

Location Extraction Problem

From Our Website:

Aardvark engineers are careful implementors who are curious about how things work. They lean on large levers to get more done, faster, and enjoy applying new tools to the new opportunities afforded by today's web. They endeavor to solve real-world problems for real people (including the rest of the company), and aren't afraid to think big.

Instructions:

1. Write professional code to detect location terms from a given question string. A location term is a 'proper' location (e.g. 'Boston' is a location, but 'coffee shop' is not)
2. Submit source code and output in zip format with a brief, high-level description of your general approach.
3. Be prepared to discuss the run-time performance and accuracy of your implementation. (e.g. what are some interesting corner cases?)
4. Be prepared to suggest areas for improvement.

Input:

(sample questions)

- "Where can I find a basic, decent barber shop in midtown manhattan on the east side?"
- "What's the best route to take driving cross country from San Francisco to Boston this summer?"
- "i'm visiting sf next weekend for the first time, when's the best time to walk the golden gate bridge?"
- "i moved to ca from ny a few months ago. it is spring in nyc yet? there's a certain energy in nyc during the spring that i miss."
- "What's the best bar in this town?"
- (...create a few more of your own)

Output:

(a list of location terms for each sample question)

Suggestions:

- Identify a source of location terms and define your own storage and retrieval mechanism (if you are using a machine-local dataset, it can be a subset of entries from the original source)
- Use the programming language you're most comfortable with
- It's ok to use off-the-shelf technology that you are comfortable with, but avoid the use of large libraries/frameworks
- If you have a question, make an educated guess and state your assumption.