

A Natural Language URL-Shortener

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

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less susceptible to corruption in transmission
concealment of final destination

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>
- <http://ow.ly/xQNbx>
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**easier to remember
short only if you get there first**

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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 simplified; 2671 traditional;

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

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compare to two-character Roman letters (upper/lower):

$52 \times 52 = 2704$

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kind	random 字	random Roman digraph
#	2635	2704

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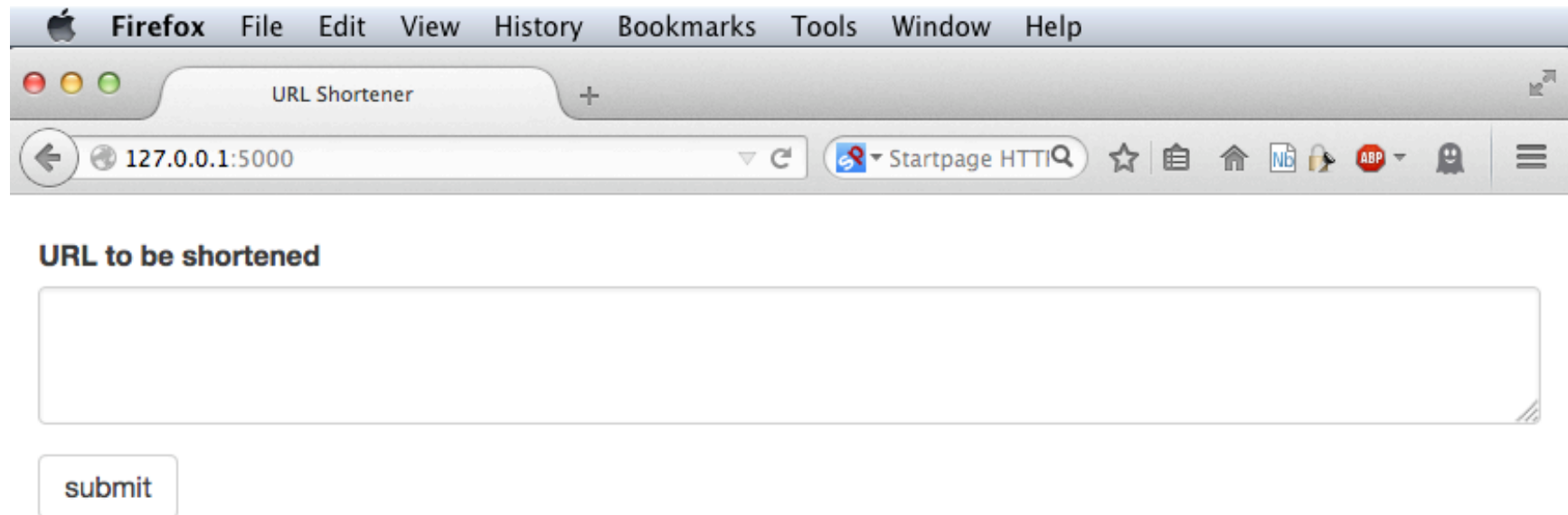
1692 $\{x : x \in \{\text{simp}\} \cap \{\text{trad}\}\}$

compare to two-character Roman letters (upper/lower):

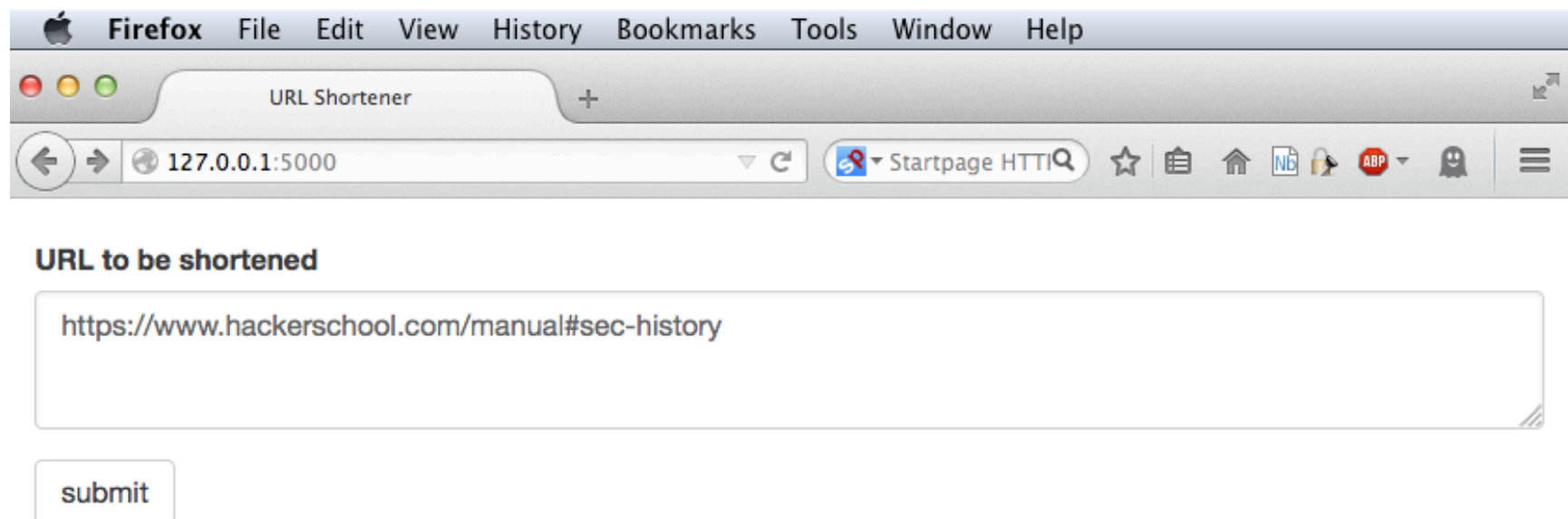
$52 \times 52 = 2704$

kind	random 字	random Roman digraph
#	2635	2704
readable?	guaranteed	probably not

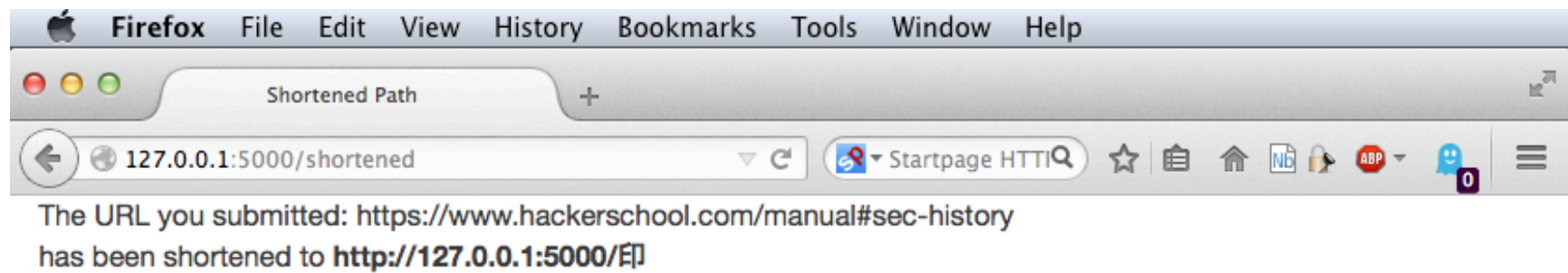
Code for proof-of-concept on my public Git repository.



*Branner, A Natural Language URL-Shortener
Hack and Tell, 20140610. p. 28/40*



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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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First c. 2650 URLs → one character

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

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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> = <http://bit.ly/%E5%8F%B2>

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