pattern (full binary replacement of recorded value over all requests)' (unchecked), 'Assign var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain form or CGI parameters with the same recorded value' (checked), 'Try URL-encoding' (checked), and 'Assign with {\$Var Name} pattern' (unchecked). At the bottom of the dialog are buttons for 'Modify Rule', 'Cancel', and 'Back'. The 'List of Rules' section at the bottom shows two rules: Rule1 (Boundary Based Rule) and Rule2 (Regex Based Rule), both of which are enabled (green status indicator).

Rule Name	Variable Prefix	Extract From	Rule Type	Status
Rule1	AutoVarBoundary	Response Content	Boundary Based Rule	●
Rule2	AutoVarRegex	Response Content	Regex Based Rule	●

5.3 Delete Rule

You can delete an existing rule by clicking on the Delete icon  in **List of Rules** section.

5.4 Enable/Disable Rule

You can click on the enable button to enable a rule and disable button to disable a rule. Only the enabled rules will be applied on the recording to create automatic vars.

Variables Rule Configuration

Add New Rule

Rule Name: Extract from: Response Content
 Variable Prefix: Rule Type: Boundary Based Rule

Boundary Based Rule details

Left Boundary:
 Right Boundary:
 Occurrence:
 Random Extraction:
 Save Length:
 Save Offset:

Assign Var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain the same text pattern (full binary replacement of recorded value over all requests)
 Assign var automatically to all HTTP requests which contain form or CGI parameters with the same recorded value
 Try URL-encoding
 Assign with {\$Var Name} pattern

Add Rule Cancel

List of Rules

Rule Name	Variable Prefix	Extract From	Rule Type	Status
Rule1	AutoVarBoundary	Response Content	Boundary Based Rule	
Rule2	AutoVarRegex	Response Content	Regex Based Rule	

5.5 Apply Var Rules

Click on the **Apply Var Rules** button in **Main Menu** page once the recording of a session is completed to apply the enabled rules on that recording. It will automatically create Var extractors from Response header/content and Var assigners to Request header/content based on the enabled rules after recording.

Note: All existing Variables automatically created from rules previously and related Var extractors, Var assigners, URL loops, Inner loops, Data points and Users think time in the recorded session will be deleted if any rule is enabled.

Main Menu
 Web Admin V5.5-X

Getting Started Help Pure Cloud Web Tools Page Scanner Personal Settings Project Navigator Load Test Generate Load Test Analyse Test Results Refresh

Page Break: 3 sec. ±35% Insert Recorded Items: 59 Recording State: STOPPED Search Overall Recorder Session Cutter Replay Start Recording Stop Recording Reset Recording

Recorded Session (AC_BeforeRule.prxdat)

Filter: No Binary Data (Images ...) No CSS, JS (Only HTML and JSON) No Cached Data (304) No Errors Hosts: cidemo.apicasytem.com Apply Filter

Add URL Save Save As Export Var Autoselect Apply Var Rules View

Item	Test E	Offset	Position	Content Size	Time	HTTP Request ↗ HTTP Response
x 1	[1]	0.00 sec		3638 bytes	296 ms	GET https://cidemo.apicasytem.com/ ↗ 200 (OK) TEXT/HTML
x 2	[2]	0.41 sec		1996 bytes	1010 ms	GET https://cidemo.apicasytem.com/Styles/styleSheet.css ↗ 200 (OK) TEXT/CSS
x 3	[3]	0.42 sec		423 bytes	515 ms	GET https://cidemo.apicasytem.com/Scripts/GoogleAnalytics.js ↗ 200 (OK) APPLICATION/JAVASCRIPT

All automatically created Variables, Var extractors and Var Assigners can be found in **URL Details/Var Handler** page.

