# Reddit API:

<https://github.com/praw-dev/praw>

* Public API, python wrapper called PRAW (python reddit api wrapper)
* Can pull top comments, hot posts, etc
* PRAW aims to be easy to use and internally follows all of [Reddit's API rules](https://github.com/reddit/reddit/wiki/API). (Thank fook)
* With PRAW there's no need to introduce **sleep calls** in your code. Give your client an appropriate user agent and you're set.

Set up:

* PRAW is supported on python 2.7, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6. The recommended way to install PRAW is via [pip](https://pypi.python.org/pypi/pip).
* PRAW Documentation <https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

Subreddits:

* [/r/redditdev](https://www.reddit.com/r/redditdev) is the best place on Reddit to ask PRAW related questions. This subreddit is for all Reddit API related discussion so please tag submissions with [PRAW]. Please perform a search on the subreddit first to see if anyone has similar questions.
* r/CryptoCurrency – 870,000 members
* r/Bitcoin – 1,000,000 members

## PRAW Documentation and set up

PRAW Documentation <https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

# Authenticating via OAuth

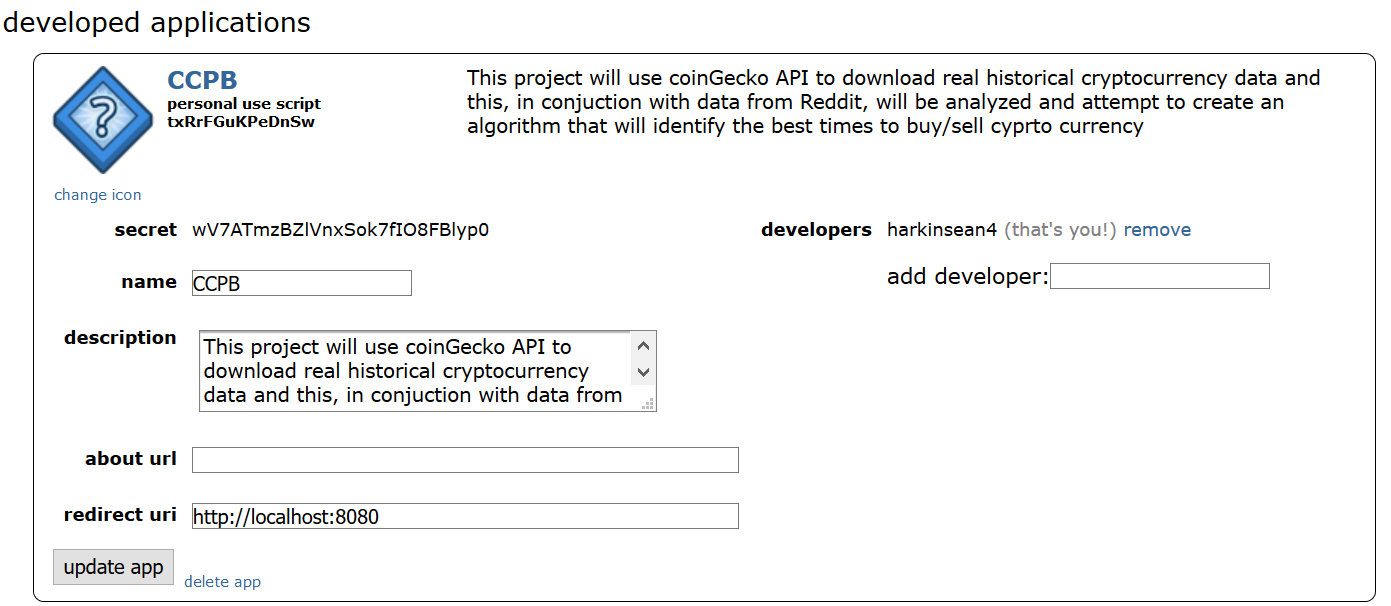
All info is here <https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/latest/getting_started/authentication.html>

PRAW supports the three types of applications that can be registered on Reddit. Those are:

