Four-day workshop Automated Content Analysis with Python Day 4

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Today

• We put on our magic cap, pretend we are Firefox, scrape all comments from GeenStijl, clean up the mess, and put the comments in a neat CSV table

- **2** OK, but this surely can be doe more elegantly? Yes!
- 3 Next steps

We put on our magic cap, pretend we are Firefox, scrape all comments from GeenStijl, clean up the mess, and put the comments in a neat CSV table



REAGUURSELS

Tsja, ik zou m ook niet in mn buurt willen hebben, die vreemde vogel.

Lepo | 05-05-14 | 11:13

Ţ

Volgend jaar stropdascontrole voor de heren en hoedjescheck voor de dames. De volledige lijst van goedgekeurde kleding kunt u vinden op Postbus51.nl.

Uiteraard bent u extra welkom als u Abercrombie & Fitch draagt.

rara | 05-05-14 | 11:15

Ţ.

Gewoon even de afdeling psychiatrie bellen, wie ze missen: Klaar!

Mazzeltov | 05-05-14 | 11:16

Ţ.

netjes opgelost toch?

--sql error-- | 05-05-14 | 11:16

```
rond de Duitse arens. In dat aeval moet u niet bellen met 0900-8844, maar het heerschap vriendelijk
       rechtmatiae eigenaar te vinden. Hierbij willen we u noamaals wijzen op het feit dat deze man een to
       heeft. En u weet hoe mensen met tatoeages kunnen zijn. Dank voor uw aandacht. GeenStijl RegioNieuws
                     <footer>Van Rossem | <time pubdate datetime="2014-05-05T14:14">05-05-14 | 14:14</time>
       href="http://www.geenstijl.nl/mt/archieven/2014/05/das_toch_niet_normaal.html">Link</a> | <a href="http://www.geenstijl.nl/mt/archieven/2014/05/das_toch_niet_normaal.html">Link</a> | <a href="http://www.geenstijl.nl/mt/archieven/2014/05/das_toch_niet_normaal.html">Link</a>
       href="http://www.geenstijl.nl/mt/archieven/2014/05/das_toch_niet_normaal.html#comments" class="comm
                </article>
73 -
       <!-- google_ad_section_end -->
76 ▼
                <section id="comments">
                     <header>
77 ▼
                          <h2>Reaguursels</h2>
79 -
                     </header>
                     <div class="commentlist">
81 ▼
                          <article id="c192607851">
82 ▼
                              Kijk volgende week eens in Irak.
                              <footer>Mammeloe | 05-05-14 | 14:16 </footer>
                          </article>
                          <article id="c192607941">
86 ▼
                              Tattooboer, kom dr maar in.
                              <footer>ReaseHippy | 05-05-14 | 14:16 </footer>
                          </article>
                          <article id="c192607951">
90 ▼
                              Door de afkomst is Bennie Jolink dus al uitgesloten.
```

70...

71

72

74

75

78

80

83

84

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87 88

89

91

Let's make a plan!

Which elements from the page do we need?

- What do they mean?
- How are they represented in the source code?

How should our output look like?

- What *lists* do we want?
- ...

And how can we achieve this?



Download the page

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- Within the comment section, identify each comment (<article>)

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- Within the comment section, identify each comment (<article>)
- Within each comment, seperate the text () from the metadata <footer>)

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And how can we achieve this?



```
from urllib import request
   import re
   import csv
3
4
   onlycommentslist=[]
5
   metalist=[]
6
7
   req = request.Request("http://www.geenstijl.nl/mt/archieven/2014/05/
8
        das_toch_niet_normaal.html", headers={"User-Agent" : "Mozilla
        /5.0"})
   tekst=request.urlopen(req).read()
   tekst=tekst.decode(encoding="utf-8",errors="ignore").replace("\n"," ").
10
        replace("\t"." ")
11
12
   commentsection=re.findall(r'<div class="commentlist">.*?</div>'.tekst)
   print (commentsection)
13
   comments=re.findall(r'<article.*?>(.*?)</article>',commentsection[0])
14
   print (comments)
15
   print ("There are",len(comments), "comments")
16
   for co in comments:
17
       metalist.append(re.findall(r'<footer>(.*?)</footer>',co))
18
       onlycommentslist.append(re.findall(r'(.*?)',co))
19
   writer=csv.writer(open("geenstijlcomments.csv",mode="w",encoding="utf
20
        -8"))
   output=zip(onlycommentslist,metalist)
21
   writer.writerows(output)
22
```

