ACIT4420 Problem solving with scripting

Project Report

Candidate Number 58

WEB CRAWLER PROJECT

What is a Web Crawler?

Web crawler sometimes known as spider or spiderbot is a process of crawling or scraping through the web site which systematically browses and extracts the content from the website.

It is a program which navigates through the World Wide Web in a systematic, methodical and automated manner. At the beginning, the web crawler visits the web site. It extracts the web page content and then visits the other pages by following the web links. This process of crawling goes on recursively until all the web pages have been visited and read. This process is known as Web Crawling or Web Spidering. Several sites in particular search engines use crawling as a method to provide the latest up-to-date data.

Web Crawlers are primarily used to create a copy of all the visited web pages through navigating for later processing by the search engine. This would index visited and downloaded web pages which would help to obtain quicker searches.

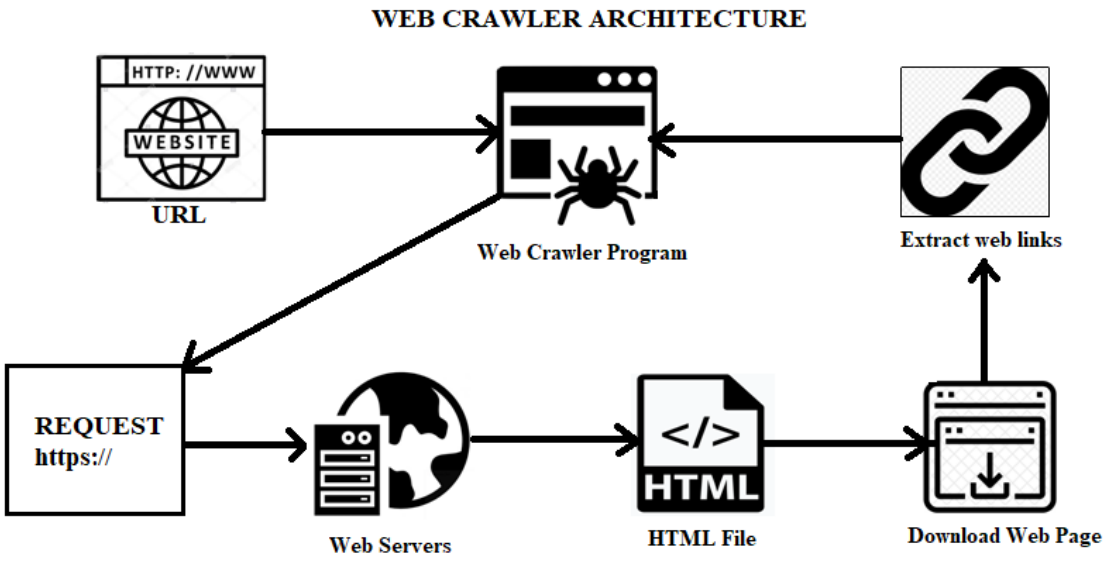


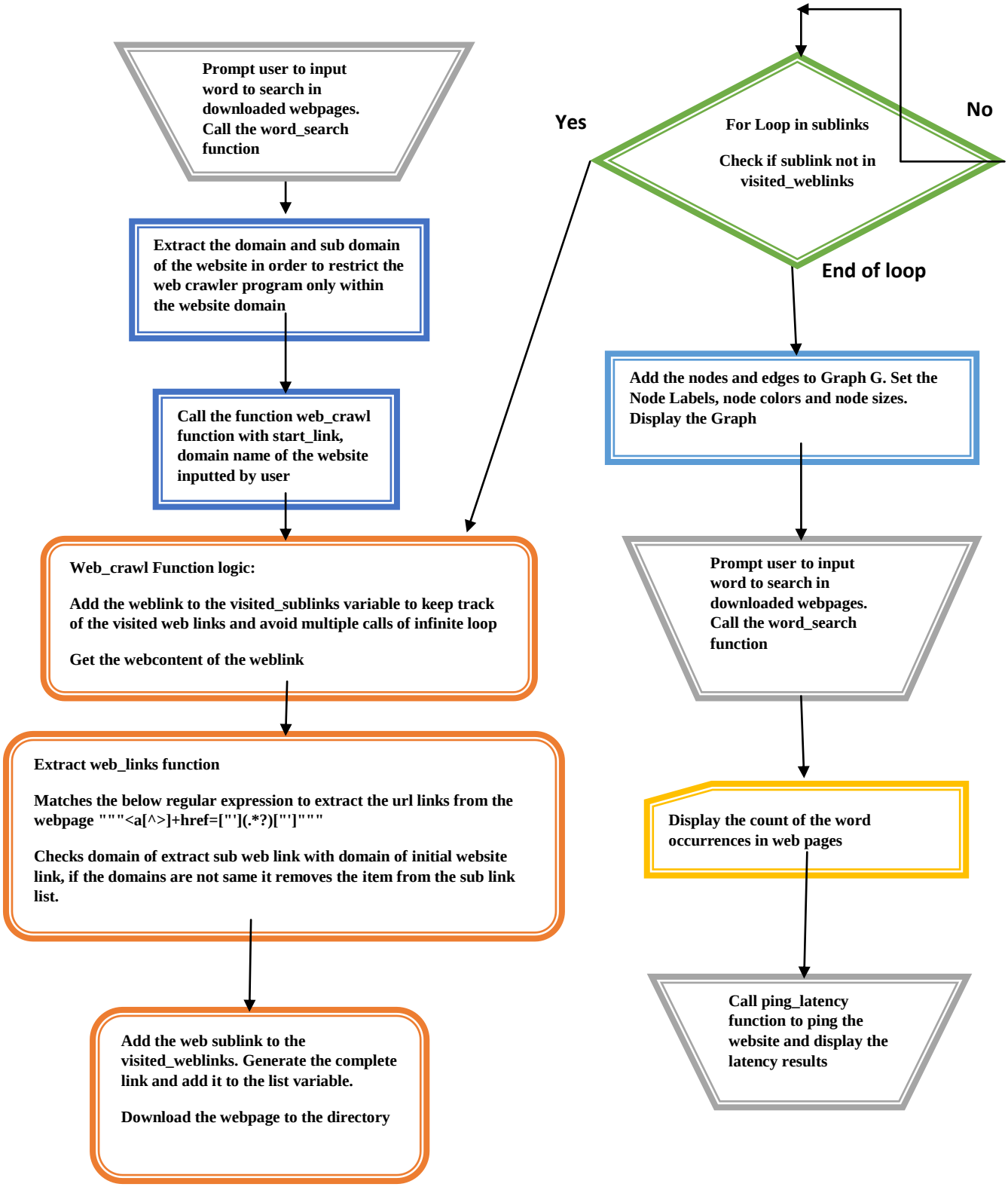
Figure 1 Architecture Diagram of a Web Crawler, Ref [2]

The Fig 1 above illustrates a typical architecture of a Web Crawler. A URL link is given as an input to the Web Crawler program. It then sends a http request to the web servers to obtain

the HTML file content of the web page. The web page content is indexed and downloaded in a system. The sub links contained in the web page are extracted. The web crawler program executes again with each of the sub links iteratively until all the web links are crawled.

Technical Design:

Logical Flowchart of Technical Design for WebCrawler Program.



Implementation:

Name of the Program: Web_Crawler_Program.py

Code Structure: The program for Web Crawler is subdivided into the below parts:

- List of imported Packages
- Initialization section for initializing the global variables to be used in the code
- Set of functions which perform the different functionalities for web crawling
- Main section of the code to receive various input parameters from the user during execution

List of Imported Packages:

The list of packages or modules that are imported at the start of the program are as in the below image.

```
import re
import urllib
import urllib.request
from urllib.parse import urljoin
import networkx as nx
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import time
import subprocess
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
import tldextract
from datetime import datetime
```

Details and usage of the imported packages in the Web Crawler program

re – It provides regular expression matching operations similar to the ones which are available in Perl. This module is used to generate the regular expression. The regular expression would try to search all the URL links in the web page content and would extract the web links from each webpage

urllib – This package is used to read the webpage content of an html page.

urllib.request- This Python module is for fetching the URL

urljoin from urllib.parse - This is used for joining the URL paths

networkx - It is for creating and manipulating graphs and networks

matplotlib.pyplot - This is used for creating figures and plotting for network graphs.

time – This module would be used in the Web crawler program for waiting during the code execution. To monitor and get the ping latency results after every 10 minutes for the website, the time module would be used to wait for 10 minutes during code execution.

subprocess – This package is used to run the shell execution commands with the input and output pipes by creating processes.

BeautifulSoup from bs4 - This library is used for pulling out the data from the HTML files. This would be used to perform the count of the given word based on user input in the paragraphs of the downloaded web pages.

tldextract – This would be used for extracting the subdomain, domain and suffix from a URL. This package would be useful to implement the Web Crawler which would crawl the web links which are in the domain of the original website.

from datetime import datetime – This modeule is used to get the current system date and time. This would be used to display the date and time when the ping latency results for the website are displayed.

