

Introduction

This document describes an evaluation task for a Python developer.

Components and libraries

- The task should be implemented using version Python 2.7.3.
- Mechanize and BeautifulSoup are used to fetch website pages over HTTP and parsing the resulting HTML. It's possible to use other methods but these are the libraries we use the most.

Coding style

Code should be Pythonic and generally try to adhere to PEP 8 standards. Readability should have high priority and good comments are always appreciated.

Task A – Aggregate news headlines

Create a Python script that takes in as input:

- Username and password for an account at slashdot.org
- A timestamp Using Mechanize and BeautifulSoup the script should do the following:
- Log into <http://slashdot.org/> using the given credentials.
- If login fails it should be handled appropriately.
- Parse page and return a list of all headlines posted after the given timestamp. This might require the script having to navigate to older articles by following the Older link. The list should contain the article headline, poster name and time of posting.

Example output list format:

```
[
{
  "headline": "Embedded SIM Design Means No More Swapping Cards",
  "author": "timothy",
  "date": 1387454400
},
{
  "headline": "UN Votes To Protect Privacy In Digital Age",
  "author": "timothy",
```

```
"date": 1387442100
```

```
}
```

```
]
```

Task B – Find movie release dates

Create a Python script that takes in as input:

- Search string
- Using Mechanize and BeautifulSoup the script should do the following
- Perform a search for titles on imdb.com using the given search string.
- Loop through the first 10 search results fetching the linked page for each.
- Parse the release date from the page.
- Return a result list of titles and release dates.