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.

Select a Cha	at to Retrieve History From	? X
Access Token	ACCESS_TOKEN	
	Find Chats Cancel	
	Find Chats Cancel	
Select a Group	Chat	
	Citat	
Track		
Biology Siblings		
League		
	Get Group Chat History	
Select a Direct I	Message Chat	
Mark		_
Elizabeth		
John		
Anthony		
Denise		_
Lee		
	Get Direct Message 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.

Retrieving Chat History, Please Wait	? ×
Access Token ACCESS_TOKEN	
Find Chats Cancel	
Select a Group Chat	
Track	
Biology	
Siblings	
League	
Get Group Chat History	
Select a Direct Message Chat	
Mark	_
Elizabeth	=
John	
Anthony	
Denise	_
l ee	<u>~</u>
Get Direct Message Chat History	
Estimated Runtime: 0 minutes 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**).

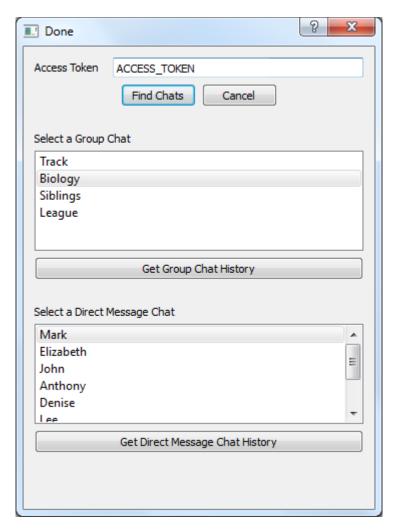


Figure 4

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'.

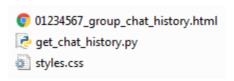


Figure 5

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 the 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**.

Wednesday, 10 September 2014 GroupMe (12:53:33): Mike added Rob and Joe to the group Rob (13:23:55): hey guys Joe (13:26:13): when should we start the project? Rob (13:43:02): friday Mike (15:21:09): k Thursday, 11 September 2014 Mike (13:16:32): remember tomorrow after school Joe (14:22:54): got it Friday, 12 September 2014 Rob (15:53:41): hey where is everyone Mike (15:57:20): almost there

Figure 6