

From Zero to Hero with Cypress: Slido's Journey to Create E2E Tests With No Prior JavaScript Experience

There's no room for error when your platform is used to spark interaction and communication in real time between audiences and speakers. Testing that everything works every time is absolutely critical.

Despite having no JavaScript knowledge, the Slido QA team automated their testing quickly and easily with Cypress. Here's how they did it.

A Need for Speed and Reliability

Slido is a cloud-based application that enables easy-to-use, real-time Q&A and polls at events, conferences, meetings, lectures and webinars. Since 2012, Slido has been used at over 360,000 live events, with 9+ million questions asked and 30 million polls conducted.* Slido supports 1,000 events every day for clients like SXSW, Web Summit, Money20/20, Spotify, Lufthansa, BBC and Oracle.

With daily deployments and a development cycle of just 10 days, Slido's cross-functional teams operate on agile and lean principles. "Our motto is to go as fast as possible," says Head of Engineering, Lubo Drobny. This speed - and an ever-expanding feature set - put increasing pressure on the QA team, who relied mainly on manual tests for a list of scenarios. This bottleneck limited Slido's ability to run experiments, prototypes, A/B testing and feature flags. QA needed to automate, and quickly.

**As of August 2019.*

Finding the Perfect Sidekick

With very little JavaScript experience, Slido's QAs were running all their tests manually before every release. They worked through a range of scenarios to ensure the latest changes wouldn't break anything crucial and ruin a client's event.

But as the speed of development and refactoring increased, testing couldn't keep pace and was holding up progress. Another complicating factor was a code migration from PHP to Angular.

The QA team knew it was time to find a tool to help them automate. They attempted using Selenium first, but they found that setting up and running tests to be challenging. A colleague had been intrigued by Cypress founder and creator Brian Mann's presentation at a conference.

Results & Impact



674
end-to-end automated tests created



100%
crucial user stories covered



85%
test coverage for all features



24x
increase in test execution



10x
increase in weekly releases



"I fell in love with Cypress immediately. I still had some learning to do, but writing tests in Cypress felt right. I can explain Cypress to someone who doesn't know any JavaScript and get them to write a simple test in a couple of minutes."

Filip Hric
QA Lead, Slido

