

A Natural Language URL-Shortener

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➔ *<https://www.hackerschool.com/manual#sec-history>*

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can be used to track visitors to the main site

key element: variable part of a shortened URL (“path”)

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- <http://7.ly/iMau>
- <http://2.gp/zkSE>
- <http://qr.net/Bozx>
- <http://bit.ly/TGIQtH>
- <http://x.vu/KC4s4e>
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short only if you get there first (tend to be long)

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(Talon-sharpening exercise at Hacker School recently.)

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The trick to picking always-readable short URL-paths:

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The trick to picking always-readable short URL-paths:

use the characters for the most common Chinese words

Chinese characters

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2635 in the current official HSK proficiency exam

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2635 \in simplified; 2671 \in traditional;

1692 $\{x : x \in \{\text{simp} \cap \text{trad}\} \}$

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compare to paired Roman letters (of either case):

$52 \times 52 = 2704$

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kind	random 字	random Roman digraph
#	2635	2704

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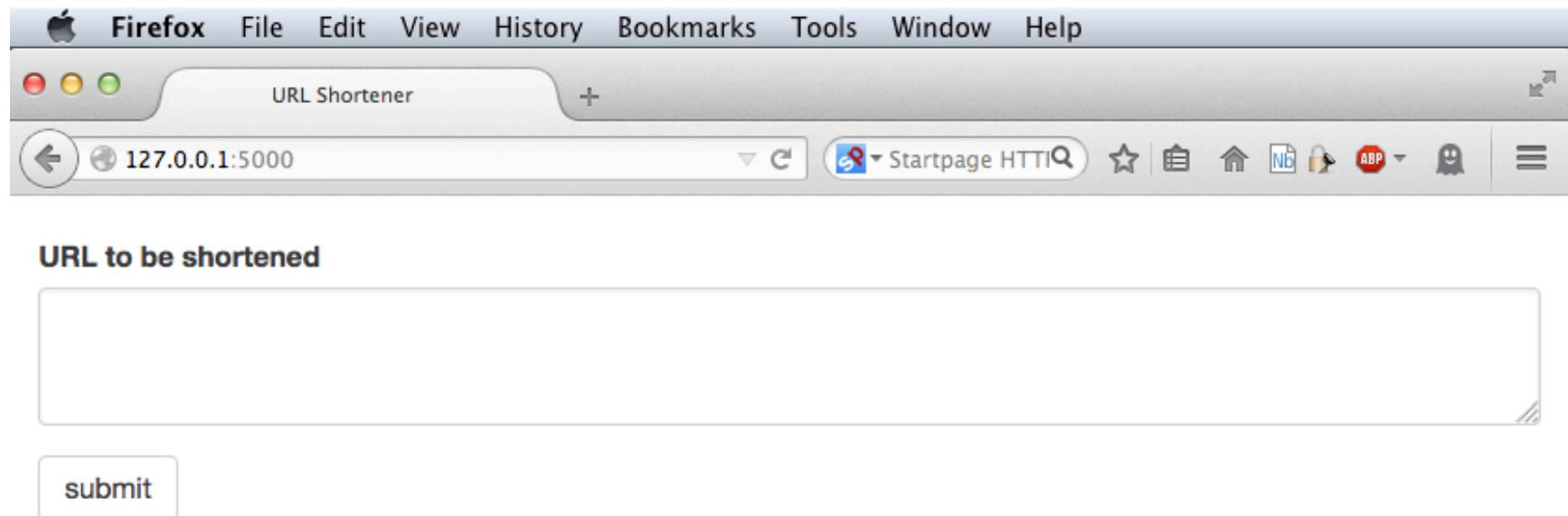
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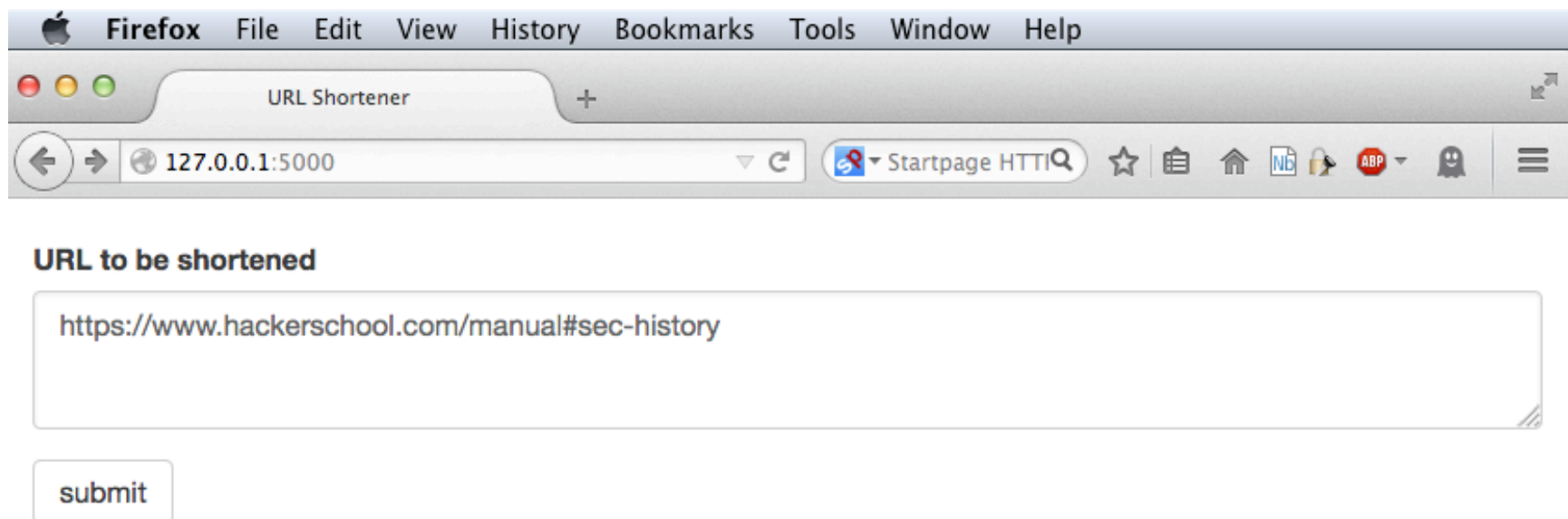
$$52 \times 52 = 2704$$