8

['Kijk volgende week eens in Irak.']	['Mammeloe 05-05-14 14:16 ']
['Tattooboer, kom dr maar in.']	['RegseHippy 05-05-14 14:16 ']
['Door de afkomst is Bennie Jolink dus al uitgesloten.']	['Ing. eslapen 05-05-14 14:16 ']
['He psstt, meisje - motor kopen?']	['Snackbar van Allah 05-05-14 14:17 ']
[""Daarnaast is de vermoedelijk van Marokkaanse afkomst." Is dit reeds de gekuiste versie, we mogen Marokkanen ook al geen dader meer noemen?']	['Causa Sui 05- 05-14 14:17 ']
['Vast drie puntjes tussen duim en wijsvinger.']	['Mark Smith 05-05-14 14:17 ']
['3 stippen op de rechterhand, in de buurt van de duim? ']	['Harreeee 05- 05-14 14:17 ']
['De dader reed zomaar weg met de machine. Ja dat is dan ook de bedoeling van een proefrit.']	['Graaf van Egmont 05-05- 14 14:18 ']
['Wat een kneus. Een jappenchopper die \x802500 of minder waard is stelen.']	['eelendsknook 05-05-14 14:18 ']
['Dacht dat er in de Achterhoek niet zoveel Marokkanen zaten maar die paar die er zitten weten het ook al te verkloten. Hulde wat een prachtvolk.']	['drekzooi 05- 05-14 14:19 ']
['Okk Aalten is niet veilig meer qua cultuurverrijking']	['Space2012 05- 05-14 14:20 ']
['Ik wist niet dat Marokkanen van ezel en geit al waren overgestapt op motorfietsen. Gaat dat niet veel te snel voor ze? Een fin op een motorfiets, moet niet gekker worden. Nog even en je ziet ze nog eens in politieuniform']	['FrankVeer 05- 05-14 14:20 ']
['Ook dus']	['Space2012 05- 05-14 14:20 ']

<□▶ <□▶ <½▶ <½▶ ½ 9°<°

Some remarks

The regexp

.*? instead of .* means lazy matching. As .* matches
everything, the part where the regexp should stop would not
be analyzed (greedy matching) – we would get the whole rest
of the document (or the line, but we removed all line breaks).

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Optimization

- Only save the 0th (and only) element of the list
- Seperate the username and interpret date and time

Further reading

Doing this with other sites?

- It's basically puzzling with regular expressions.
- Look at the source code of the website to see how well-structured it is.

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Geenstijl-example

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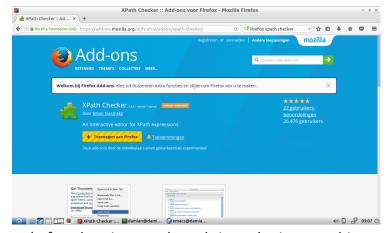
- Worked well (and we could do it with the knowledge we already had)
- But we can also use existing parsers (that can interpret the structure of the html page)
- especially when the structure of the site is more complex

The following example is based on http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/best-of-chicago-2011-food-drink/BestOf?oid=4106228. It uses the module 1xml

What do we need?

