Documentation

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To create the crawler project I have used scrapy framework from python which helps in crawling data from websites easily. Explanations of the functions and classes can be found in the comments of the code. In this documentation I have just highlighted the important parts of the project.

When the project is run it goes to "packages_spider.py" inside the spiders folder. This file contains the definition of the crawler (spider) which has been implemented as a class. It is going to be used to crawl data from those two websites. To store the crawled/scraped data a container class [Figure 1] has been created in "items.py" file that is inside Crawler/Crawler.

```
import scrapy

This class is used to store the data that has been scraped/crawled from the given websites.

Class Packages(scrapy.Tiem):

# define the fields for your item here like:

# name = scrapy.Field() -> dictionary key=name value=value

package_url=scrapy.Field()

package_descriptions=crapy.Field()

package_name=scrapy.Field()
```

Figure 1: Class to store crawled data

In the "main.py" file I have added the details for the website that we need to crawl the data from. For this project I have added two process functions which calls the same crawler to crawl that website but gives their own respective websites output. The crawler has been given a name so once the Crawler is activated using its name it opens the links that are present in its 'start_urls' property. Both of the crawler have been given only one start url that opens the first page of each websites list of packages. After that the parse function is automatically called by scrappy and using "XPATH" the relevant details are extracted/crawled from the webpage like package name, url and descriptions and stored in the Class that was created earlier. Since both the websites need to extract same data the same class has been used in both of the crawler to store data. The parse function also checks whether we have extracted 100 package datas from the website. Once 100 packages are extracted the function ends. If the initial page contains < 100 packages then the url of the next page is extracted using XPATH and then the 'parse' function is called on that url and again the same process is repeated.

The output of both the crawler can be seen in Figure 2 and Figure 3. For the project description I have extracted the project description that was written in the main web page that contained the list of packages. I tried extracting the project description by opening each of the package's url but the description was too large hence could not be easily stored in tables like this. Output of Unittests can be seen in Figure 4. In this unittests I have only tested the parse function of the crawler as it is the most important part of the program.

New websites can be easily scraped using this project if similar data needs to be extracted. We just need to pass the details from the "main.py" file to the crawler/spider class that does the scraping. However for websites where we need to extract a variety of other data new Classes have to be created to store and crawl the data but the other processes are still the same.

Resources that have been used in the project:

Scrapy

- Xpath
- Unittests

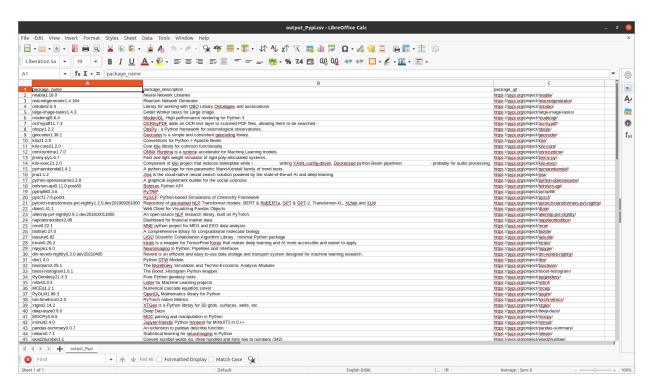


Figure 2: Output of First Crawler

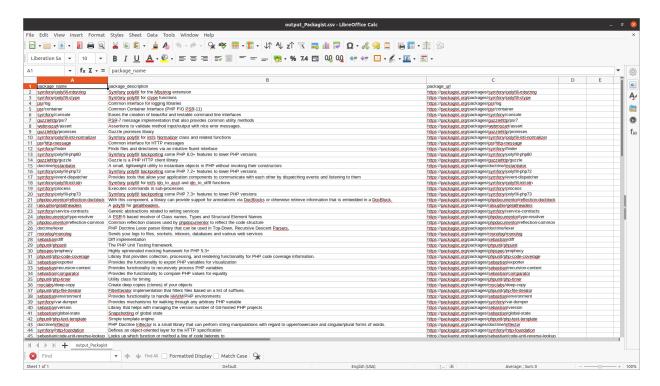


Figure 3: Output of Second Crawler

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Figure 4: Output of Unittests