Initialization Section

```
absolute_links = []             #List of all the complete links to crawl
visited_sublinks = set()        #List of all the visited web links
visited_edges = set()           #List of web links mapping pair
file_save_location = 'C:\\Users\\KCP\\Desktop\\Web_Crawler_Download\\'
#File Directory Path to save the web page
downloaded_files = set()        #Complete File Path of the downloaded files
G = nx.Graph()                  #Initialize Graph
```

In this section of the code, few of the variables would be defined and initialized.

absolute_links is initialized as empty list. This list variable would store the absolute web links obtained when the programs crawls through several web pages recursively.

visited_sublinks is initialized as empty set. This set variable would contain all the unique absolute web links which the web crawler program has visited.

visited_edges is initialized as empty set. This set variable would contain the edges between the web links.

file_save_location is a string variable which is initialized with the directory folder path where the Web Page would be downloaded and saved. *This variable should be changed if the program is executed on a different system in order to save the webpages.*

downloaded_files set variable would store the entire file path of the downloaded webpages.

With **G=nx.Graph()** , a graph variable G is defined which would generate the network graph of the web crawler program.

Set of Functions in the Web Crawler Program:

Function ***def extract_weblinks(web_content):***

```
def extract_weblinks(web_content):
    weblink_regex = re.compile("""<a[^>]+href=["'](.*?)["']""", re.IGNORECASE)
```

```
#Regular Expression to extract all the web links on the web page
    web_sublinks = re.findall(weblink_regex, web_content)
#Find all the web links in the web page
    return web_sublinks
```

This function would identify all the links in the web page and return them as a list to the calling function.

The Regular Expression used to extract the web url links from the wage pages is as follows:

"""<a[^>]+href=["'](.*?)["']"""

This would first match the characters **"""<a** case sensitive, **[^>]+** would not match a single character >, it would then match **href=** literally case sensitive, **["']"""** would match characters in square bracket followed by **""". (.*?)**This would be the capturing group matching between zero and unlimited times.

The **re.compile()** method in the re package library compiles the regular expression give with ignoring the case to form a pattern for regular expression.

The **re.findall()** method takes two arguments, first one as the regular expression and the second argument as the web content and returns the list of all the matched results of the regular expression found in the web content

*Function **def get_save_webcontent(web_link)***

```
def get_save_webcontent(web_link):
1    response = urllib.request.urlopen(web_link)
2    webpage_source = response.read()
3    web_content = webpage_source.decode()
4    mod_link = web_link.replace('http://', '')
5#To generate the name of the webpage file to be downloaded
6    mod_link = mod_link.replace('https://', '')
7    mod_link = mod_link.replace('/', '.')
8    if mod_link.endswith('.'):
9        file_path = file_save_location + mod_link + 'html'
10#Generate the whole directory location path for the web page to be saved
11   else:
12       file_path = file_save_location + mod_link + '.html'
13   try:
14       file = open(file_path, 'r')
15       file_content = file.read()

        #Alternative Logic for file read in case of HTML file encoding “utf-8”
        #file = codecs.open(location, 'r',encoding="utf-8")
        #file_content = file.readlines()
        #content=’’
        #for item in file_content:
            content=content + item



16       if file_content!= web_content:
```

```
17      #if content!=web_content: # Alternative logic in case of HTML file
encoding “utf-8”

        #Check if the downloaded file content is different than the web page
content
18          urllib.request.urlretrieve(web_link, file_path)
19          downloaded_files.add(file_path)
20          return web_content
21       else:
22          return web_content




23   except:
24       urllib.request.urlretrieve(web_link, file_path)
25#Download the web page if it is not downloaded
26      return web_content
```

This function receives a web URL link as input. It gets the response from the web page link with the below command in line 1 as per above screenshot

response = urllib.request.urlopen(web_link)

It obtains the web page source with the below command on line 2

webpage_source = response.read()

In command on line 3, it decodes the web page content and obtains the web contents in a string format.

web_content = webpage_source.decode()

The statements from line 4 to line 7 is to generate the name of the html file to be downloaded. As the name of the file cannot contain certain characters and http:// string, it would be replaced with the spaces or ‘.’ Symbol to generate a valid file name. modlink variable is used for storing the modified link with multiple replaces.

modlink=weblink.replace(‘http://’,’ ‘)

modlink=modlink.replace(‘http://,’ ‘)

modlink=modlink.replace(‘/’,’. ‘)

In the next statements from line 8 to 12, a logic is written to check if the modlink ends with ‘.’

- If the modlink end with a ‘.’ Symbol , then the absolute file path is generated as the combination of the directory path to be saved + modified link + .html extension
  File_save_location + modlink + “.html”
- Else , the absolute file path is generated as the combination of the directory path + modified link + ‘html’ extension
  File_save_location + modlink + “html

In the try-except catch block from line 13 to line 26,

A file is opened with the above generated file path and in the read mode with the below command

file = open (file_path, ‘r’)

The below command reads the file contents

file_content= file.read()

Logic for checking if the website content has been changed since last downloaded in the directory folder is as follows:

If the web _content is not the same as the file content:

> Then the website is downloaded in the directory path on the system with the generated file name with the below command.
>
> Urllib.request.urlretrieve(web_link, file_path)
>
> It also adds the absolute path of the downloaded webpage in the variable downloaded_files and returns the webcontent to the calling function

Else

> It returns the webcontent to the calling function

This logic sometimes doesn’t work for the HTML saved files which are encoded in various formats such as “utf-8” or “latin-1”. For these cases, an alternate implementation logic is as follows:

Open the file in the encoding as “utf-8”. Use readlines() method to read the file contents in the form of list of strings. Through a for loop, merge all the strings into a single string named “content”. Compare content with web contents of the web page, and rest of the logical flow remains the same.

Another possible implementation logic for downloading the webpages only if the website content has changed since the last download is: Compare the size of the downloaded file contents with the size of the webpage contents, if the sizes are different then the website has been changed.

Function ***def add_nodes(web_page):***

```
def add_nodes(webpage):
    G.add_node(webpage) #Adding webpage link as the node to the Network Graph G
    return
```

This function would add the webpage link which is input parameter as a node to the Network Graph G and returns back to the calling function.

The method G.add_node(webpage) for the Graph G adds the node as webpage to the network graph G

Function ***def add_edges(node1, node 2) :***

```
def add_edges(node1, node2):
    G.add_edge(node1, node2) #Adding weblink mapping as edges to Network Graph G
    return
```

This function would add the edges between the two webpage links connected that are passed as input parameters to the Network Graph G and returns back to the calling function.

The method G.add_node(webpage) for the Graph G adds the node as webpage to the network graph G

Function ***def ping_latency(web_link):***

```
def ping_latency(web_link):
1    p = subprocess.Popen('ping ' + web_link, stdout=subprocess.PIPE)
2    while(True):
3        print(p.communicate()[0])
4        time.sleep(600)
5#Wait for 10 minutes before pinging again
6        p = subprocess.Popen('ping ' + web_link, stdout=subprocess.PIPE)
7        if p.poll() == 0:
8#If Web site is not up
9            break
10    return
```

The ping_latency(web_link) function takes the website link (starting with www) as an input. The line statement 1 subprocess.Popen() function executes the shell command "**ping"** with the parameters as the website link and writing output to the PIPE.

The line statement 3 prints the ping latency output immediately if the response from the website was received on ping.

The line statement 4 time.sleep(600) , waits in the exeution process for 600 seconds (10 minnutes) before executing the program further.

After 10 minutes are elapsed, the line number 6 again pings the website through subprocess.Popen and writes the ping latency output to the output PIPE if response received successfully.

This loop executes continuously unless in either of the below conditions

- The ping latency response was not received from the website

- The website is down

- User terminated the session forcefully.

Function ***def word_search(input_word, total_count_of_word):***

```
def word_search(input_word,total_count_of_word):
1    for file_path in downloaded_files:
2        file = open(file_path, 'r')
3        file_data = file.read()
4        soup = BeautifulSoup(file_data, "html.parser")
5        paragraph_list = [p.get_text() for p in soup.find_all("p", text=True)]
6        for paragraph in paragraph_list:
7            words = paragraph.split()
8            count = words.count(input_word)
9            total_count_of_word = total_count_of_word + count
10    return total_count_of_word
```

This function takes input word to be searched in the paragraphs of the downloaded web pages as argument and initial value of 0 in the total_count_of_word

In the line statement 1 as above, it iterates in all the list of downloaded filepaths of the webpages, and opens the file in the line statement 2 in read mode.

In line statement 3, it reads the file content with file.read()

In line statement 4, BeautifulSoup packages parses the file in htmlparser format and returns the output to soup variable.

In line 5, a list comprehension is used to return all the list of paragraphs found within and in all the webpages.

From line statements 6 to 9, logic is written to iterate in all the paragraphs, split each paragraphs into words and count the occurrences of the input word in these list of words from the paragraphs.

In line 10, the function returns the variable total_count_of_word with the total count of matches found to the calling function.

Function ***def web_crawl(web_link, count):***

```
def web_crawl(web_link, count):
1    #print ("count is %s" %count)
2    try:
3        visited_sublinks.add(web_link) #adding the visited weblinks to Visited
Set
4        web_content = get_webcontent(web_link) #Returns web content of url link
5        web_sublinks = (extract_weblinks(web_content))
6    except:
7        print ("Some error encountered in %s " %(web_link))
8        return

9    for link in web_sublinks:
10        if link.startswith('/'):        # To check the start of the sub links
11            complete_link = urljoin(initial_weblink, link)
12            absolute_links.append(complete_link)
13
14    for sub_link in absolute_links:
15        if sub_link not in visited_sublinks:
```

```
16            visited_edges.append((web_link,sub_link,count))
17            print (web_link,sub_link,count)
18
19    for sub_link in absolute_links:
20        if sub_link not in visited_sublinks:
21            #if count>=100:     #For restricting the number of iterations
22            #    break
23            #else:
24            #    count+=1
25            web_crawl(sub_link, count)
```

The function is invoked by the main program with the initial web link for crawling the website. If some problem occurs in opening the webpage, an error message is displayed and the function returns.

