

RT2WIN!

How 50 lines of Python made me the luckiest guy on Twitter

“No purchase necessary, enter as often as you want. So I am.”



Introduction

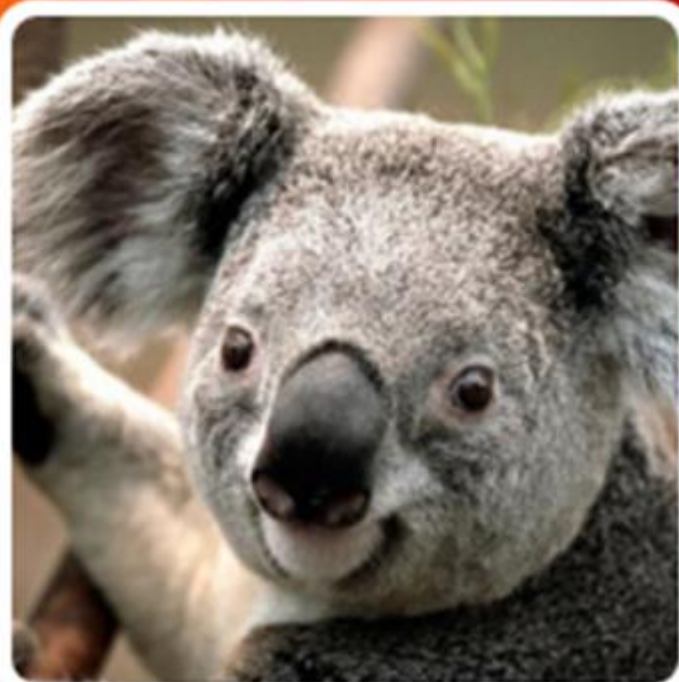
- I'm Hunter
- Electrical & Computer Engineer
- Working in Silicon Valley
- Currently disrupting social local mobile big data analytics with cloud based MapReduce deployments on Docker with Rust

Origin

- “Hey, there’s a ton of contests on Twitter. All you have to do to enter them is retweet them...”

```
~$ vim rt2win.py
```





HS

@ [redacted]

I'm up all night to get lucky

📍 Here

 Tweet to HS

“How hard could it possibly be?”

- Step 1: Look for contests, retweet them
- Step 2: Profit
- Started with simple search terms at first
 - “rt2win”, “rt to win”, “rt 2 win”, “retweet to win”, etc
- Used the Twitter API
- Rate limit = ☹️
- So, retweet slower, add random delays

[Home](#) [Moments](#)

Search Twitter

Have an account? Log in

Advanced Search

Words

All of these words

This exact phrase

Any of these words

None of these words

These hashtags

Written in

Any Language

People

From these accounts

To these accounts

Mentioning these accounts

Places

Near this place

Dates

From this date

to

Other

Select

☐ Positive :) ☐ Negative :(☐ Question ? ☐ Include retweets

Search

+



Beautiful Soup

- 9 Jan 2015

RT2WIN your very own set of @ products! Ends at 21.30 - **must be following** both accounts... good luck!

Overview Description Gig Extras Reviews

🔖 Favorite

70

I will provide 500 Real Twitter Followers within 24 Hours for \$5

★★★★★ (132) 7 Orders in Queue

Digital Marketing / Social Media Marketing

🕒 1 Days On Average

Order Now (\$5)



Basic Gig Quantity

1 (\$5)



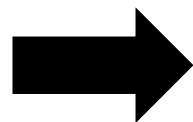
```
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Alreadying following [REDACTED]
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Now following [REDACTED]
Unfollowed [REDACTED]
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
*****
Current cycle now 15% complete.
*****
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Alreadying following [REDACTED]
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Alreadying following [REDACTED]
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Already tweeted this, skipping.
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Retweeting [REDACTED]
Now following [REDACTED]
Unfollowed [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
```

Better solution

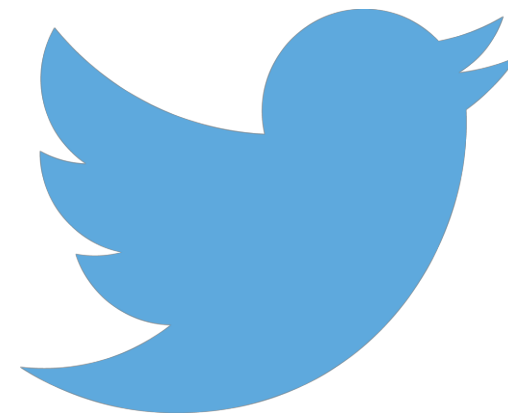
- Turn the follow queue into a FIFO
- Unfollow the 1st account when I follow the 2000th account
- The amount of time it takes to enter 2000 contests that require following is enough that the 1st contest is almost certainly over by then
- Side effect: I get more real followers because people follow back as a courtesy.
- My bot actually looks more legit now



twilio



Google
Voice



Interesting interactions

Forgot to change my name on one of my accounts that won the same contest as another one...