kind	random 字	random Roman digraph
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readable?	guaranteed	probably not

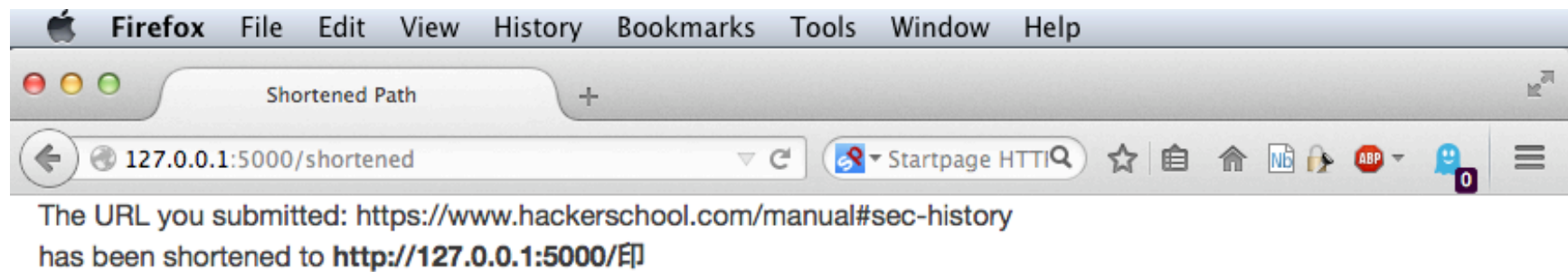
Code for proof-of-concept on my public Git repository.



*Branner, A Natural Language URL-Shortener
Hack and Tell, 20140610. p. 29/41*



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First c. 2650 URLs ➔ one character

`http://127.0.0.1:5000/印`

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Next c. $2650 \times 2650 = 7022500$ URLs → two characters

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Next c. $2650 \times 2650 = 7022500$ URLs → two characters

`http://127.0.0.1:5000/厉吉`

Next 18,609,625,000 URLs → three characters

`http://127.0.0.1:5000/天鼻歪`

Always readable

Always readable (may not make sense...)

Note:

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Note: many custom shorteners allow Chinese characters:

<http://bit.ly/史>

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Also note: the advantage of shortening to Chinese does not mean bandwidth savings:

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Also note: the advantage of shortening to Chinese does not mean bandwidth savings:

`http://bit.ly/史` may be sent from your browser as

`http://bit.ly/%E5%8F%B2`

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