In the function logic, in line 2 to 8, it adds the weblink to the visited_sublinks set variable. And gets the webcontent by calling the *get_webconten()t* function in the web_content variable.

The sublinks are extracted from the web page content by calling the *extract_weblinks()* function

From line 9 to 12, it checks the url web link, if it starts with / then it generates the complete link by appending initial start_link with the sub link. Also, the complete link is added to the absolute_links list variable.

From lines 14 to 17, it adds the edges between the web link and sublinks to the visited_edges variable.

From line 19 to 25, the recursive logic is written which iterates each sublink in the absolute_link variable, and checks if it is in the visited_sublinks.

If it is not found in the visited sublinks then web_crawl() function is called with this sublink value, else it does nothing. This enables the Web Crawler program to recursively call for each of the web sub links without going into an infinite loop

Function ***main()***

```
1 user_weblink=input("Enter the website link to crawl")
  default_weblink='http://www.oslomet.no/alumni'
2 if user_weblink in not null:
        web_crawl(user_weblink, 0)
  else:
        web_crawl(default_weblink,0)
3 node_number=1
4 for weblink in visited_sublinks:
5    add_nodes(weblink,node_number)
6    node_number+=1
7    print(weblink)

8  for entry in visited_edges:
9    add_edges(entry[0], entry[1], entry[2])
```

```
10 labels=dict()
11 for i,node in enumerate(G.nodes()):
12     labels[node]=i
13 nx.draw(G,labels=labels, with_labels=True,node_color='yellow',arrows=True)

14 plt.savefig("web_crawler_graph.png")           # save as png
15 plt.show(G)  # display
16 word=input("Enter the word to search in the paragraphs of web pages")
17 number=word_search(word,0)
18 print ("The count of no of words in paragraphs of webpages is "+ str(number))
19 ping_latency(initial_weblink)
```

The main function is the starting point of the Web Crawler program. It asks for the user input to enter the website link.

If the user enters the website link, the web_crawl function is called with the user input, else it is called with the default_weblink.

From lines 4 to 7, above it adds the nodes to the Graph G. in lines 8 and 9, it adds the edges to the Graph from the visited_edges list.

In lines 12 and 13, it labels the nodes based on the sequential numbers 0,1,2,… and node color as yellow.

In line 14, 15 , it shows the figure and saves the fig as png file.

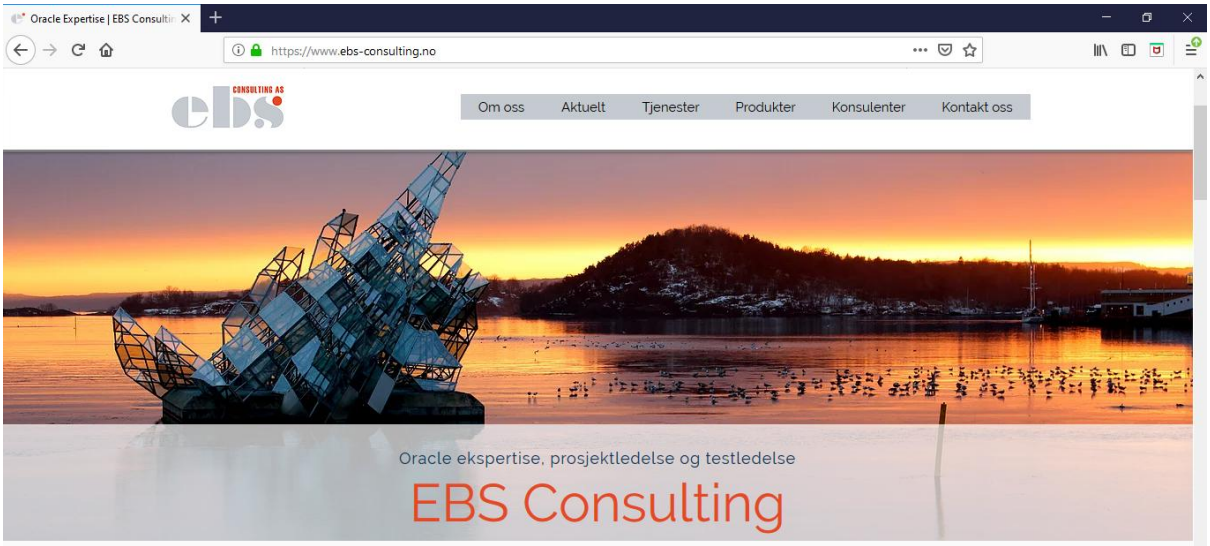
In line number 16, it asks for user input to enter the word to search in the Paragraphs of webpages.

In line 17,18, it calls the function word_search with word and 0 as parameters and prints the count of the words occurrences on the output screen.

In line 19, the program calls the ping_latency function to monitor the response time of ping to the website after every 10 minutes.

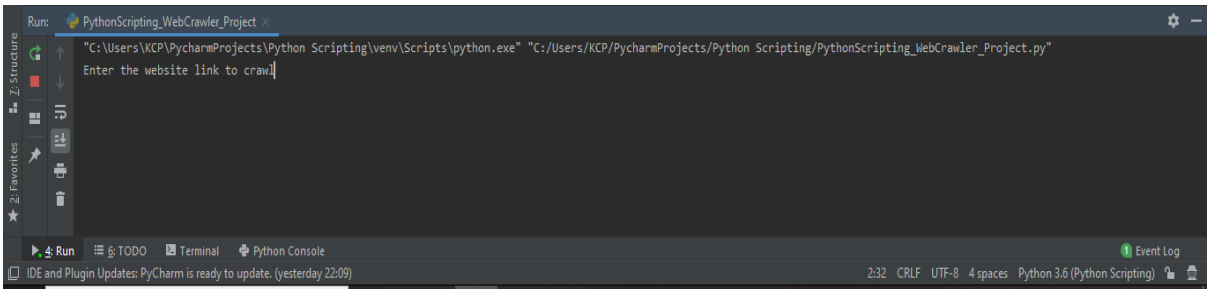
Test Execution Results:

Test Case 1: Execute the Web Crawler Program with the website link http://www.ebs-consulting.no/ for the first time.

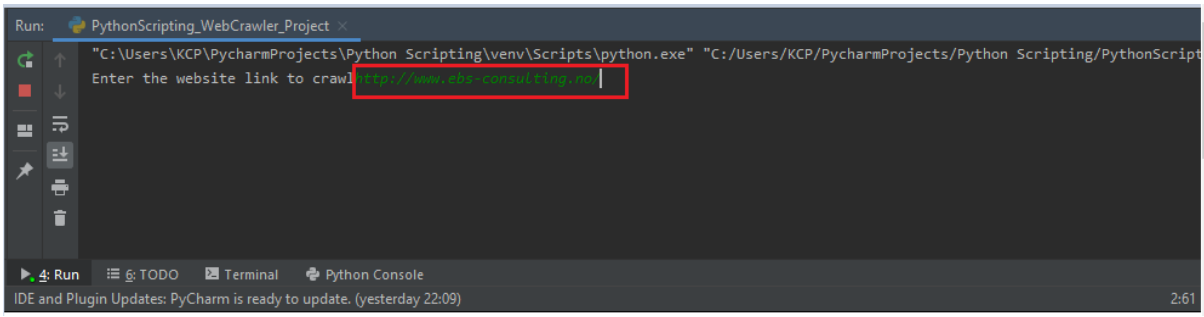


The Web Crawler Program is executed.

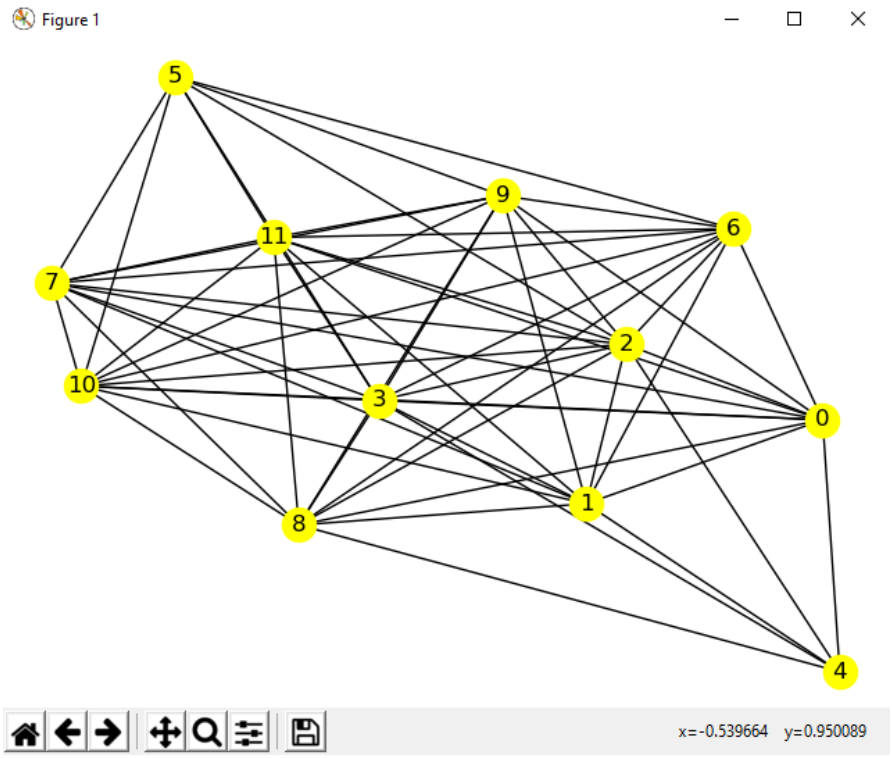
The program asks for user to input the Website link to crawl.