Yes, I won this.

██████████ · Jun 4

RT for a chance to win these tupaware LIDS that have been warped in the dishwasher. Must be following.



← ↻ 10 ★ 15 ...

[View more photos and videos](#)

Bots vs Bots

  · 6m

My best RTs this week came from: @ @ @
@ @ #thankSAll via sumall.com/thankyou

[Expand](#)

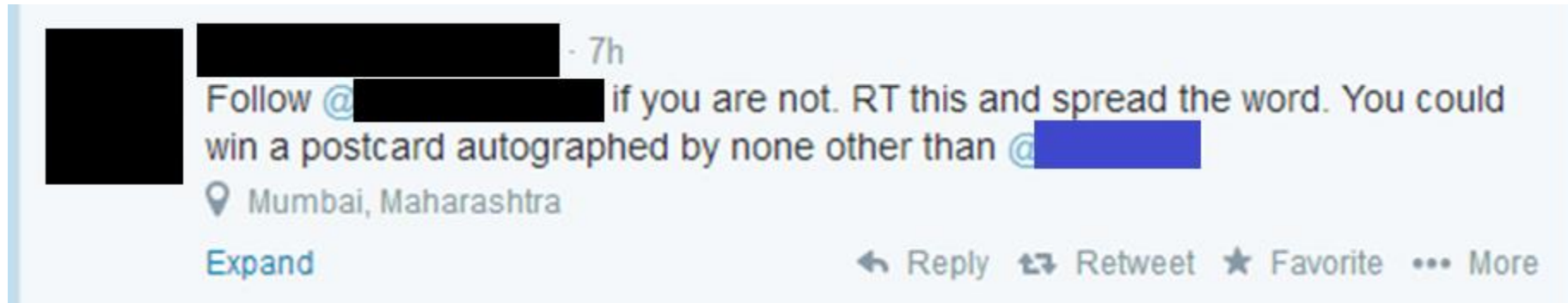
 Reply  Retweet  Favorite 



hrey bb fanks 4 teh folw, iv u have sweg subskrieb 2 mi on
uteub 4 anemashuns: youtube.com/channel/UC0hR7... -via
[@justunfollow](#)

11h

Someone offering a postcard signed by ME as a prize...



Sometimes my bot was accidentally a jerk 😞





[REDACTED] · 14h

Also, I don't want to make this a big deal, but I'm one follower short of 500. That lucky person will win absolutely nothing.



1



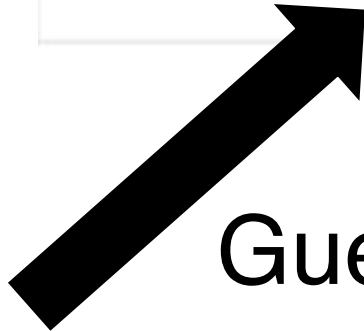


[REDACTED] · 14h

Also, I don't want to make this a big deal, but I'm one follower short of 500. That lucky person will win absolutely nothing.



1



Guess who?

Another false positive



Another false positive



The Haul



The full list:

hscott.net/winnings.txt

Doing good



[Redacted name]

- 5h

@ [Redacted handle] Thank you so much for #RT u + mum were the only 2 who did. I raised just over £1500 4 Great Ormond Street. Sun is shining on you.x.

But even this backfired...



[Redacted] · 19h

For every 1 **RT I will donate** \$1 in hope of curing Tyler's disease that makes him super ugly.



