Microsoft

Microsoft Summer Internship

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Summer 2019

Agenda

Introduction
General overview of what I did during my time here.

Approaches
Discussion of the various methods used to solve the problem.

Final Product
Description and Demonstration of my final application.

What I Learned
Rundown of the overall skillset gained through this experience.

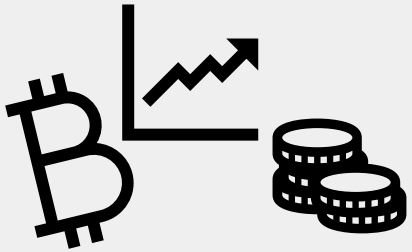
Future Work
How can I extend this project for the future?

Introduction

Can I use public sentiment to predict the price fluctuations of cryptocurrencies?

Cryptocurrencies are **highly volatile** because:

- No institutional regulations
- Questionable long-term staying power
- Herd Mentality / easily influenced by emotions



Proposition

Because crypto is so easily influenced by public sentiment, it poses as the perfect candidate for sentiment analysis.

By creating a web app to analyze the public sentiment surrounding a keyword, for example Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (XRP), or Litecoin (LTC), I could hypothetically gain some insight into the seemingly erratic price fluctuations of such cryptocurrencies.

Methodology & Tools

Goal: Create a program to gather and process commentary surrounding a certain key term

What:
- Twitter API
- Tweepy – Python Library to Access Twitter API
- Azure Cognitive Services – Sentiment Analyzer
- Azure Web App Hosting
- (Power BI, MySQL database)

Why:
- I used Twitter because of its extensive docs and proprietary Tweepy library
- Azure Cognitive Services assigns a sentiment score (0-1)
- Initially, I stored data via database. Later on, used cache to store data.

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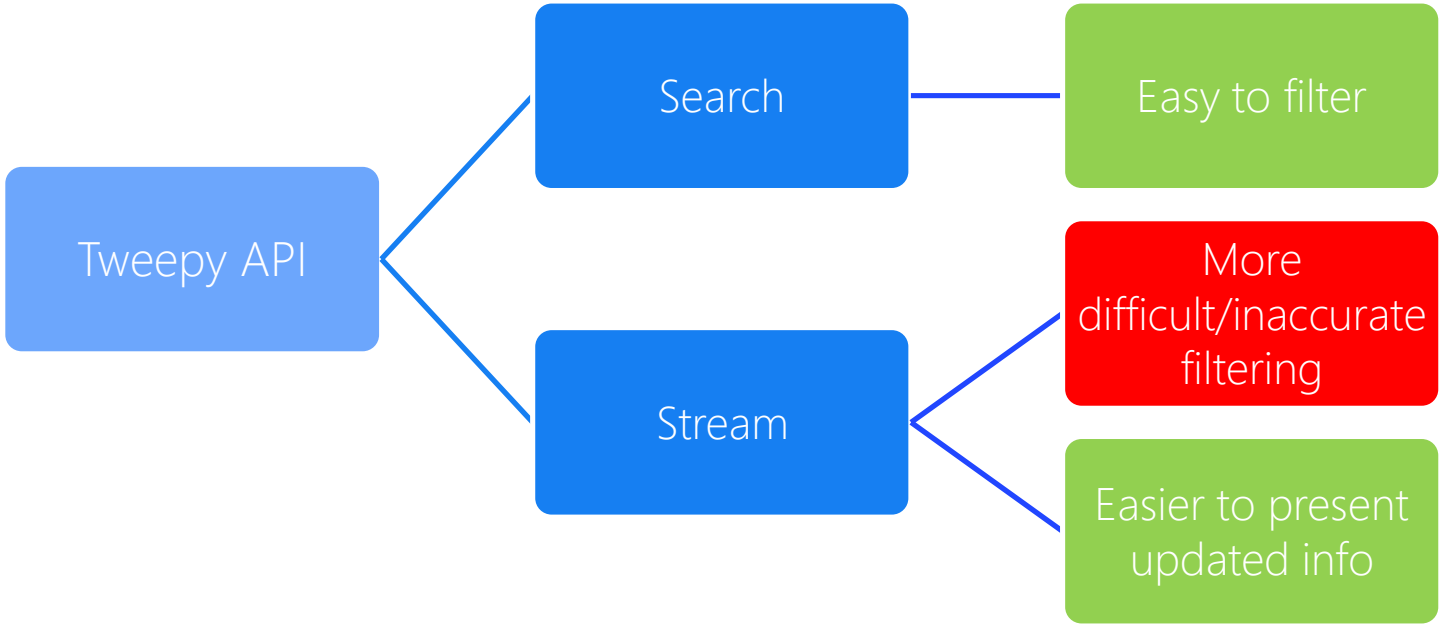
Approaches