* [Web Applications](https://github.com/reddit-archive/reddit/wiki/OAuth2-App-Types#web-app)
* [Installed Applications](https://github.com/reddit-archive/reddit/wiki/OAuth2-App-Types#installed-app)
* [Script Applications](https://github.com/reddit-archive/reddit/wiki/OAuth2-App-Types#script-app)

The app types are explained here: <https://github.com/reddit-archive/reddit/wiki/OAuth2-App-Types#web-app>

Use <http://localhost:8080> for the redirect uri



**Client ID & Client Secret:**

These two values are needed to access Reddit’s API as a **script** application (see [Authenticating via OAuth](https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/latest/getting_started/authentication.html#oauth) for other application types). If you don’t already have a client ID and client secret, follow Reddit’s [First Steps Guide](https://github.com/reddit/reddit/wiki/OAuth2-Quick-Start-Example#first-steps) to create them.

**User Agent:**

A user agent is a unique identifier that helps Reddit determine the source of network requests. To use Reddit’s API, you need a unique and descriptive user agent. The recommended format is

<platform>:<app ID>:<version string> (by /u/<Reddit username>). For example,android:com.example.myredditapp:v1.2.3 (by /u/kemitche). Read more about user-agents at [Reddit’s API wiki page](https://github.com/reddit/reddit/wiki/API).

## REDDIT API Rules

<https://github.com/reddit-archive/reddit/wiki/API>

**sean-script.py**

## Comments

**submission.id :**  c8h7gh

**comment.id :**  eso3w1u

**comment.parent:**  <bound method Comment.parent of Comment(id='eso3w1u')>

**comment.parent() :**  c8h7gh

**comment.parent\_id :**  t3\_c8h7gh

**comment.submission:**  c8h7gh

* A submission is the subreddit
* Comments have their own ID, a top-level comment has the same ID as the submission
* comment.parent() returns either a submission object or a comment object depending if a top-level comment called it or a reply
* The parent\_id returns the prefix in front of the ID, this signifies that the ID it has just pulled must be that of a submission, a parent comment has a prefix of before it

**Typical Comment Attributes**

This table describes attributes that typically belong to objects of this class. Since attributes are dynamically provided (see [Determine Available Attributes of an Object](https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/latest/getting_started/quick_start.html#determine-available-attributes-of-an-object)), there is not a guarantee that these attributes will always be present, nor is this list comprehensive in any way.

[Link to table](https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/latest/code_overview/models/comment.html)

**sean\_script\_application.py**

Comments:

Comment.parent() if a top level comment, this returns the submission id

If it is a reply to a comment, it returns the id of the comment it is replying to

.list()

The .list() is a PRAW functionality, it returns a flattened list of all Comments. This list may contain MoreComments instances if replace\_more() was not called first.

So, the order you get things when you use the comments.list() is all of the top level comments, followed by 2nd level comments, followed by 3rd level, so these still aren't necessarily sorted how you want them, but you have all comments, and can access every comment's id and parent's id.

.replacemore

.replace\_more(limit=0) we set the limit to 0 to remove all [MoreComments](https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/latest/code_overview/models/more.html#praw.models.MoreComments) instances without additional requests

on really long comments, there will be a ‘load more comments’ link which is a ‘more\_comments’ object, so we won’t to replace these ‘more\_comments’ objects

**sean\_script\_application\_live.py**

Part 3 of Video

* We can stream posts in a subreddit
* We can stream comments

reddit.comment(comment.parent()) -finds original submission or parent of comment

## JSON Library

Python has a built-in package called json, which can be used to work with JSON data.

dumps()

If you have a Python object, you can convert it into a JSON string by using the json.dumps() method.

You can convert Python objects of the following types, into JSON strings:

* dict
* list
* tuple
* string
* int
* float
* True
* False
* None

# Parsing Reddit Comments

My next step now is to analyse all the reddit comments. I have two scripts to work with

1. Sean\_script\_application.py
2. Sean\_script\_application\_live.py

Step 1: choose file

1. Sean\_script\_application.py

This script stores the comments in a dictionary and at the same time writes them to a text file.