The screenshot shows the ZebraTester interface with the following sections:

- Recorded Data:** Shows a list of recorded items, including a GET request to `https://cldemo.apicasytem.com/` and a response with status code 200 OK.
- HTTP Request Header:** Displays the headers sent by the client, such as `Host: cldemo.apicasytem.com`, `User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.14; rv:68.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/68.0`, and `Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9`.
- HTTP Response Header:** Displays the headers received from the server, including `HTTP/1.1 200 OK`, `Server: Microsoft-IIS/7.5`, and `Vary: Accept-Encoding`.
- HTTP Response Content:** Shows the raw HTML response content with various form fields and hidden inputs.
- Extract Var:** A sidebar for extracting variables from the response content.
- Var Handler:** A dialog window titled "Var Extract Details" containing a list of automatically generated variable extractors. One entry is highlighted: `AutoVarBoundary_1` (Boundary Based Pattern). Other entries include `AutoVarBoundary_2`, `AutoVarBoundary_3`, `AutoVarBoundary_4`, `AutoVarBoundary_5`, `AutoVarBoundary_6`, and several `HTTP Request Content Parameter` entries.

The Var Finder in ZT only displays the values of data contained in CGI parameters and in transmitted HTML forms.

You can also extract variables from other parts of the HTTP(S) responses by using the **structured data access** functions. Structured data access is supported for:

- HTTP host names, HTTP(S) TCP/IP ports, and transfer protocols ("HTTP" or "HTTPS")
- HTTP Request Paths
- HTTP CGI Parameters
- HTTP Redirects
- HTTP Header Fields
- HTML Form Data (inclusive "hidden" form fields)
- HTML Hyperlinks
- JSON Data
- XML and SOAP Data
- WebDAV Protocol Data
- Google Protobuf Data

The corresponding functions for extracting and assigning dynamically-exchanged values are accessible via the **URL Details / Var Handler** menu. Depending on the data format, the following icons are shown in **URL Details / Var Handler** menu:

 for HTTP and HTML Data, and for the WebDAV Protocol Data

 for XML and SOAP Data

 for JSON Data

 for Google Protobuf Data

Example: **structured data access to XML data:**

PRX: URL Details / Var Handler - Mozilla Firefox

http://127.0.0.1:7990/dfischer/webadmininterface/htdocs/dataRecordDetails.html?displayIndex=2

Proxy Sniffer Web Admin **URL Details / Var Handler**

Item 2 on Page 1 : Start Page → POST http://
← prev ← 200 (OK) "TEXT/XML" (2'070 bytes)

HTTP Request Header → win2002-2:8080

```

1 POST
2 Host: localhost:8000
3 Content-Type: text/xml; charset=utf-8
4 Content-Length: 2721
5 SOAPAction: " updateuser:UpdateUser_6_0"

```

HTTP Request Content → Download

```

1 <?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
2 <soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/">
3   <soap:Body>
4     <ns1:updateUser xmlns:ns1="http://www.mnzzilla.com/mnzzilla/1.0">
5       <ns1:request>
6         <ns1:deviceRequest>
7           <ns1:devicePrint>version=1&nm_folia=mozilla/</ns1:devicePrint>

```

Var Handler

- userID [global var]
- ← 1 [loop counter]
- 2 XML Request Data
- 2 XML Request Data

Input Files: Add Input File...

[none]

User Input Fields: Add Input Field...

[none]

Load Test Plug-ins: Add Plug-in...

[none]

HTTP Response Header ←

```

1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Server: Apache-Coyote/1.1
3 Content-Type: text/xml;charset=utf-8
4 Transfer-Encoding: chunked
5 Date: Sun, 05 Dec 2010 23:48:32 GMT

```

HTTP Response Content ← 2'070 Bytes XML → Download search

```

1 <?xml version='1.0' encoding='utf-8'?><soapenv:Envelope xmlns:soapenv="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/">
2   </ns1:reasonDescription><ns1:statusCode>200</ns1:statusCode></ns1:statusHeader><ns1:deviceManagementRespc