The website link http://www.ebs-consulting.no/ is entered as below:



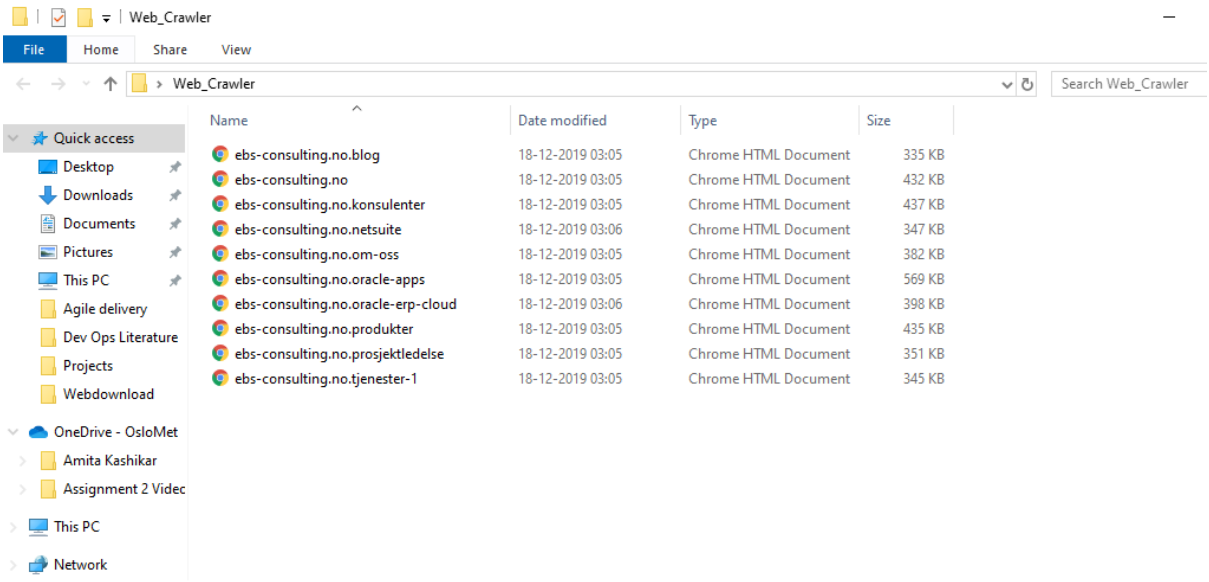
A network Graph is generated in the Figure image as below for the Website which was crawled by the Web Crawler program. The nodes in the graph are the web links, and the edges in the graphs are mapping between the web link and its corresponding sub links.



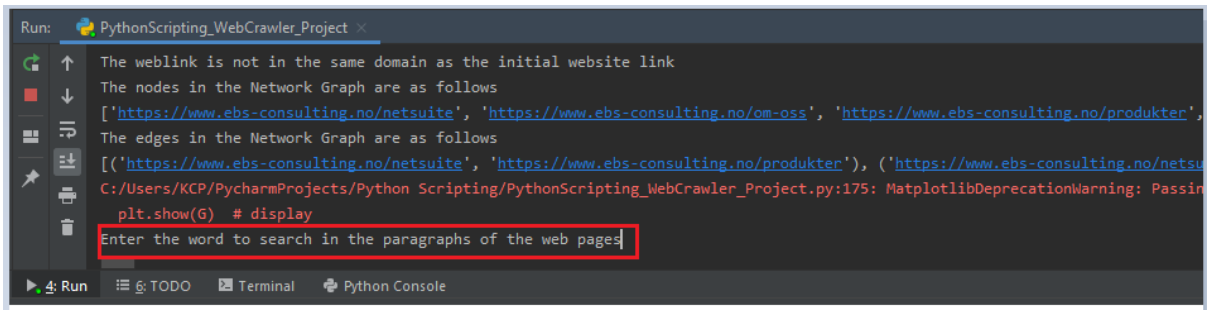
The nodes in the Graph and the Edges in the graph are displayed in the output of the program

```
The nodes in the Network Graph are as follows
['https://www.ebs-consulting.no', 'https://www.ebs-consulting.no/om-oss', 'https://www.ebs-consulting.no/oracle-apps', 'https://www.ebs-consulting.no/produkter', 'mailto:post@ebs-con
The edges in the Network Graph are as follows
[('https://www.ebs-consulting.no', 'https://www.ebs-consulting.no/tjenester-1'), ('https://www.ebs-consulting.no', 'http://www.ebs-consulting.no/'), ('https://www.ebs-consulting.no',
```

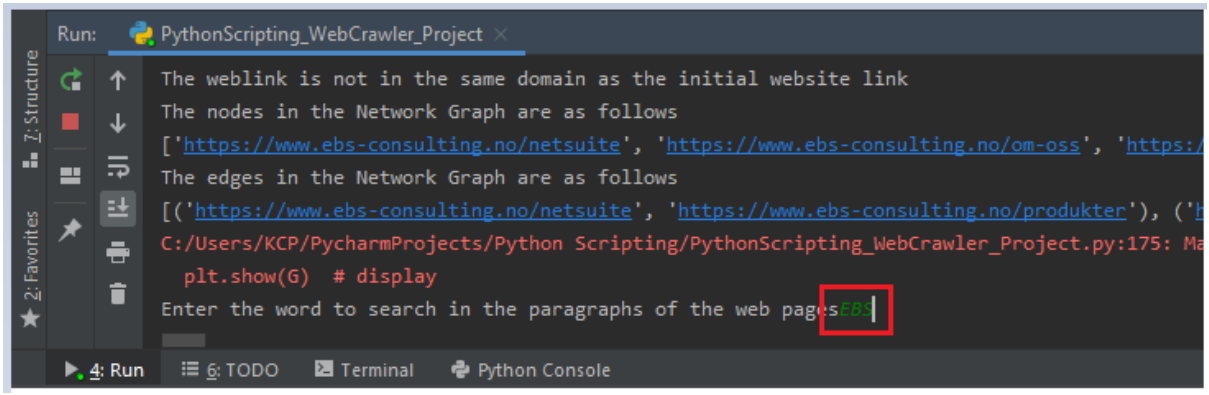
The Web Pages are successfully downloaded with the dates in the directory folder as specified in the program



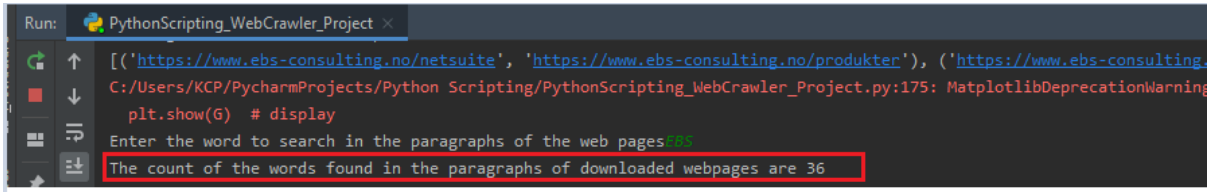
Once the Figure 1 displayed for Network Graph is closed. The program prompts for user input to search for any word in the paragraphs of the downloaded web pages for the inputted website links.



A word to search input is provided : “EBS” as in the below screenshot and Enter button is clicked.

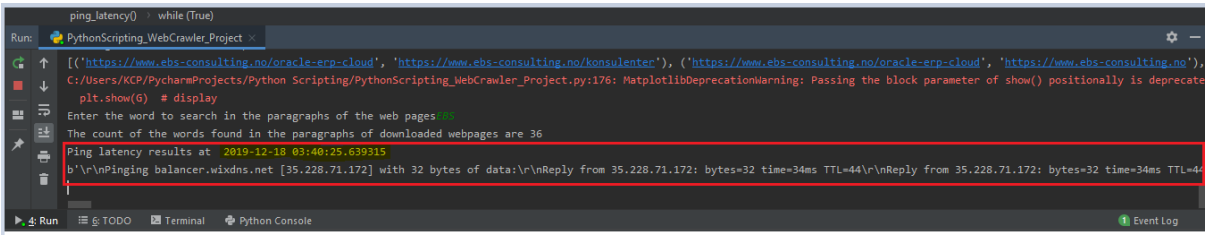


The output is displayed with the count of words found in the Paragraphs of the downloaded web pages as below.

