

Using the 'get_chat_history' Script/Executable

Summary of Function

The 'get_chat_history' application finds and retrieves the chat histories of users. The application requires an access token to find all current chats corresponding to the access token's owner. The user can then select a chat to retrieve its history. Chat histories are stored as HTML files that can be opened in a web browser. These HTML files are formatted by a CSS file created by the application.

Obtaining an Access Token

The application requires an access token in order to communicate with GroupMe's public API. If you are a user of GroupMe's messaging service, you can obtain your access token by logging in to <https://dev.groupme.com/> and clicking 'Access Token' at the top right of the page.

Running the Application

When you run the application, a window (**Figure 1**) appears. This window requests an access token from which corresponding chats can be found.

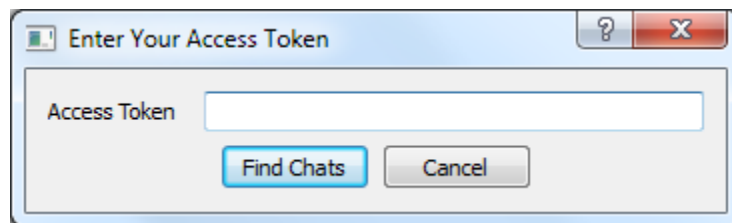


Figure 1

Once an access token is inputted and the 'Find Chats' button pressed, two lists of chats, as seen in **Figure 2**, are shown: 1) group chats and 2) direct message chats. The group chats in **Figure 2** are: Track, Biology, Siblings, etc. The direct message chats listed are: Mark, Elizabeth, John, etc. By default, the first chat in each group is selected. You can select any chat and press the appropriate 'Get....Chat History' button to start retrieving the chat history.

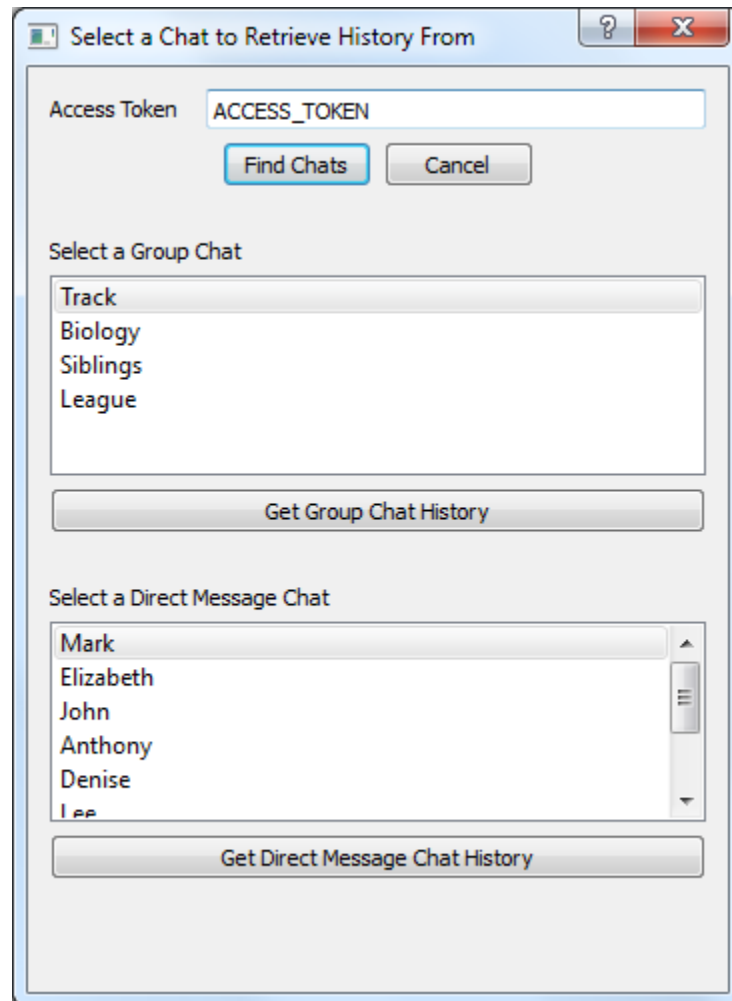


Figure 2

While retrieving the chat history, the application estimates the runtime to obtain and format all messages. This estimated runtime is shown at the bottom of the application. In **Figure 3**, the user has chosen to retrieve the chat history from the group chat named 'Biology'. The estimated runtime is 18 seconds.