```

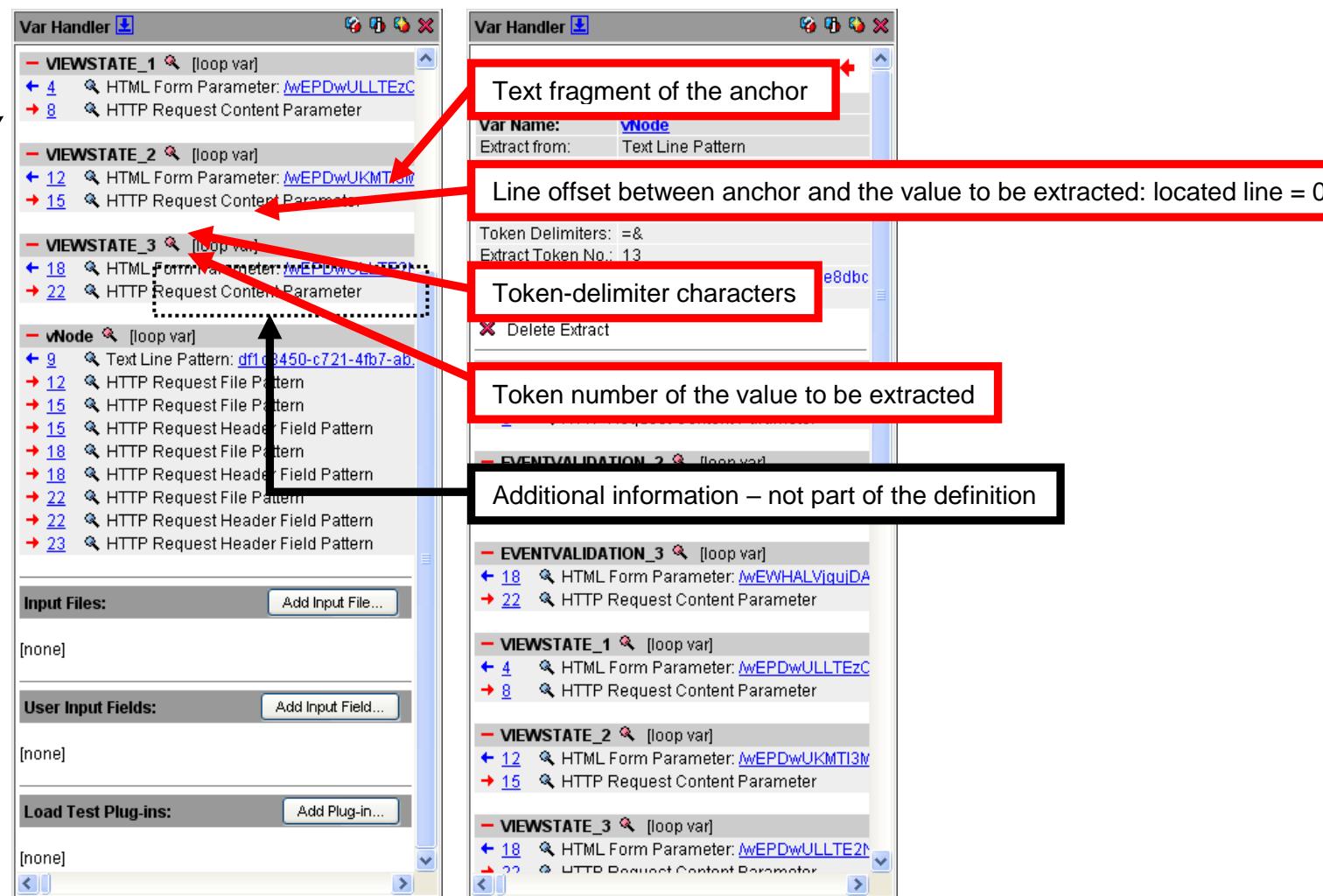
Even in this case the process of defining value extractions is straightforward. The extracted values are then assigned to all relevant HTTP/S requests of the web surfing session. **Further information about structured data access** is provided in the [ZebraTester User's Guide](#).

