Report

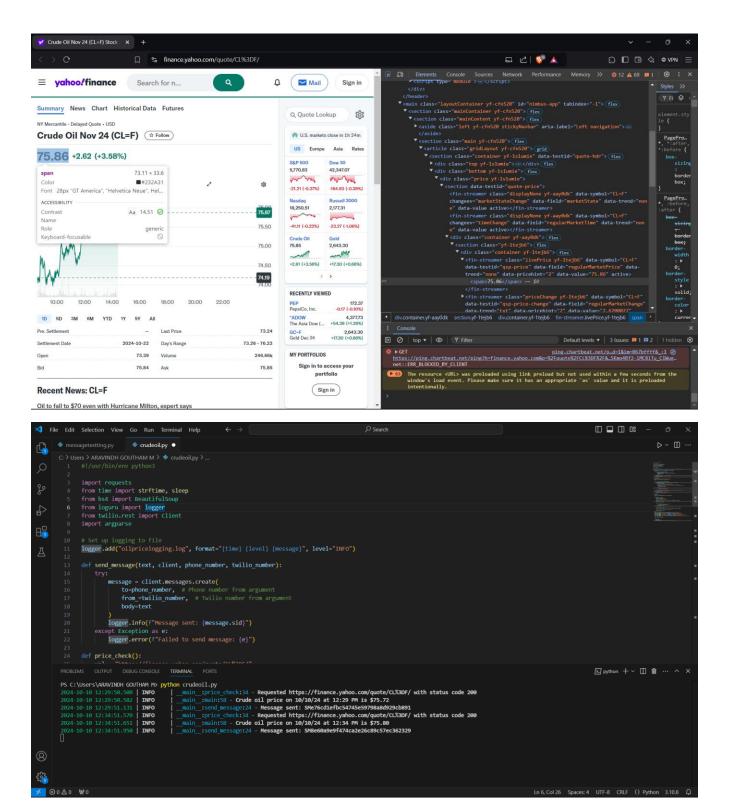
Scraping crude oil price and Alert System

For this project, I developed a Python bot to monitor crude oil prices using web scraping techniques. The website I chose to scrape data from is Yahoo Finance, specifically the crude oil page at https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/CL%3DF/. This site offers real-time updates on crude oil prices, which makes it suitable for sending alerts when significant price changes occur. The project utilizes Requests for making HTTP requests, Beautiful Soup for parsing the HTML content of the page, and Twilio for sending SMS alerts.

Bot Workflow and Key Functions

- 1. <u>Price Scraping:</u> The bot retrieves the current crude oil price by making an HTTP request using the requests.get() function. The response is processed with Beautiful Soup to extract the price from a specific HTML element, identified by a unique attribute such as data-field.
- 2. <u>Logging Activity:</u> Each scrape event is logged, capturing both the request status and the price extracted. This log, maintained using a logging library, ensures comprehensive records of all operations for future reference.
- 3. <u>Sending SMS Alerts:</u> Twilio's API is employed to send SMS alerts with the crude oil price to a designated phone number. The user can supply their Twilio credentials (account_sid and auth_token) and the recipient's phone number through command-line inputs.
- 4. <u>File Recording:</u> Along with real-time alerts, the bot saves each scraped price to a text file (oilprices.txt), providing an ongoing record of price checks for offline analysis.
- 5. <u>Error Handling:</u> To avoid crashes during network failures or scraping issues, the bot implements error handling mechanisms. This ensures that any problems are captured in the logs and the program continues running smoothly.

To avoid overloading the website and ensure compliance with Yahoo Finance's terms, I added a sleep interval between requests. This ensures the bot checks the site no more than once every five minutes by default.



The bot sends an SMS alert to the phone number every 5 minutes, as seen in the screenshot. Each alert includes the crude oil price at the time of scraping along with the timestamp. For example, the messages show crude oil prices at 09:06 PM, 09:10 PM, 09:15 PM, and so on. The price is fetched using the price check() function and sent via the Twilio API.

The initial messages indicate errors such as "\$error, request failed" and "\$Price not found," highlighting issues when the data couldn't be retrieved. These errors are handled by logging and notifying the user. However, once the price is successfully fetched, subsequent messages display prices like \$75.79, \$75.88, etc., confirming that the bot is functioning properly and sending alerts as expected.