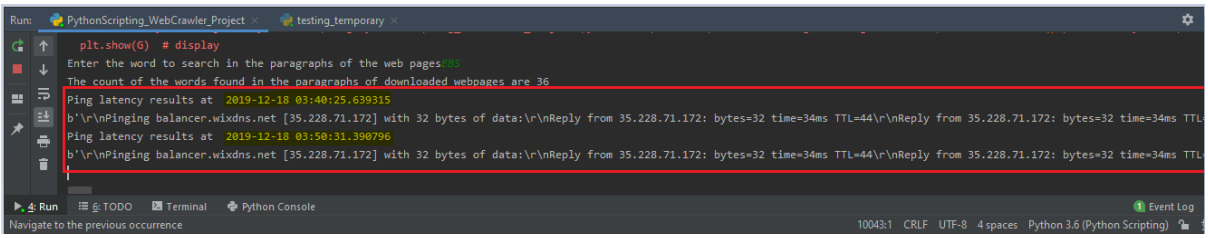


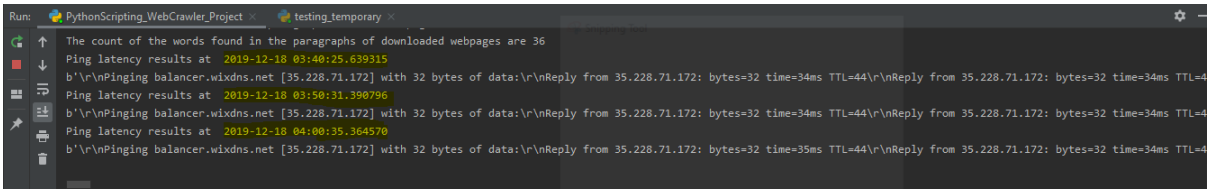
The response time of the website using ping is monitored. The website is pinged every 10 minutes to check the response time of the website ping latency and the results are displayed on the output screen.

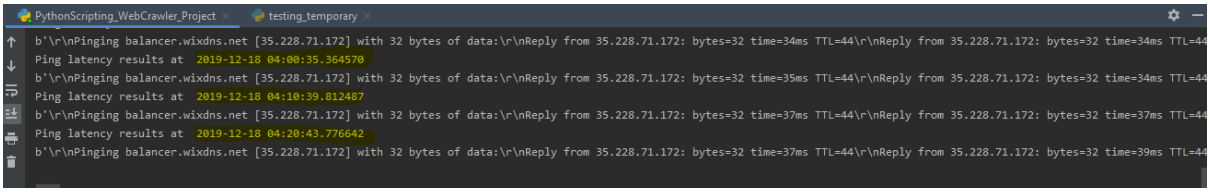
The results of the ping latency of the website get displayed as below along with the Date and Time of ping command.



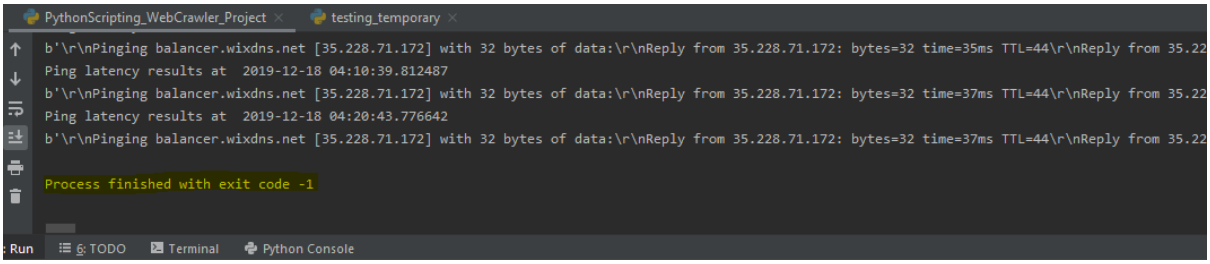
After 10 minutes are elapsed, the program pings the website again to monitor the response time and the ping latency results are displayed on the screen.





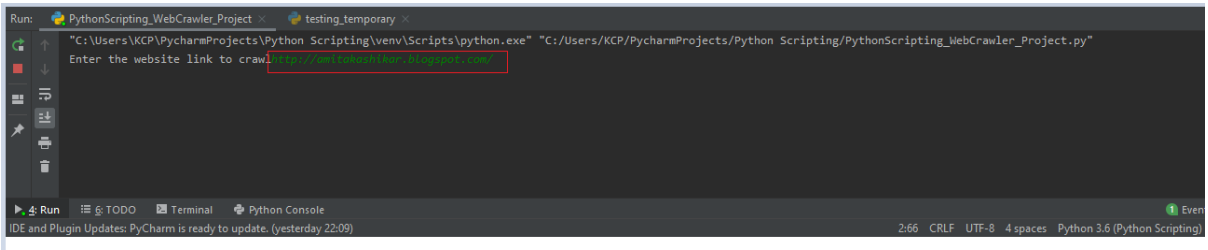


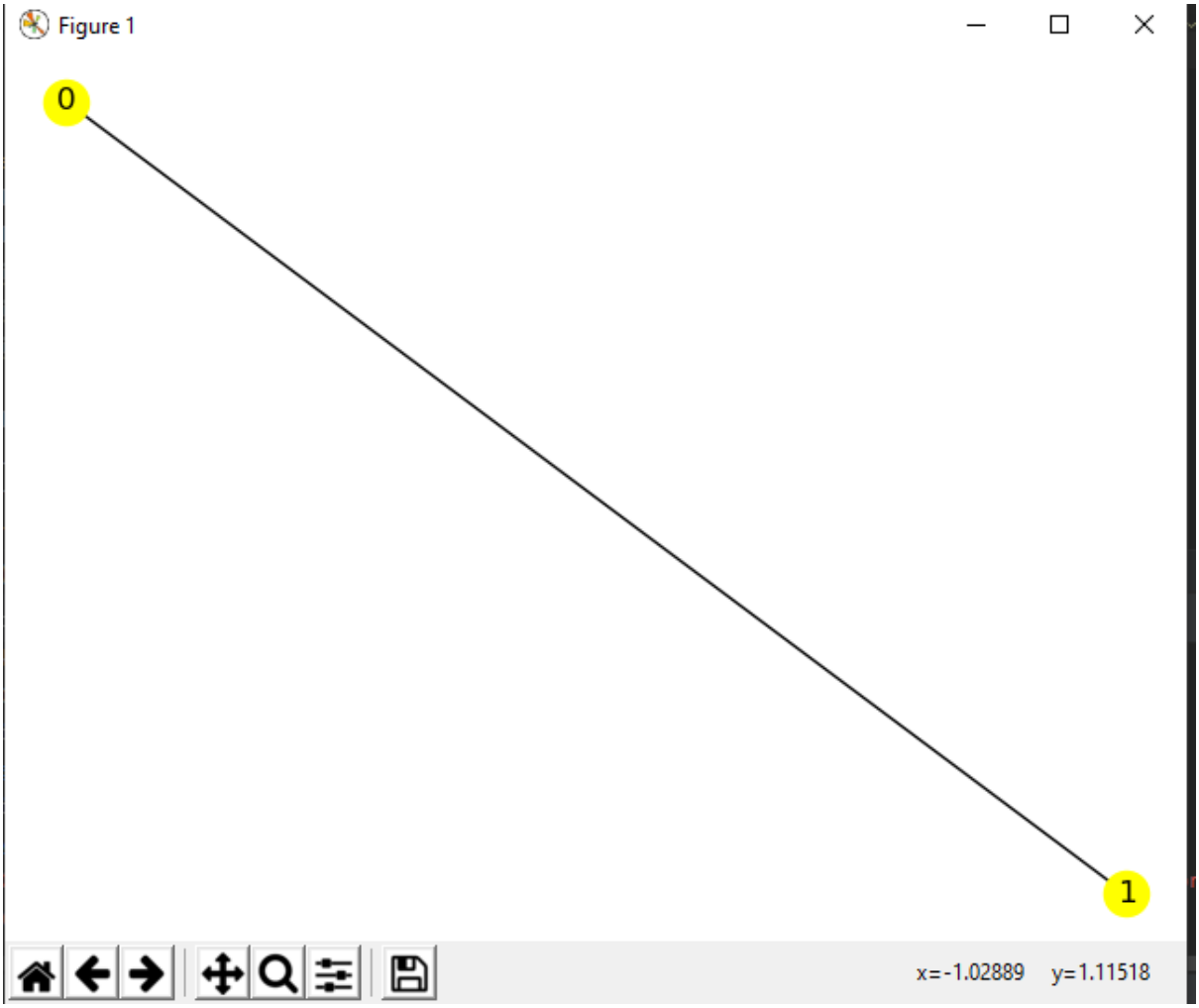
Terminate the web crawler program manually.