Approach 1

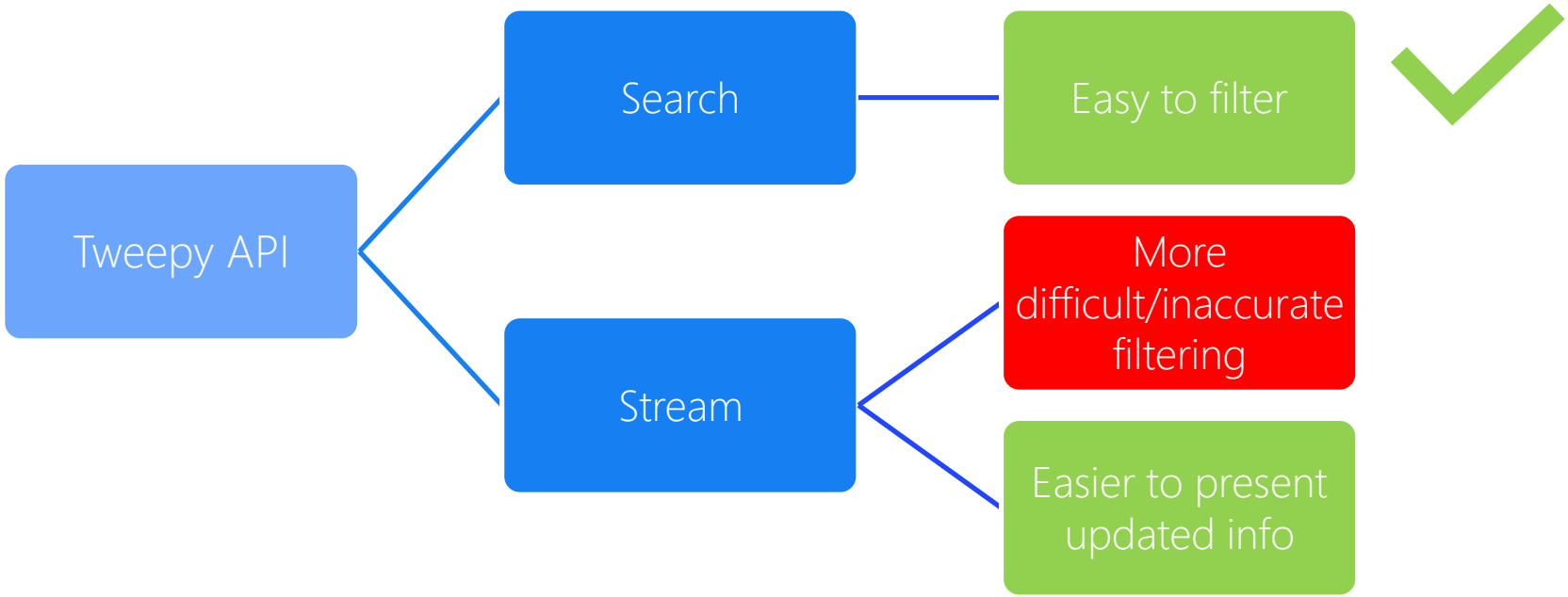
Procedure

Twitter API
→ Process with Tweepy
→ Save Data
→ Analyze with Azure Sentiment Analysis API

