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How to use Facebook Graph API and extract data using Python!

Hi all,

This is my second story on Medium.com. I have moved on from struggling to code to being a bit comfortable since the first story. I wrote a Python code to extract publicly available data on Facebook. Let's dive into it.

Getting the Access Token:

To be able to extract data from Facebook using a python code you need to register as a developer on Facebook and then have an access token. Here are the steps for it.

1. Go to link developers.facebook.com, create an account there.

2. Go to link developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer.

3. Go to "My apps" drop down in the top right corner and select "add a new app". Choose a display name and a category and then "Create App ID".

4. Again get back to the same link developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer. You will see "Graph API Explorer" below "My Apps" in the top right corner. From "Graph API Explorer" drop down, select your app.

5. Then, select "Get Token". From this drop down, select "Get User Access Token". Select permissions from the menu that appears and then select "Get Access Token."

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Python Code to Access Facebook Public Data:

Go to link https://developers.facebook.com/docs/graph-api if want to collect data on anything that is available publicly. See https://developers.facebook.com/docs/graph-api/reference/v2.7/. From this documentation, choose any field you want from which you want to extract data such as "groups" or "pages" etc. Go to examples of codes after having selected these and then select "facebook graph api" and you will get hints on how to extract information. This blog is primarily on getting events data.

First of all, import 'urllib3', 'facebook', 'requests' if they are already available. If not, download these libraries. Define a variable token and set its value to what you got above as "User Access Token".

```
token= 'aiufniqaefncqiuhfencioaeusKJBNfljabicnlkjshniuwnscslkjjndfi'
```

Getting list of Events:

Now to find information on events for any search term say "Poetry" and limiting those events' number to 10000:

```
graph = facebook.GraphAPI(access_token=token, version = 2.7)
events = graph.request('/search?q=Poetry&type=event&limit=10000')
```

This will give a dictionary of all the events that have been created on Facebook and has string "Poetry" in its name. To get the list of events, do:

```
eventList = events['data']
```

Extracting all information for a event from the list of events extracted above:

```
eventid = eventList[1]['id']
```

For this EventID, get all information and set few variables which will be used later by:

```
event1 = graph.get_object(id=eventid,

fields='attending_count,can_guests_invite,category,cover,declined_coun
t,description,end_time,guest_list_enabled,interested_count,is_canceled
,is_page_owned,is_viewer_admin,maybe_count,noreply_count,owner,parent_
group,place,ticket_uri,timezone,type,updated_time')
attenderscount = event1['attending_count']
declinerscount = event1['declined_count']
interestedcount = event1['interested_count']
maybecount = event1['maybe_count']
noreplycount = event1['noreply_count']
```

Getting the list of all those who are attending an event and converting the response into json format:

```
attenders =
requests.get("https://graph.facebook.com/v2.7/"+eventid+"/attending?
access_token="+token+"&limit="+str(attenderscount))

attenders_json = attenders.json()
```

Getting the admins of the event:

```
admins =
requests.get("https://graph.facebook.com/v2.7/"+eventid+"/admins?
access_token="+token)

admins_json = admins.json()
```

Go to https://developers.facebook.com/docs/graph-api/reference/event/ and see "Edges" part in the documentation. See image
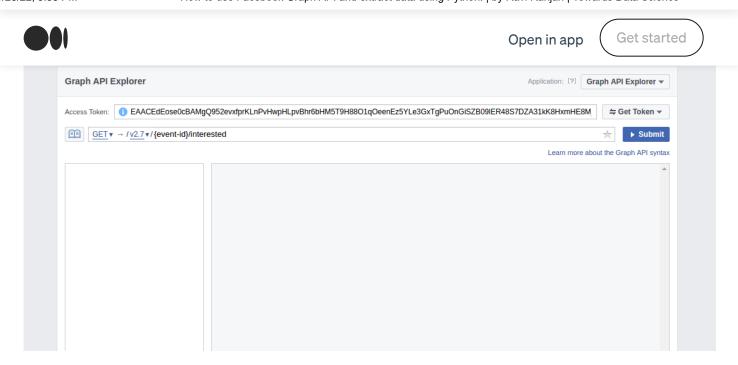

Now, let's say, you want to have a list of all those who are interested in the event, click on 'interested' green word here. This will open up a new page:
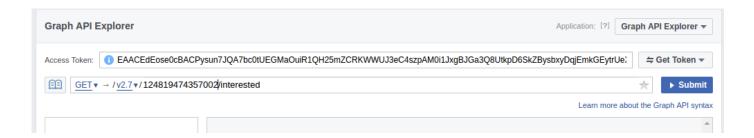
Here, in place of {event-id}, put the id of the event, like this:

Hit submit. Also, on the same page, you will find below 'get code' option

Select it to see the code. Select 'curl' in the pop up that appears and then get the same output in the python code, write it with requests.get as it has been shown in above examples.

Hope this helps those who are beginning to work with facebook graph API. I will be happy to hear your suggestions/questions/feedback.

Destination Tag: 5973413

Wallet Address: rLdinLq5CJood9wdjY9ZCdgycK8KGevkUj

There are too many ifs in the above statement. Send only if all the three are true! Cryptocurrencies FTW!

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