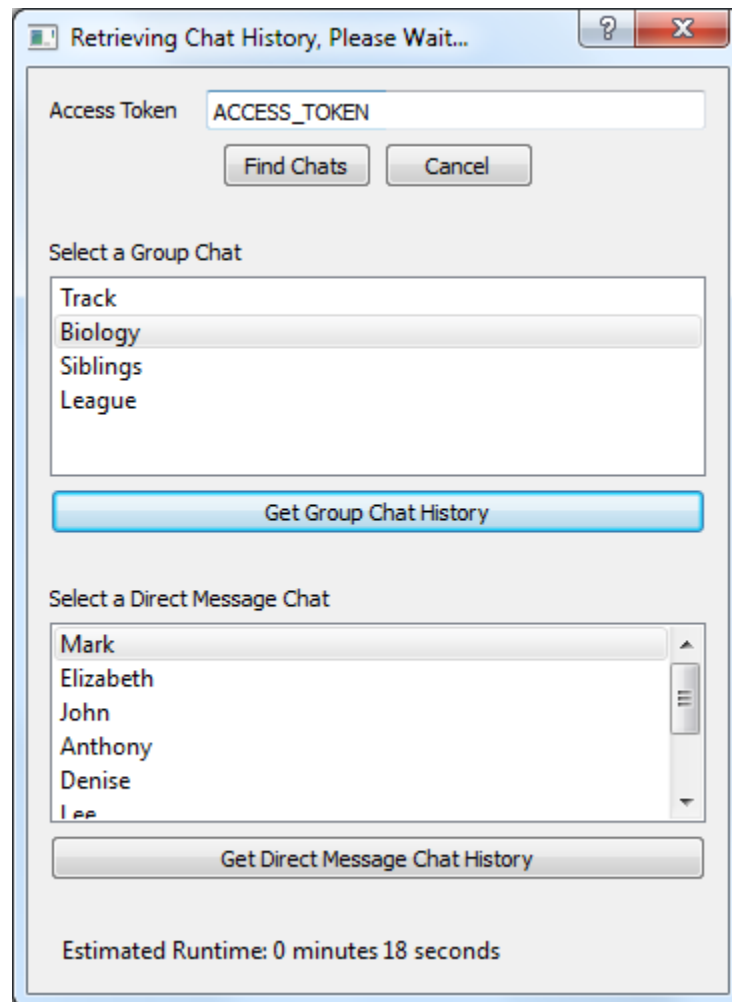


Figure 3

When the chat history has been retrieved and formatted, the application indicates that it has finished by setting the window title to 'Done' and erasing the estimated runtime status (**Figure 4**).