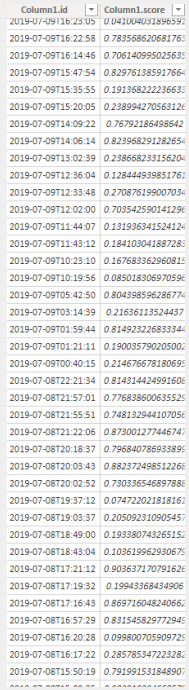
Approach 1: Process with Tweepy

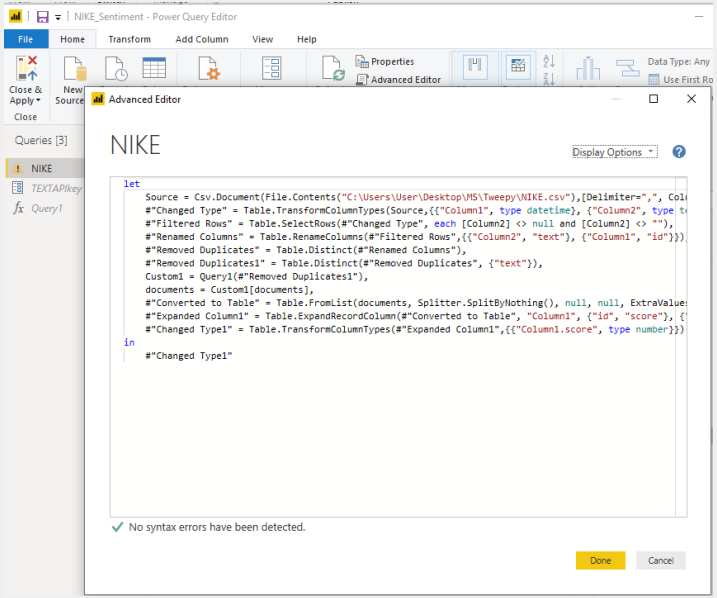


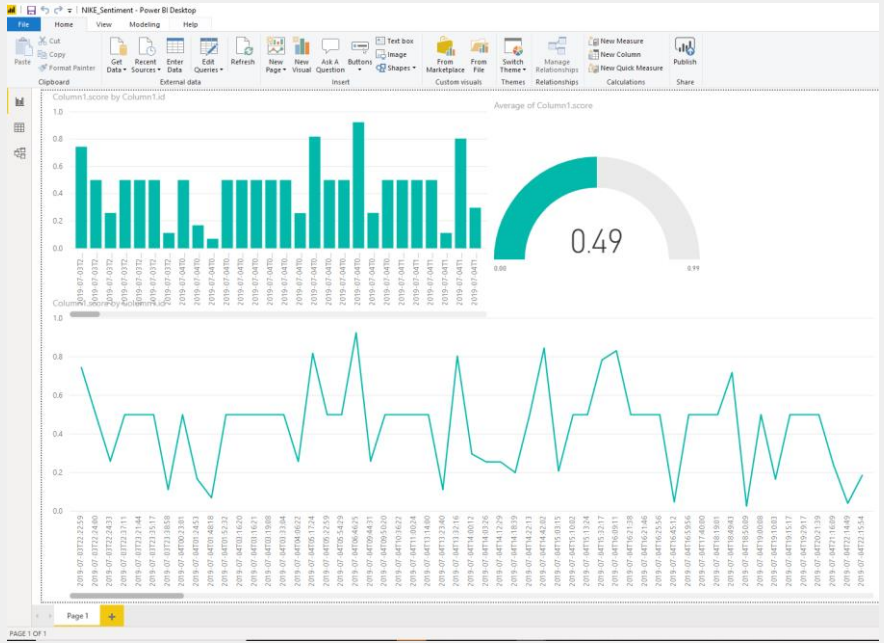
Approach 1: Process with Tweepy



Approach 1: Save Data







Raw Data

PowerBI Advanced Query Editor

Processed Sentiment Scores

Approach 1: Save Data

MySQL Database

Saved data to MySQL database using MySQL API

Used MySQL Workbench to manage data

Why I ditched Approach 1

Initial approach familiarized me with the playing field.

Not ideal because:

1. Too many intermediate steps
2. Not user-friendly
3. Poor performance

Approach 2

Goal: No command line arguments, no unnecessary intermediate steps, faster performance, working web app.

What:

- Flask – Python Web Framework
- Tweepy
- TextBlob – NLP python library
- Azure Web App Hosting

Why:

- Flask is lightweight and scalable: doesn't require many tools & libraries to get started
- TextBlob – no need for more API keys and internet comm. (performance improvement). Also more in-depth docs than Azure Sentiment

Final Product

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- Tweepy
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Final Product

Final Approach for Data Collection:

- Used Tweepy Streaming API – collects data faster based on personal testing. Also collects most recent data.