5

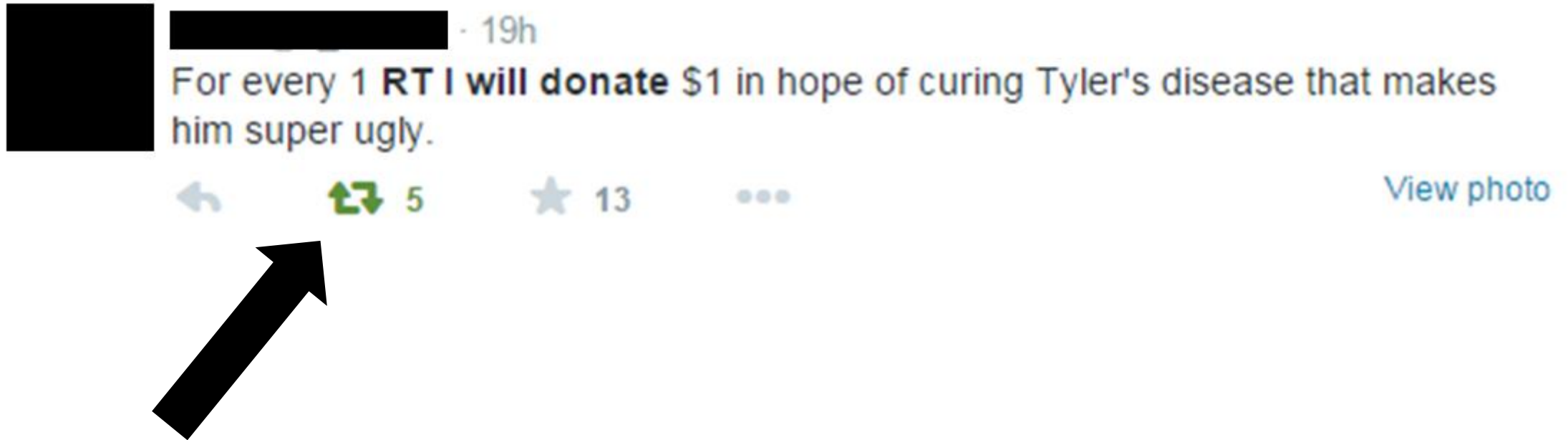


13



[View photo](#)

But even this backfired...

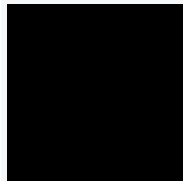


People ask you for weird stuff



[Redacted] · 14h

@ [Redacted] I'm making a YouTube video to ask Luke on a date but I need more RTs on this link, please RT ❤️ [twitter.com/\[Redacted\]](#) ...



1m

Can u make it to my party? I would love for u to go. When: Sunday, April 27th Time: 7am Pst Where: Snow forts, sleet@ me for more details

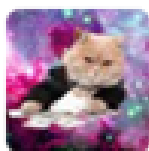


[Redacted] · 6m

Drop everything now and follow >>> @ [Redacted] <<< Ask for a follow back :))

Expand

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More



[REDACTED] · 23h

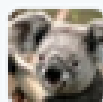
@ [REDACTED] Are you simply stupid, or are you possessed by a retarded ghost?
#skid #derp

12:17 PM - 25 Sep 2014 · Details

Collapse

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

Reply to @ [REDACTED]



HS @ [REDACTED] · 12s

@ [REDACTED] the second one.

Expand

↩ Reply ★ Favorite ⋮ More

Stats

- 165,000 contests entered
- On average, 4 wins per day, every day

Stats

- 165,000 contests entered
- On average, 4 wins per day, every day, for 9 months straight

Stats

- 165,000 contests entered
- On average, 4 wins per day, every day, for 9 months straight
- Most valuable prize: \$4000 trip to Fashion Week in NYC

Yes, I paid the taxes.

Other attempts

- Before I did this, there were at most a few people auto-entering twitter contests
- Couldn't find any obvious examples
- Did see some manual examples
- Now a lot of people do it
 - Or at least, they try

Often imitated, never duplicated


We've found 20 repository results

Sort: Best match ▾

[kurozael/twitter-contest-bot](#)

Python ★ 128 📄 64


Will poll for Retweet **Contests** and retweet them. Inspired by <http://www.hscott.net/twitter-contest-winning-as-a-service/>
Updated 5 days ago



[raulrene/Twitter-ContestJS-bot](#)

JavaScript ★ 22 📄 13

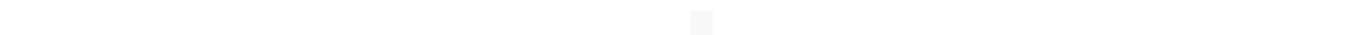
A Javascript **bot** that searches recent tweets about **contests** (based on retweeting) and retweets them (+ favorites and follows if necessary). Inspired by <http://www.hscott.net/twitter-contest-winning-as-a-service/>
Updated 6 days ago



[mbarlock/twitter-contest-bot](#)

JavaScript ★ 4 📄 1

Bot to enter **twitter** **contests** via retweets
Updated on Feb 8



How to keep me from winning

- Take two seconds and read the feed of the winner
 - It will usually be pretty obvious.
 - I made no attempt at stealth and still won. Some people do attempt stealth and are much harder to catch
- Make it hard to programmatically enter
 - Add something that requires natural language processing
- Consider running the contest on Facebook
 - Much harder to make a fake but convincing profile
 - Tied to real identity
- Accept that people always try to game contests