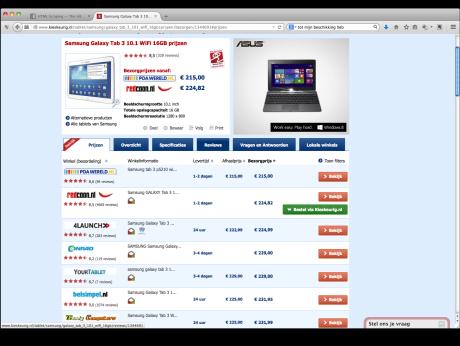
- the URL (of course)
- the XPATH of the element we want to scrape (you'll see in a minute what this is)

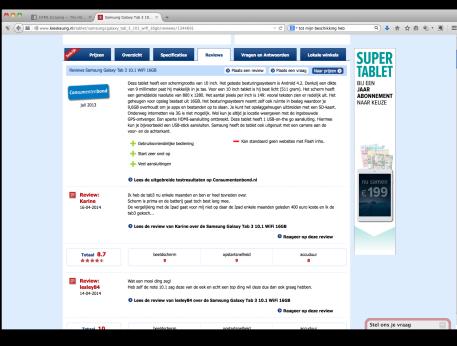
Let's install a useful add-on: the Firefox XPath Checker

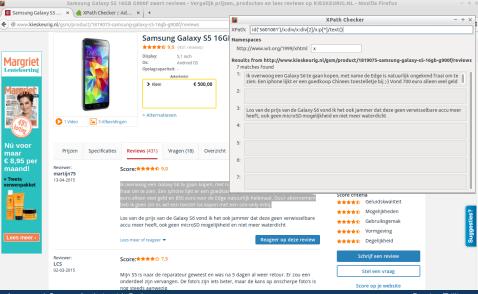


... and after that, inspect the website we're interested in:











Some things to play around with:

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 - *[@id="reviews-container"] would grap a tag like <div id=reviews-container" class="'user-content'

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- Let the XPATH end with /text() to get all text
- Have a look at the source code of the web page to think of other possible XPATHs!



The XPATH

You get something like

```
//*[@id="tabbedReviewsDiv"]/dl[1]/dd
//*[@id="tabbedReviewsDiv"]/dl[2]/dd
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We can infer that we (probably) get all comments with

```
//*[@id="tabbedReviewsDiv"]/dl[*]/dd/text()
```

Let's scrape them!

```
from lxml import html
    from urllib import request
3
    req=request.Request("http://www.kieskeurig.nl/smartphone/product
        /2334455-apple-iphone-6/reviews")
    tree =
6
    html.fromstring(request.urlopen(req).read().decode(encoding="utf-8",
        errors="ignore"))
    reviews = tree.xpath('//*[@class="reviews-single__text"]/text()')
9
    # remove empty reviews and remove leading/trailing whitespace
10
    reviews = [r.strip() for r in reviews if r.strip()!=""]
11
12
13
    print (len(reviews), "reviews scraped. Showing the first 60 characters of
         each:")
    i=0
14
    for review in reviews:
15
       print("Review",i,":",review[:60])
16
       i+=1
17
```

The output – perfect!

```
1 63 reviews scraped. Showing the first 60 characters of each:
2 Review 0: Apple maakt mooie toestellen met hard- en software uitsteken
3 Review 1: Vanaf de iPhone 4 ben ik erg te spreken over de intuitieve i
4 Review 2: Helaas ontbreekt het Apple toestellen aan een noodzakelijk i
5 Review 3: Met een enorme mate van pech hebben wij als (beschaafd!!) ge
```

Recap

General idea

- Identify each element by its XPATH (look it up in your browser)
- Read the webpage into a (looooong) string
- Use the XPATH to extract the relevant text into a list (with a module like lxml)
- 4 Do something with the list (preprocess, analyze, save)

Alternatives: scrapy, beautifulsoup, regular expressions, ...

Last remarks

There is often more than one way to specify an XPATH

- You can usually leave away the namespace (the x:)
- Sometimes, you might want to use a different suggestion to be able to generalize better (e.g., using the attributes rather than the tags)
- In that case, it makes sense to look deeper into the structure of the HTML code, for example with "Inspect Element" and use that information to play around with in the XPATH Checker