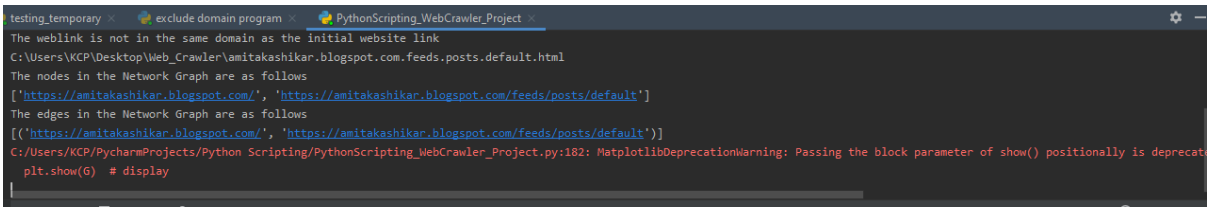


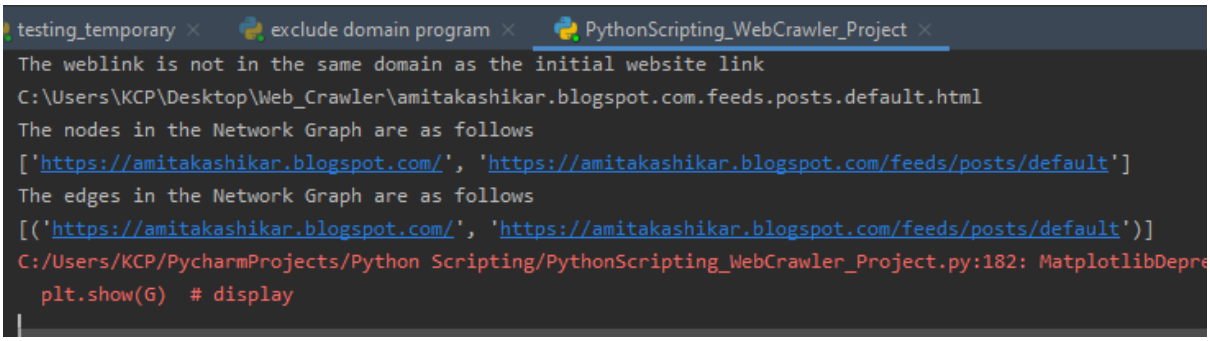
The web crawler program successfully crawls the website over the web links contained in the same domain and downloads all the web pages in the directory folder on the system. It always successfully searches the count of the word inputted in all the paragraphs of the webpages downloaded.It also displays the ping latency results on the output screen every 10 minutes until the program is unable to ping the website, or the website didn't respond to the ping command or if the program is manually terminated by the user.

Test Case 2: Execute the Web Crawler Program with the website link http://amitakashikar.blogspot.com/ for the first time.



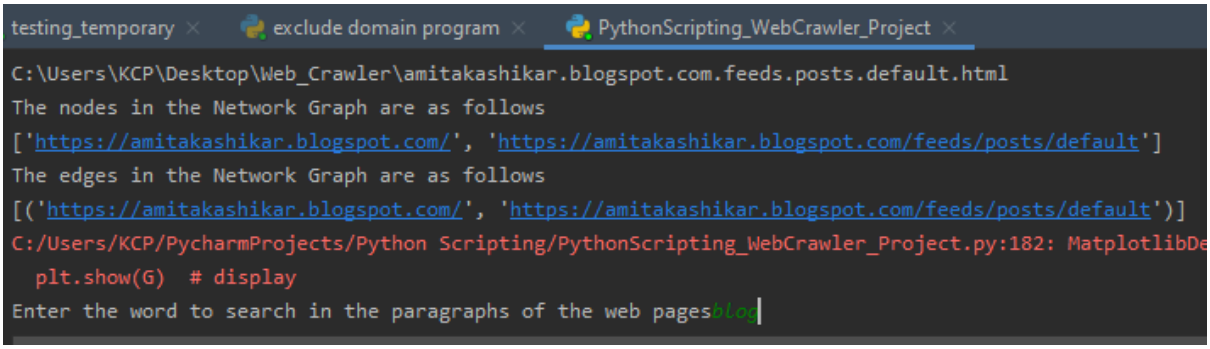




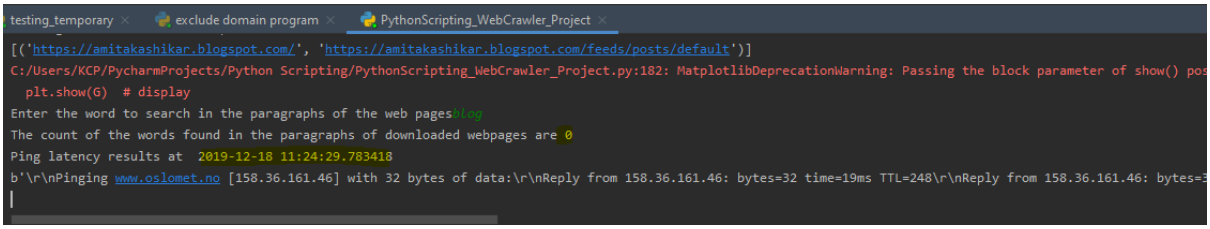


Most of the weblinks in the website are not in the same domain as of the main website therefore, the number of nodes which got displayed are very few.

Enter the word to search

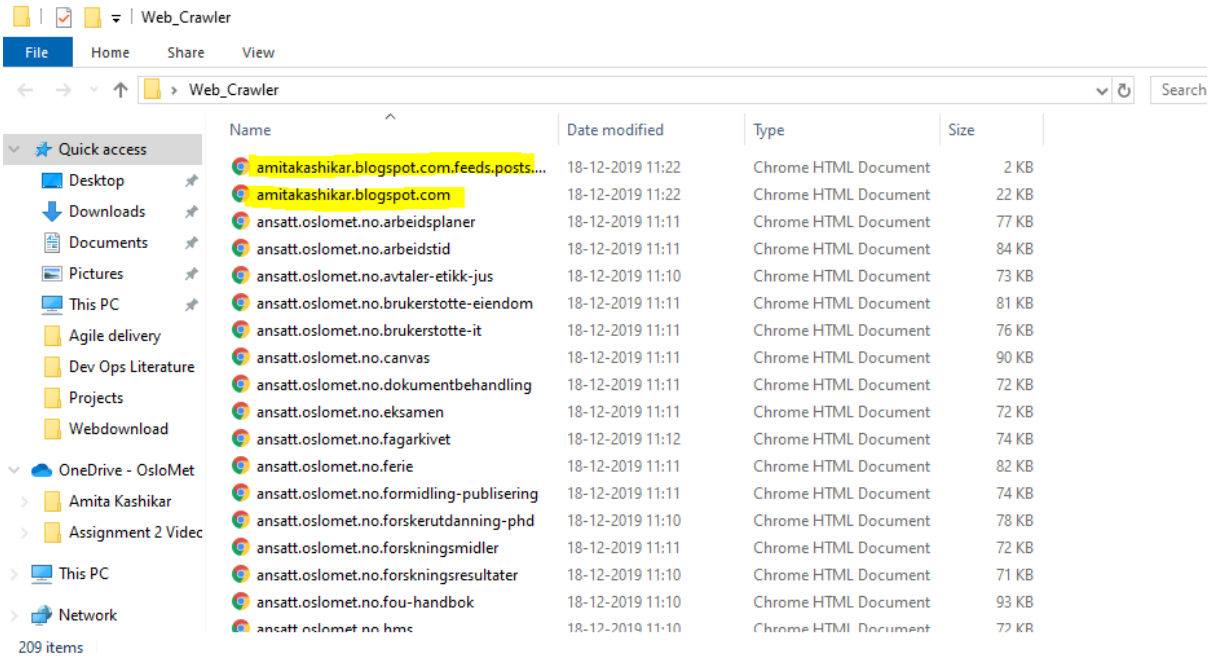


The number of words is zero.

