

Train Ticket Machine

You are asked to write a small API to support the user interface of a train ticket machine.

You will not be creating any actual User Interface but instead, you should model the problem space and implement a search feature to help the user find train stations by name in order to buy a ticket.

These machines have a direct but unreliable connection to the central system and use a touchscreen display which works as follows.

As the user types each character of the station's name on the touchscreen, the display should:

1. Update to show all valid choices for the next character
2. List of possible matching stations.

The illustration below shows what is needed when 'D A R T' has been entered.

User input: D A R T _ _

A	B	C	D	E		DARTFORD
F	G	H	I	J		DARTON
K	L	M	N	O		
P	Q	R	S	T		
U	V	W	X	Y		
Z						

This URI simulates the central system response: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/abax-as/coding-challenge/master/station_codes.json

Requirements:

1. Typing a search string will return:
 - a. All stations that start with the search string.
 - b. All valid next characters for each matched station.
2. Space is a valid character when returning a list of next characters.
3. The service response will be used for the machine UI and for the routing and pricing purposes.

Operational requirements:

1. Runtime speed is very important, loading time is not.
2. Make no assumptions about the data source in real life.

Expected Scenarios:

- **Given** a list of stations 'DARTFORD', 'DARTON', 'TOWER HILL', 'DERBY'
 - **When** input 'DART'
 - **Then** should return:
 1. The characters of 'F', 'O'
 2. The stations 'DARTFORD', 'DARTON'.

- **Given** a list of stations 'LIVERPOOL', 'LIVERPOOL LIME STREET', 'PADDINGTON'
 - **When** input 'LIVERPOOL'
 - **Then** should return:
 1. The characters of ' '
 2. The stations 'LIVERPOOL', 'LIVERPOOL LIME STREET'

- **Given** a list of stations 'EUSTON', 'LONDON BRIDGE', 'VICTORIA'
 - **When** input 'KINGS CROSS'
 - **Then** should return:
 1. no next characters
 2. no stations

Evaluation Guidelines:

1. **Understanding and interpretation of the domain**
 - Context
 - Boundaries
 - Ubiquitous Language

2. **Delivery quality**
 - Complete solution meeting all requirements
 - No typographical errors

3. **Code readability**
 - Classes, functions, methods and fields naming
 - Consistent code formatting
 - Adequate documentation

4. **Code quality**
 - Coding against tests
 - Code coverage & complexity
 - Correct usage of data structures and techniques
 - Solution dependencies and their correct usage

5. **Solution quality**
 - Structure and organization
 - Separation of concerns

6. **Bonus Points**
 - Patterns & Practises
 - Production readiness
 - Choice of communications protocol
 - Docker