Which is better to read from? Dictionary of text file

Dictionary is faster thing in python

Step 2:

I took the Sean\_script\_application.py and made into the Reddit\_Comments.py, the changes I made were:

* Take out the ‘on the fly’ writing to a text file
* Added a list to store the ordered\_reddit\_comments for each thread submission
* Define a function to return ordered\_reddit\_comments to a main application

Step 3:

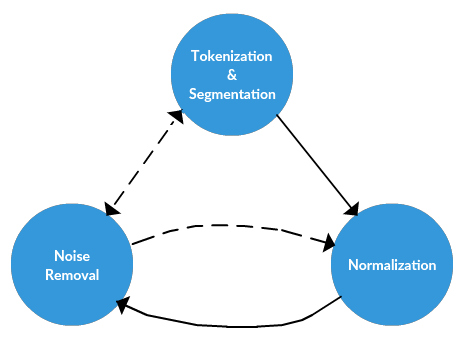
Now that I have the comments returning to the main application. I need to figure a way to parse through all these comments and extract useful information

I need to look into **text pre-processing**

### Text Pre-Processing

Data preprocessing consists of a number of steps, any number of which may or not apply to a given task, but generally fall under the broad categories of

[source](https://www.kdnuggets.com/2017/12/general-approach-preprocessing-text-data.html)

* Tokenization
* Normalization,
* Substitution

Tokenization:

Tokenization is a step which splits longer strings of text into smaller pieces, or tokens. Larger chunks of text can be tokenized into sentences, sentences can be tokenized into words, etc. Further processing is generally performed after a piece of text has been appropriately tokenized.

Consideration: when we segment text chunks into sentences, should we preserve sentence-ending delimiters? Are we interested in remembering where sentences ended?

Normalisation:

Before further processing, text needs to be normalized. Normalization generally refers to a series of related tasks meant to put all text on a level playing field: converting all text to the same case (upper or lower), removing punctuation, converting numbers to their word equivalents, and so on. Normalization puts all words on equal footing, and allows processing to proceed uniformly.

Normalizing text can mean performing a number of tasks, but for our framework we will approach normalization in 3 distinct steps: (1) *stemming*, (2) *lemmatization*, and (3) *everything else*.

**Stemming**

Stemming is the process of eliminating affixes (suffixed, prefixes, infixes, circumfixes) from a word in order to obtain a word stem.

running → run

**Lemmatization**

Lemmatization is related to stemming, differing in that lemmatization is able to capture canonical forms based on a word's lemma.

For example, stemming the word "better" would fail to return its citation form (another word for lemma); however, lemmatization would result in the following:

better → good

It should be easy to see why the implementation of a stemmer would be the less difficult feat of the two.

Everything else

There are, however, numerous other steps that can be taken to help put all text on equal footing, many of which involve the comparatively simple ideas of substitution or removal. They are, however, no less important to the overall process. These include:

* set all characters to lowercase
* remove numbers (or convert numbers to textual representations)
* remove punctuation (generally part of tokenization, but still worth keeping in mind at this stage, even as confirmation)
* strip white space (also generally part of tokenization)
* remove default stop words (general English stop words)

Stop words are those words which are filtered out before further processing of text, since these words contribute little to overall meaning, given that they are generally the most common words in a language. For instance, "the," "and," and "a," while all required words in a particular passage, don't generally contribute greatly to one's understanding of content. As a simple example, the following panagram is just as legible if the stop words are removed:

~~The~~ quick brown fox jumps over ~~the~~ lazy dog.

**3 - Noise Removal**

Noise removal continues the substitution tasks of the framework.

Keep in mind again that we are not dealing with a linear process, the steps of which must exclusively be applied in a specified order. Noise removal, therefore, can occur before or after the previously-outlined sections, or at some point between).

Step 1:

I had to install and use the contractions library, I loop through every line of text in the text file one at a time and pass it through the in-built contractions function called and append each new line to a new text file

Step 2:

I want to tokenise every word in the text file. As I loop through every line of text to fix contractions, I also pass it through which returns a list of words based on the line of text passed thorugh.

Step 3:

I want to now normalize every list of words. As we loop through every line of text and tokenise it, we also normalize it, getting rid of ascii characters and making everything lowercase etc.