

# A Natural Language URL-Shortener

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Hack and Tell  
eBay, New York  
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can be used to track visitors to the main site



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**easier to remember**

**short only if you get there first (tend to be long)**

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

use the characters for the most common Chinese words

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2635  $\in$  simplified; 2671  $\in$  traditional;

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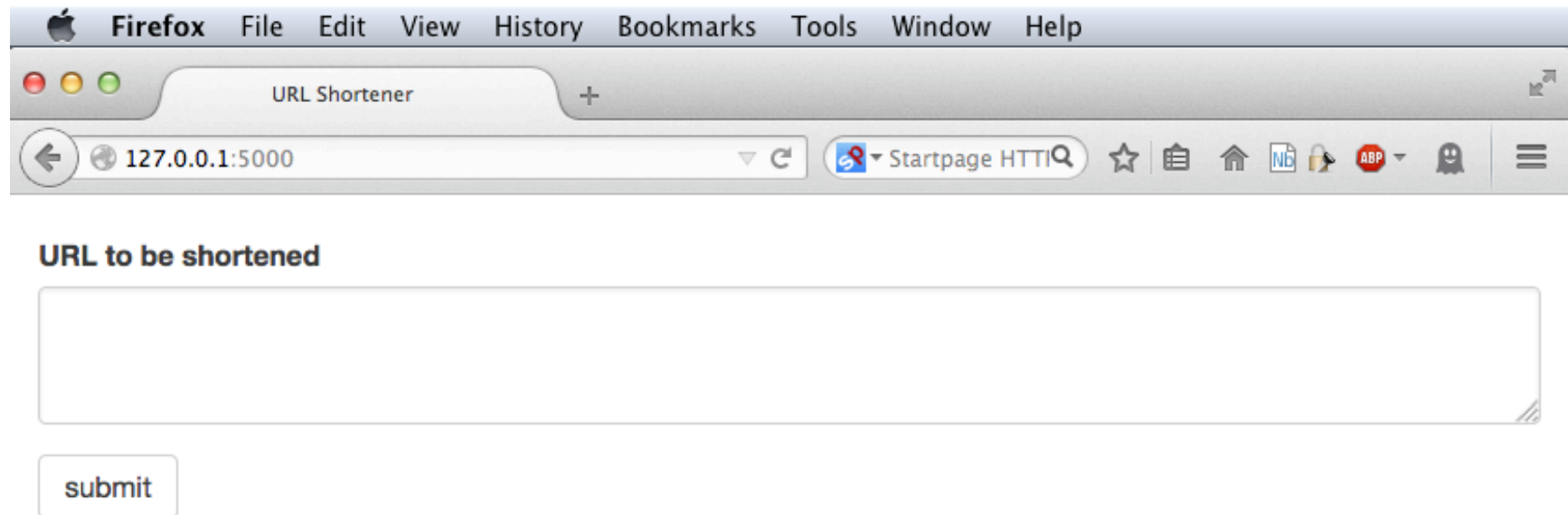
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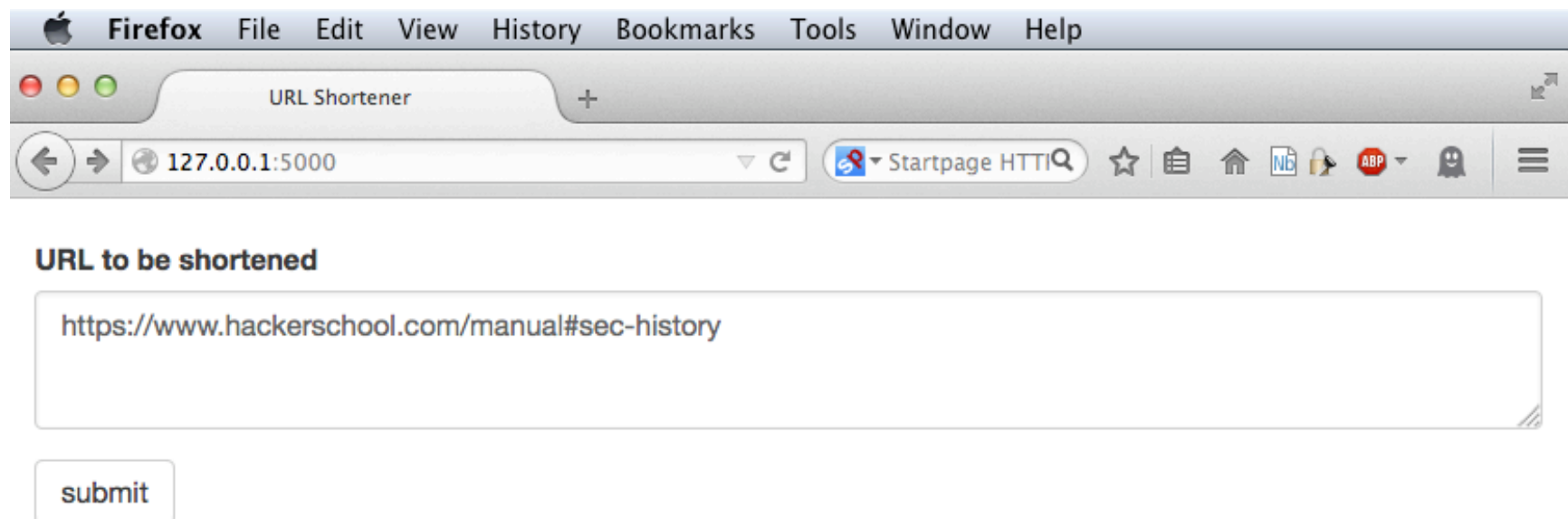
$$52 \times 52 = 2704$$

