

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

CS 432 WEB SCIENCE

Assignment One

Derek Goddeau

Professor

Michael L. Nelson

January 22, 2017

1 POST to a from with curl

In order to submit POST data to a form using curl first it must be ensured that the form accepts POST data. This can be done by viewing the page source and verifying that the form tag has method="post" as in the nostarch.com search bar form tag shown somewhat abridged below.

```
<form action="/" method="post" id="search-theme-form">
<input name="search_theme_form" value="" class="form-text"/>
<input name="op" value="Search" class="form-submit"/>
<input type="hidden" name="form_build_id" value="form-6Skwd"/>
<input type="hidden" name="form_id" value="search_theme_form"/>
</form>
```

In order to craft the curl command the -d flag can be used along with the "name=value" pattern for each input to the form where name is copied from each input tag and value is changed in the fields where the default values are not desired.

The command curl_post.sh car will return a page with the search results for "car" on nostarch.com. Inspecting the output results.html the HTTP/1.1 200 OK after a single redirect and lack of a 405 Method not allowed error means the request was successful.

DEREK GODDEAU (DATENSTROM)
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY





DEREK GODDEAU (DATENSTROM)
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY



2 A Python program that finds PDFs

The Common House Spider can take any number of URIs as input optionaly from a specified file with the -f flag. When searching multiple URIs in parallel it may be useful to use the -t flag to run it with multiple threads. It outputs all PDF files on the page and their size.

