

Automatic Actions on Weibo

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1 INTRODUCTION

The automatic actions(login, follow, thumbs up, comment) on WeiBo is a popular topic. In this task, I will analyze this procedure and then implement these functionalities by the help with Selenium, which is a tool can simulate users' actions, which are mentioned above.

2 Procedure

1. Run Google Driver, the first http request is <https://passport.weibo.cn/signin/login>
2. There are two ways to login, one is using weibo's account, the other one is using QQ account.
 1. For using weibo's account: In the login page, locate the account and password blanks by the help with the function `find_element()`, then fill them and click login.
 2. For using QQ account: In the login page, click "第三方账号", then click "QQ 账号登陆", then click "账号密码登录" and last input QQ account and password.
3. Verification
 1. If use weibo's account, then after input account and password, it will pop up the machine verification, this step usually is clicking dot button and then selecting target Chinese words from one given picture.
 2. If use QQ account, we need to do slip verification. My method is first observing the final destination for several times, select the longest destination as my initial moving distance, then each time multiply the moving distance by 0.93 until passing the verification.
4. Now reach to the Weibo main page, now I use uid to navigate to other users' homepage.
5. After that, find the 'following' button in the user's homepage. If you have followed the current user, continue, if not, click 'following' and it will pop up 'grouping', then simply click 'confirm' button. For 'thumbs up' and making comment for one weibo, same logic as following one user: find the location of the corresponding button then click.

3 Problem and Resolving Method

During the implementation, I encountered much problem

1. Cannot pass the verification step if use Weibo's account to login

Resolve: Initially, when use Weibo's account to login, the verification step is clicking the dot. Everytime I click the dot and then I simply navigate to other user's homepage without confirming whether I successfully pass the verification step. But in fact, that step can automatically check whether the current operation is from machine or not, and I also ignore the situation that is sometimes the other verification mechanism is popped up: "selecting Chinese words from one picture".

Hence I use QQ account to login because the verification step of using QQ account is simpler.

2. I cannot locate the drag button in the QQ verification step

Resolve: First switch to its outer frame, then use the `find_element` method.

3. I want to locate some div whose name is compound name

Resolve: Use `find_element_by_css_selector` instead of `find_element_by_class_name`

4 Summary

1. Understand selenium, and its `find_element()` method, `ActionChain()` method.
2. Understand the procedure on analyzing the web.
3. Get some basic idea on verification mechanism.