

# AI ASSERT vs. Traditional Assertions

For more than 30 years, assertions in UI testing have been rigid and limited to static text or element presence. AI ASSERT changes the unit of validation from a technical locator to a described outcome.

| Aspect                     | Traditional assertions                                                        | AI ASSERT                                                                    |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| How the check is expressed | Code plus a locator or accessor                                               | One sentence in plain language                                               |
| What can be validated      | Static text, element presence, element attributes                             | Images, text, layouts, tables, animations, motion graphics, video, 3D models |
| Dynamic experiences        | Not practical — animations and motion cannot be expressed as element presence | Validated directly by description                                            |
| Who can author it          | Automation engineers                                                          | QA, design and product teams                                                 |
| Setup effort               | Custom assertion code per case                                                | No code, no locators                                                         |

**The trade-off in plain terms:** a traditional assertion is precise and cheap but blind to anything visual; an AI assertion can describe almost anything a human can see, so it is suited to validating the experience rather than only the DOM.

## When to use which

- **Traditional assertions** — exact string checks, field values, element existence, and anything where a hard equality test is the requirement.
- **AI ASSERT** — visual outcomes, motion, layout, rendered media, and requirements that come from the business in sentence form (“the door opens”, “the product image rotates”).

## Sources

- Appvance press release, October 14, 2025 (including the statement by CEO Kevin Surace on the limits of traditional UI assertions).

- Appvance IQ (AIQ) 5.3.0 Release Notes.
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