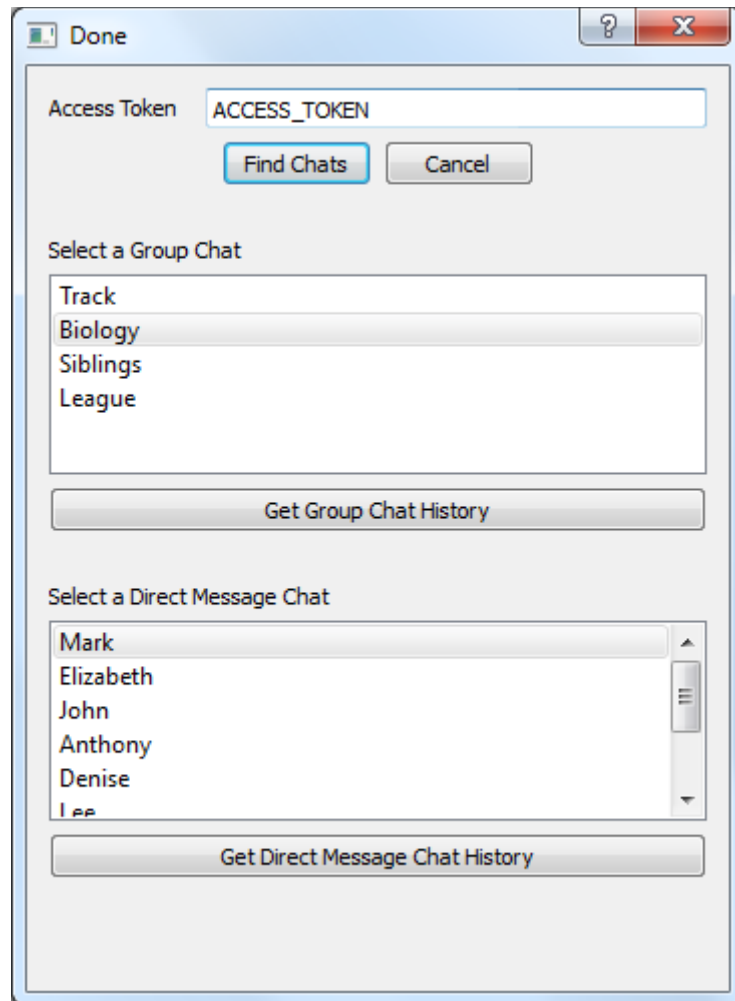


Figure 4

Viewing a Chat History

Chat histories are stored in the same folder as the `get_chat_history` application. They are identified by their chat ID and chat type—‘group’ or ‘direct’. Chat histories are formatted as HTML files accompanied by a ‘`styles.css`’ file. The ‘Biology’ group chat from the previous section is stored, as shown in **Figure 5**, as ‘01234567_group_chat_history.html’.

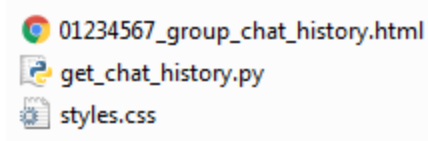


Figure 5

As HTML files, chat histories are formatted to be easily readable and can be opened using a web browser. These files will wrap words to fit the browser width as to avoid inconvenient horizontal scrolling. Messages are ordered chronologically and are sectioned by date. Each message is preceded by the name of the person who sent it and the time it was sent (UTC - Coordinated Universal Time). The owner of the access token will have a green name whereas all others will have blue names. A section of the example ‘Biology’ group chat’s chat history is shown in **Figure 6**.

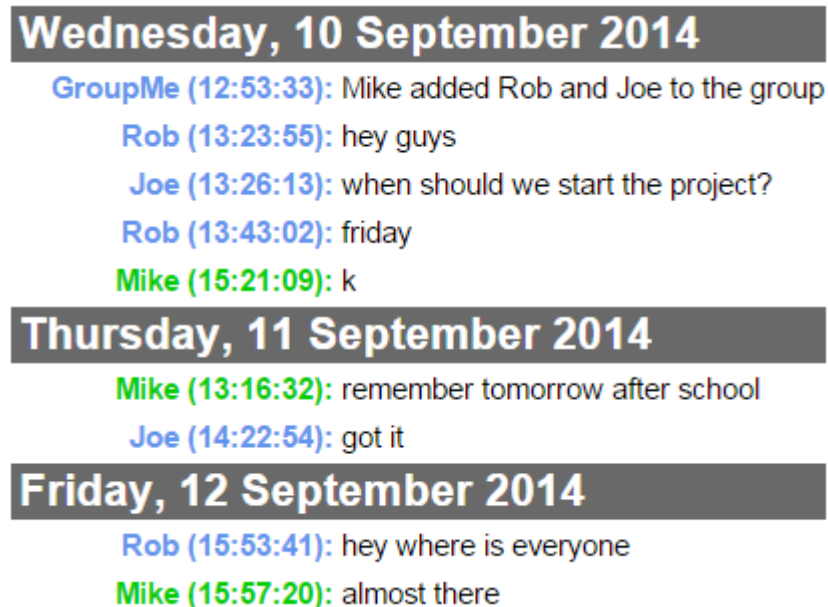


Figure 6