kind	random 字	random Roman digraph
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readable?	guaranteed	probably not

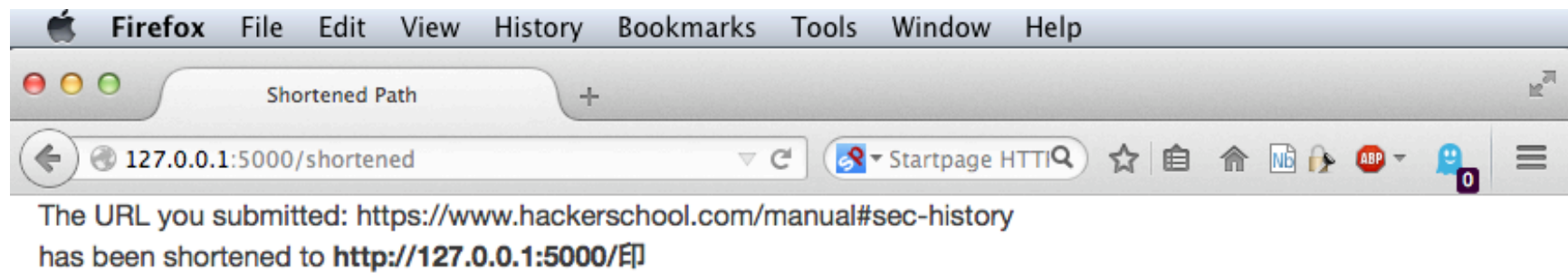
Code for proof-of-concept on my public Git repository.



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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 18,609,625,000 URLs → three characters

`http://127.0.0.1:5000/天鼻歪`

Always readable

Always readable (may not make sense...)

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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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`http://bit.ly/史`

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`



## Afterthought:

Someone commented that without knowing Chinese, she would find this system perhaps of limited use.

An intermediate solution would be Korean Hangeul, where fully pronounceable syllables are written in one-character-width glyphs composed of alphabetic subunits. There are 2100 recognized glyphs that can be composed of these according to simple principles, although another 9000 are possible graphically. Learning the 40 component subunits is a more manageable task than learning the two-plus thousand basic Chinese characters:

[illegible]

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