

```
./twitter.sh tweet "I am reading Packt Shell Scripting Cookbook"
Tweeted :)
./twitter.sh read | head -2
I am reading Packt Shell Scripting Cookbook
- by Shantanu Tushar Jha
```

How it works...

First of all, we use the `source` command to include the `TwitterOAuth.sh` library, so we can use its functions to easily access Twitter. We are required to call the `TO_init` function, so the library can initialize itself.

Now, every app needs to get an OAuth token and token secret the first time a user uses it. We check if we have already got these; if not, we use the library function `TO_access_token_helper`, which will let us get these. Once we have these, we save these to a `config` file, so we can simply source it the next time the script is run.

To read the tweets, we use the library function `TO_statuses_home_timeline`, which fetches the tweets from Twitter, and sets the XML into a variable `TO_ret`. We then use `sed` to put a newline for each tag, filter out only the `<text>` and `<name>` tags, and then finally remove the tags and replace with user-friendly text.

To post a new tweet, we use the library function `TO_statuses_update`, to which we pass an empty first parameter, which tells it to use the default format, and then we pass the message as a part of the second parameter.

See also

- ▶ The *Basic sed primer* recipe in this chapter explains the `sed` command
- ▶ The *Searching and mining text inside a file with grep* recipe in this chapter explains the `grep` command

Creating a "define" utility by using the Web backend

There are a lot of dictionaries on the Web that offer APIs that can be used to get a machine-readable definition of words. Let us use one of the APIs and see how to write a `define` script.

Getting ready

We are going to use `curl`, `sed`, and `grep` to write the `define` utility. There are a lot of dictionary websites, where you can register and use their APIs for personal use for free. In this example, we are using Merriam-Webster's dictionary API. Please perform the following steps:

1. Go to <http://www.dictionaryapi.com/register/index.htm>, and register an account for yourself. Select **Collegiate Dictionary** and **Learner's Dictionary**:

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying `www.dictionaryapi.com/register/index.htm`. The page title is "Merriam-Webster Developer Center - Mozilla Firefox". The page content includes the Merriam-Webster logo, a "BETA" badge, and the heading "Developer Center". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "Home", "Products", "Branding Guidelines", and "Frequently Asked Questions". The main content area is divided into two sections: "Sign In" and "Register". The "Sign In" section has a "Welcome! Please Register or Sign In below." message, fields for "Email:" and "Password:", and a "Sign In" button. The "Register" section has a heading "Developer API Account Registration" and a welcome message: "Welcome to Merriam-Webster's Developer Center! If this is your first time here the form below. All fields are required. After you submit your registration, a verification e-mail will be sent to you. Please follow the instructions in that e-mail to complete your registration and". Below this is a registration form with fields for "First Name:", "Last Name:", "E-mail:", and "Confirm E-mail:". A note next to the "E-mail:" field states: "This will be your login, and e-mail will be sent to this address".