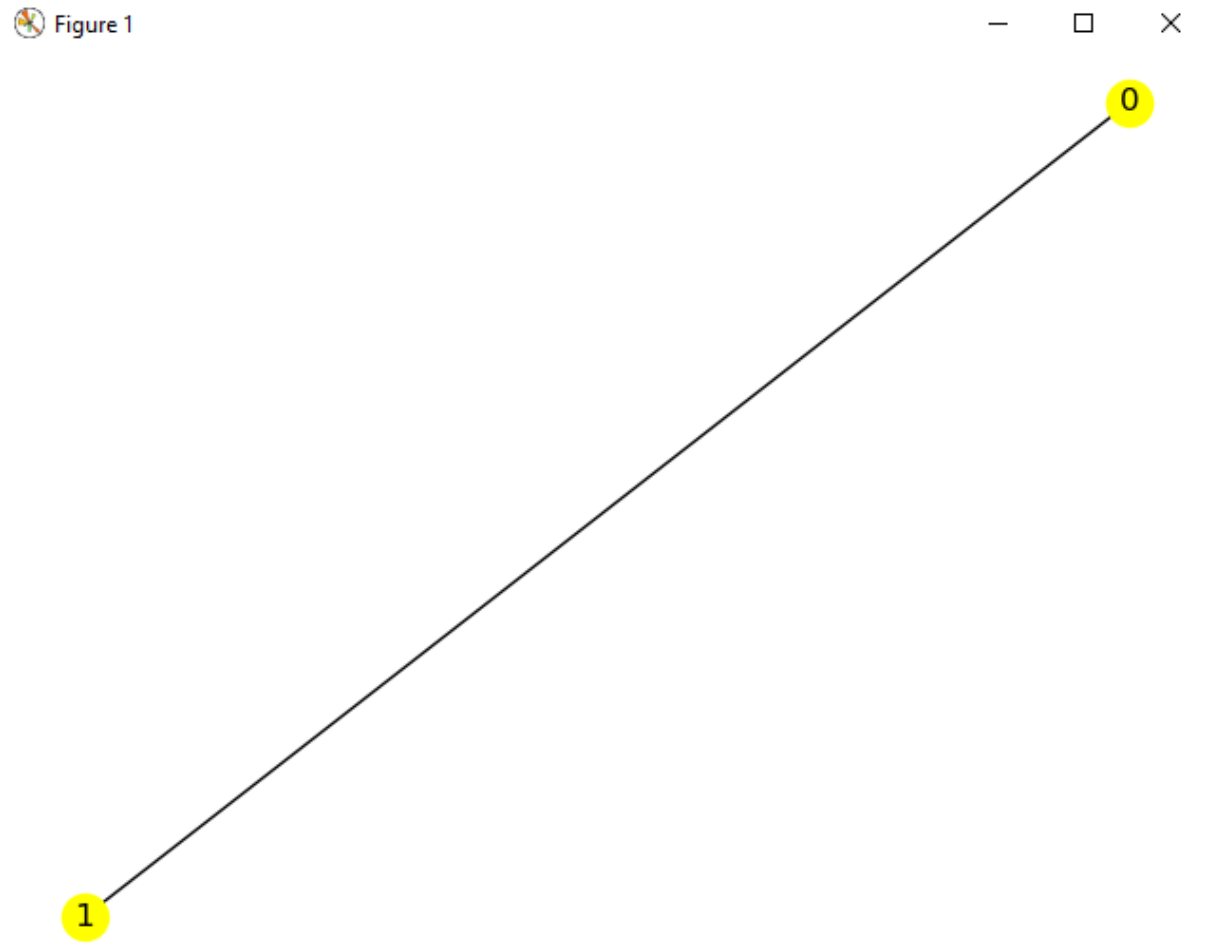


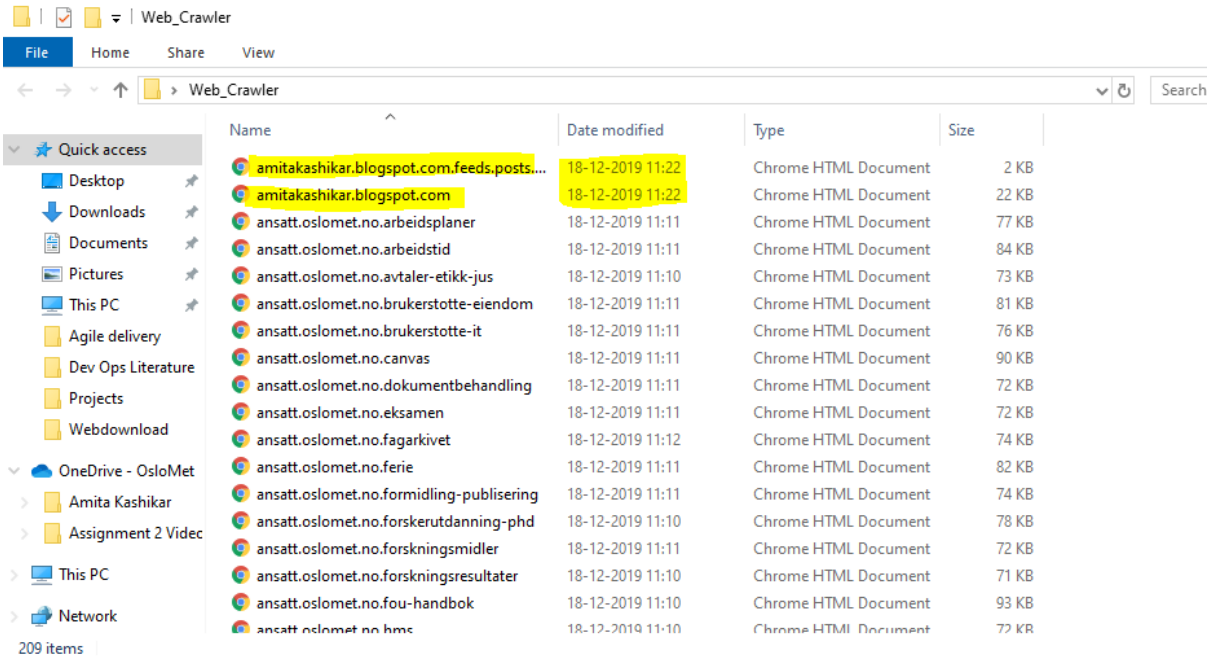
Ping Latency results are displayed

The web pages are saved to the desktop



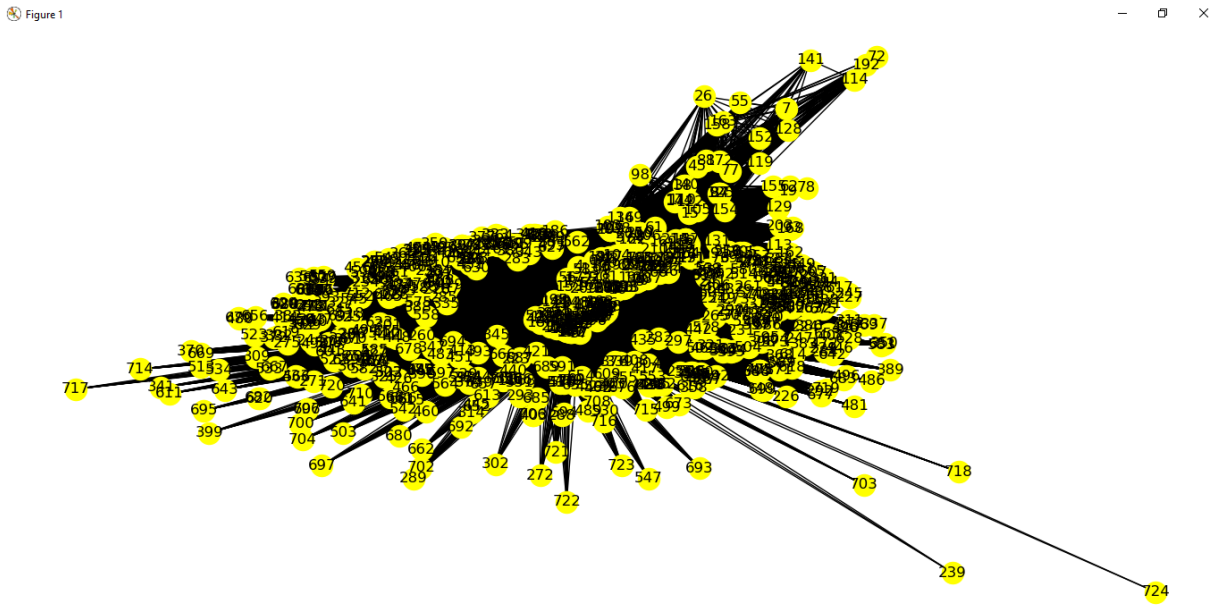
Test case 3:: Test the Web Crawler Program for a small website again by running at a different time http://amitakashikar.blogspot.com and view the results. Check that the webpages should not be downloaded again if the content has not changed.



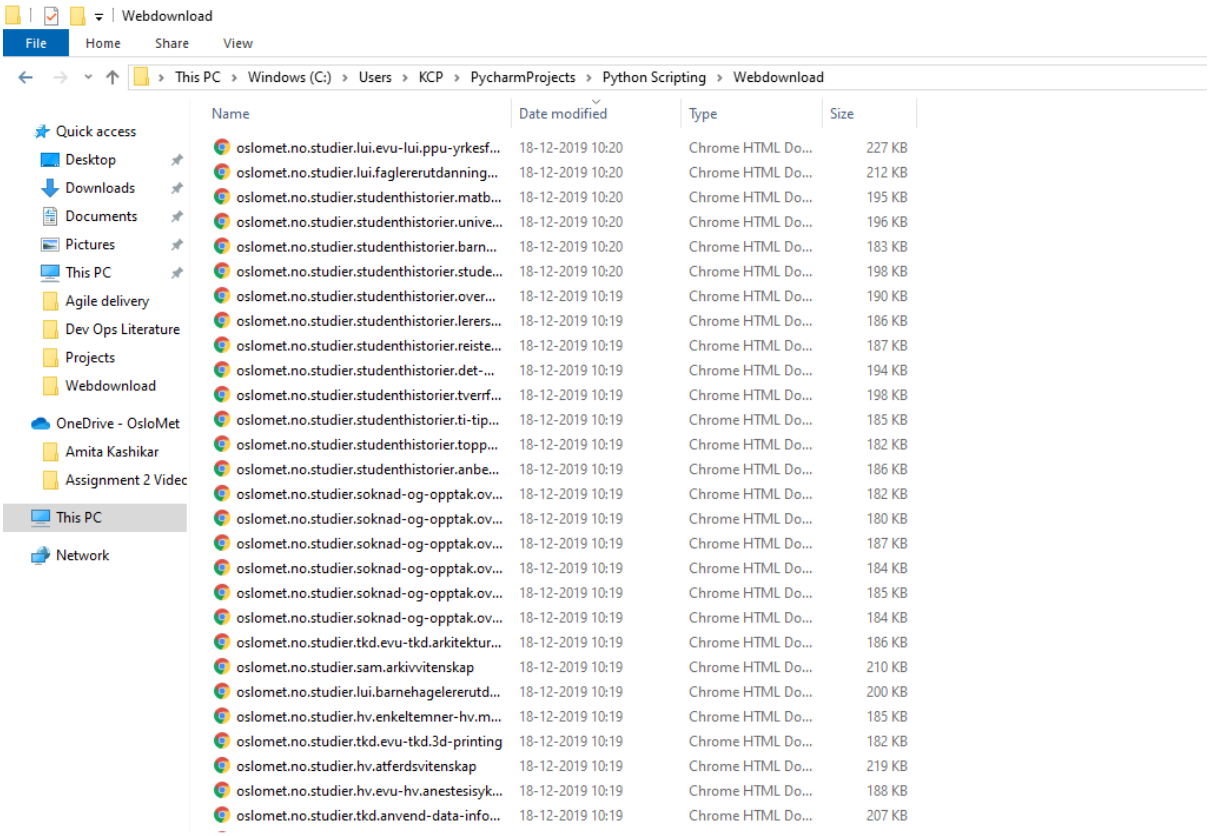


Test Case 4: Execute the Web Crawler Program with the website link http://www.oslomet.no/alumni limiting the number of iterations as the website is too huge to crawl.