6 Appendix A: Inner Working of the Text-Token-Based Algorithm (Var Extractor Wizard)

The **text-token-based algorithm** which is used in the **Var Extractor Wizard** works as follows:

1. First, the content of the URL response is automatically divided into lines (separated by <CR> and/or <LF> characters).
2. The value that has to be extracted will be searched automatically in the lines. The line numbers which contain the value to be extracted are memorized and used for further calculations.
3. All lines of the content are then automatically divided into text in fragments (called tokens). The separator characters, which stand between the tokens, are automatically determined (so-called token-delimiter characters).
4. All text fragments which occur only once in the URL response are displayed in the GUI. This is the list of the "unique text fragments" from which **a text fragment can be selected in the GUI by a mouse click**. Note that text fragments that contain the value to be extracted are not shown in the list. Furthermore, text fragments which are a subset of any other text fragment are also not shown in the list.
5. The selected text fragment is now used as an "anchor" to extract the value. A positive or negative line offset is calculated between the anchor and the value to be extracted.
6. Within the line which contains the value to be extracted, the token number of the value to be extracted is calculated.
7. All information which is required to extract the value during the load test execution is now available:
 - a. The Text fragment of the anchor.
 - b. The line offset between anchor and the value to be extracted (this can be a negative value, or zero, or a positive value)
 - c. The token-delimiter characters which are applied in the line of the value to be extracted
 - d. The token number of the value to be extracted
8. Finally, an automatic cross-check is made which simulates the runtime behavior to verify that the information used to extract the value is correct. **The result of the cross-check is displayed in the GUI**.
9. **The name of the variable in which the extracted value will be stored can now be entered in the GUI**. Additionally, you can also choose whether the extracted value (or rather its variable) should be automatically assigned to all relevant HTTP/S requests in the web-surfing session.
10. **With a simple mouse-click on the "Extract Var" button the corresponding definition is now generated**.

Note: in the **Var Handler** menu you can view the "internal configuration data" of the **variable extract definition** which was generated by the **Var Extractor Wizard**. This can be done by clicking at the corresponding magnifying glass icon :



Example: content of line 166 of a URL response:

```
<td><div style="width:10px;height:1px"></div></td><td></td><td class="navigation-inhalt  
ctl100_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_2"  
onmouseover="TreeView_HoverNode(ctl100_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_Data, this)"  
onmouseout="TreeView_UnhoverNode(this)"><a class="ctl100_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_0  
navigation-inhalt ctl100_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView_1"  
href="EVT_Pages/SuchResultat.aspx?node=df1c8450-c721-4fb7-ab2b-e8dbce1f501d&TabKey=WebTab_MeineAnlaesseDoz"  
id="ctl100_WebPartManager1_gwpTreeNavigation1_TreeNavigation1_oTreeView2" style="border-style:none;font-size:1em;">Meine  
Anlässe</a></td>
```

Note: During the execution of a load test ZebraTester does not search for line 166. Instead the line that contains the anchor is searched again at runtime. After that a relative line jump is made to the line which contains the value (line offset). This means that the algorithm works correctly even if the anchor is found at runtime in a different line than where it was when recording the web surfing session. However the extraction of the value will fail, if the line offset between the anchor and the value to be extracted is at runtime different than it was when recording the web surfing session, or if the token number of the value to be extracted is not the same as when recording the web surfing session. Therefore we recommend that you always use **structured data access** to extract values when possible. On the other hand, based on the experience of many successful performed load tests of our customers, we can conclude that the **text-token-based algorithm works surprisingly reliably** in almost all cases.

Additional note: When the **Var Finder** menu displays a **success message** for extracting and assigning a "dynamically-exchanged session parameter" this indicates that the parameter is handled by using **structured data access**.

7 Manufacturer

Apica

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