Contemporary C++ Web Scraping

It's not as low level as one might think



Darrell Wright
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What is needed

- Retrieve documents
- Parse documents
- Query documents

Retrieving Documents

- Surprise, it's Curl.
- Using a simple Curl wrapper
- https://github.com/beached/curl_wrapper

```
int main() {
  auto crl = daw::curl_wrapper();
  crl.retrieve( url: "https://www.google.ca");
  std::cout << crl.get_body() << '\n';
}</pre>
```

Parse Documents

- Wrapping Gumbo to get document tree
- https://github.com/beached/gumbo_pp
- https://github.com/google/gumbo-parser
- We have an iterator interface into the document tree that uses DFS ordering

```
int main( ) {
  constexpr std::string_view html =
    R"html(
<html>
    <head>
        <title>Test</title>
        </head>
        <body><div class='hello'><b>Hey folks!</b></div> <a href="https://www.google.com">Google</a></body>
</html>)html";
  auto doc_range = daw::gumbo::gumbo_range( html_document: html );
```

Query Documents

Gumbo_pp provides a set of combinable predicates based on

attribute	class type	id	inner text
outer text	content text	tag	

- Each predicate type has associated verbs like attribute::is
- All have the where clause to allow for using custom matcher predicates
- They can be combined with and(match_all), or(match_any), not(negate match), xor(match_one) operators to form complex expressions
- Usable with std::algorithms, e.g. std::find_if, daw::algorithm::for_each_if
- Does not allocate unless asked to

Show me the Code

• Enumerate all div tags

Show me the Code

Find all links that contain a keyword

```
template<typename Keywords>
void find all links with keywords (daw::gumbo::gumbo_range &doc_range,
                                    Keywords &&keywords ) {
 for( auto const &node : daw::find_iterator(
         doc_range.begin( ),
        doc range end( )
         match::tag::A and
           match::attribute::value::starts_with( "href", "http" ) and
           match::content_text::contains( keywords ) ) ) {
    std::cout << "[" << daw::gumbo::node_content_text( node ) << ']';</pre>
    std::cout << "(" << daw::gumbo::node_attribute_value( node, "href" )</pre>
              << ")\n";
```

Show me the Code

Find all Paragraph's with matching matching

Examples

- Code from slides and slides
 https://github.com/beached/denver_cug_web_scraping
- Full example web service https://github.com/beached/climate_change_api_example

What's Next

- Add a full Node type with accessors/matcher methods
- Use/write a library like Puppeteer/Selenium that uses headless Chrome/Firefox

Questions