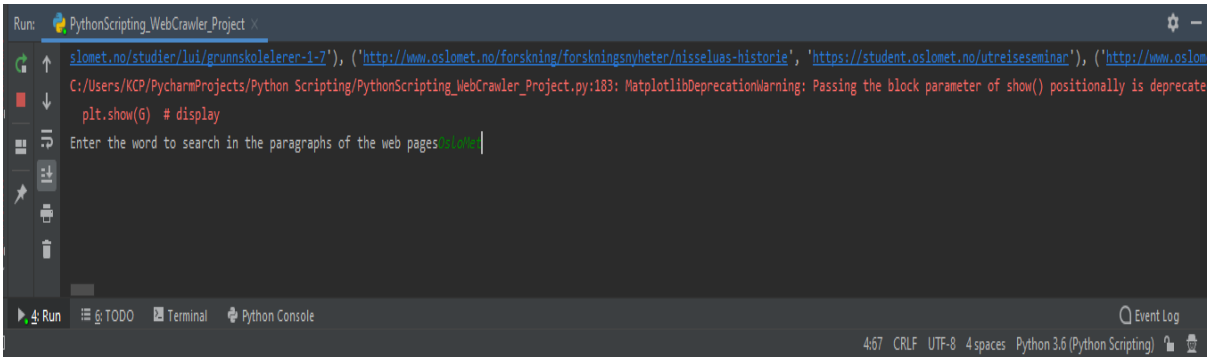
Network Graph of the web crawler for http://www.oslomet.no/alumni



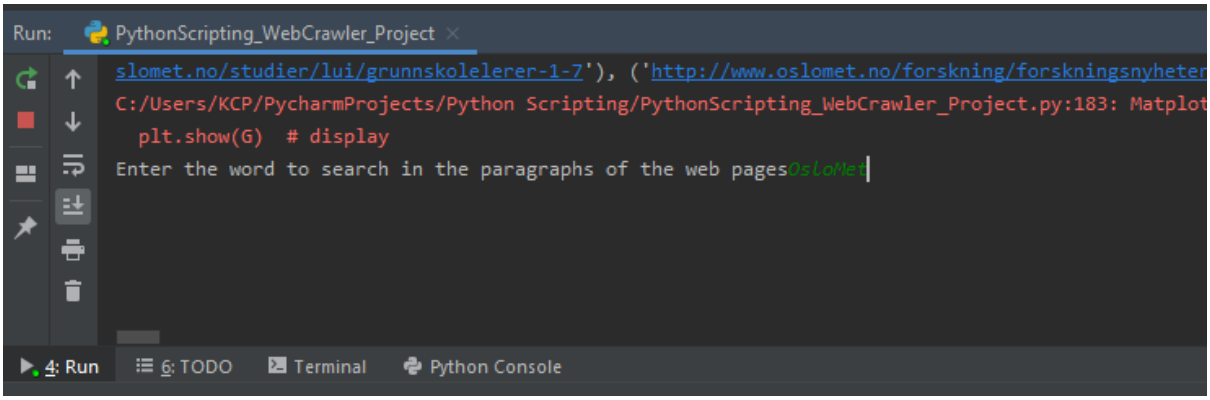
The contents are downloaded in the directory folder as below



Close the Fig in the program, and the program prompts to input a word to search.



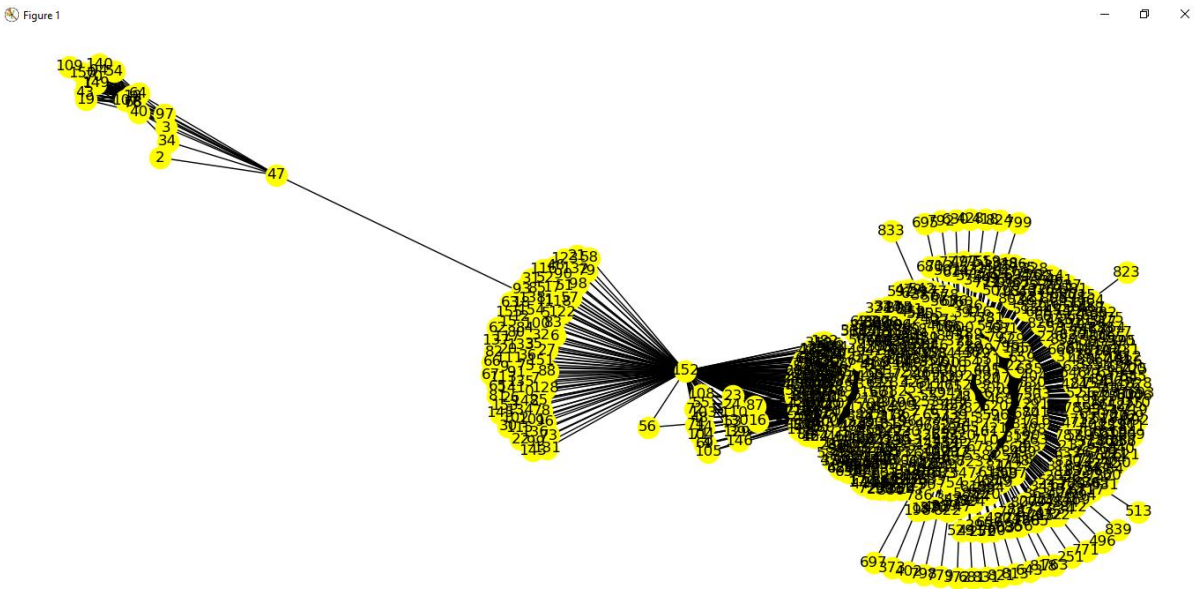
Enter OsloMet



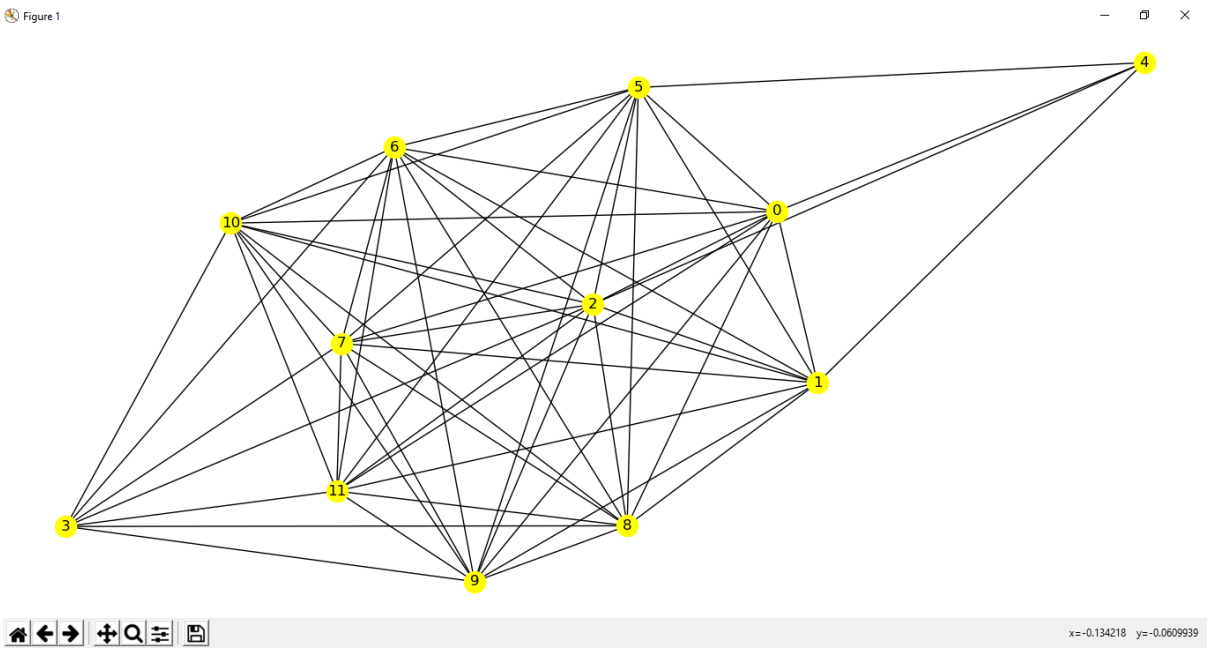
Displays the count of words and ping latency results.

Test Case 5:

For the website http://www.ebs-consulting/no, the Web Crawler program was executed before excluding the domains other than the original website link, and the network graph that was obtained was as below.



After the logic of excluding the domains outside the original website domain, a below network graph was obtained.



The Web Crawler Program is implemented successfully with all the functionalities in the Project description achieved.

References:

[1] ScienceDaily.com

[2] https://www.capitoltechsolutions.com/portfolio/website-scraping-script-optimizes-data-integration-saves-time-and-money/s