Final Approach for Data Processing:

- TextBlob library – easy to use, clear documentation, locally run.
- Matplotlib – plotting library for Python (not ideal because requires a lot (unnecessary) coding to implement. More on this in "*Future Work*" *Section*

Final Approach for Web Application

- Flask – popular, lightweight, scalable, quick start.
- Azure Web Hosting

Version Issues

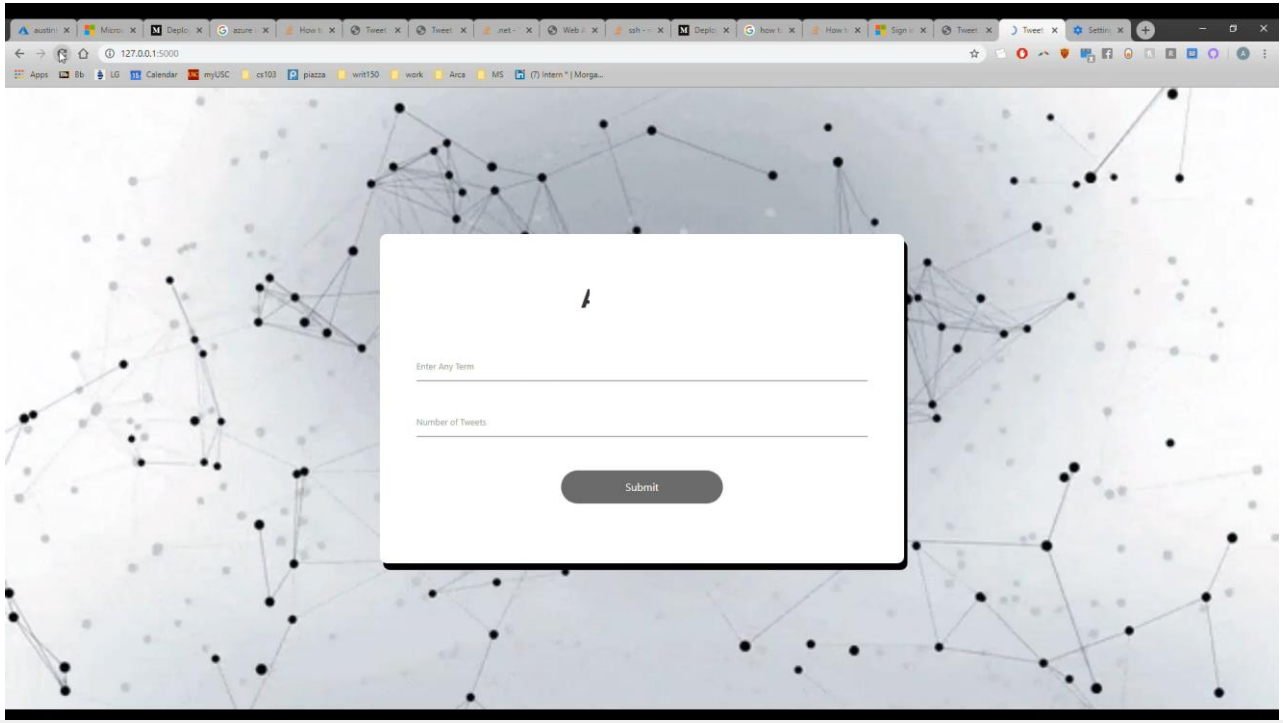
Flask-Cache Caching Error:

- Flask-Cache causes plots from previous searches to be saved within the app. I fixed this using a simple `app.config["CACHE_TYPE"] = "null"` command.

Unable to Deploy to Azure/Heroku:

- After numerous attempts to deploy to Azure Web App Services or Heroku, I was ultimately unsuccessful.
- I was able to create, deploy, and commit my local git to the cloud, but was unable to see the app run. Future troubleshooting with an Azure account with admin rights will prove more practical.

Web App Demonstration



Video Demonstration of App Running on Local Host

What I Learned

<u>During my internship, I learned:</u>

1. Cloud computing concepts, including IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS, how to create storage accounts, setting up cloud VMs, etc.
2. Python in the context of app development, including frameworks such as Django and Flask.
3. Using and leveraging APIs and libraries to make code more concise and more efficient.
4. Azure Cognitive Services, creating a chat bot using LUIS, Azure web apps.
5. App development workflow and timeline (from setting up to writing to publishing). Learned to prioritize certain functions during workflow.

Future Work

How I hope to extend my project

1. Create a more comprehensive dashboard to display and analyze collected data. Consider integrating PowerBI to generate more in-depth graphs.
2. Improve performance by speeding up tweet collection.
3. Providing real-time analysis of keyword tweet.
4. Showing feed of tweets to compare accuracy of sentiment analysis.
5. Testing various sentiment analysis algorithms for accuracy.

Thank You!

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