

Advanced Web Scraping: Selenium and Requests-HTML



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Overview

**Scraping JavaScript
generated websites**

Requests-HTML

Selenium

JavaScript Scraping Problem

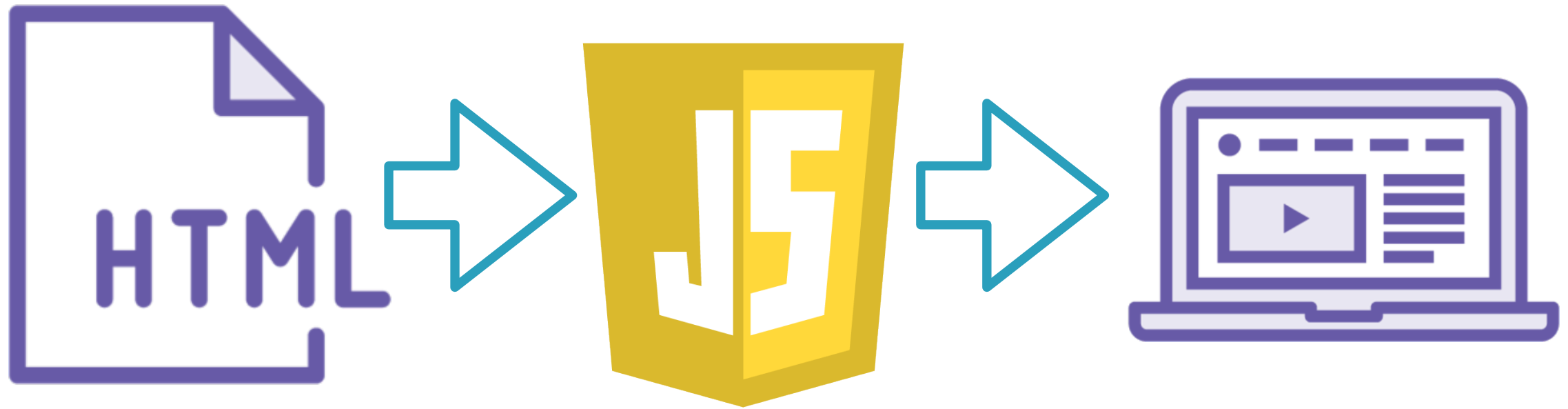
Demo

iSeeCars uses JavaScript

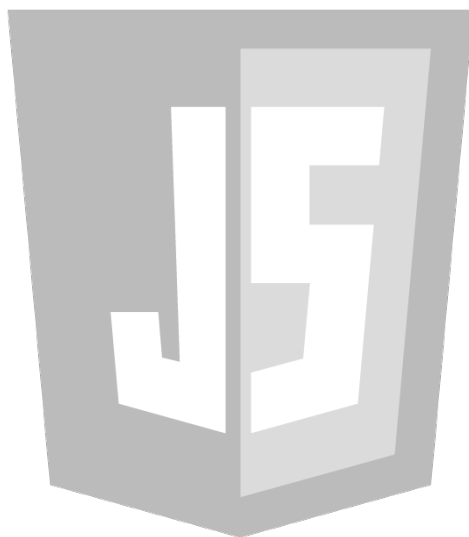
Chrome DevTools - slow rendering

Chrome DevTools - disable JavaScript

JavaScript Page Rendering



JavaScript Page Not Rendering



Requests-HTML

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requests-html 0.10.0

```
pip install requests-html
```

[Latest version](#)

Released: Feb 17, 2019

HTML Parsing for Humans.

Navigation

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Project description

Requests-HTML: HTML Parsing for Humans™



Tools for Web Developers

Discover tools that can help you kickstart your development.

Home Chrome DevTools Lighthouse Puppeteer Workbox Chrome User Experience Report

Didn't make the #ChromeDevSummit this year? Catch all the content (and more!) in the [Chrome Dev Summit 2019](#) playlist on our [Chrome Developers YouTube Channel](#).



Chrome DevTools

The Chrome DevTools are a set of web authoring and debugging tools built into Google Chrome. Use the DevTools to iterate, debug and profile your site.



Lighthouse

Lighthouse is an open-source, automated tool for improving the quality of your web apps. It is integrated directly into the Chrome DevTools Audits panel. You can also run Lighthouse from the command line or install the Chrome Extension.



Puppeteer

Puppeteer is a Node library which provides a high-level API to control headless Chrome over the DevTools Protocol. It can also be configured to use full (non-headless) Chrome or Chromium.



Workbox

Workbox is a set of service worker libraries and tools that make it easy to build an offline PWA and take advantage of the service worker APIs.

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pyppeteer 0.0.25

`pip install pyppeteer`[Latest version](#)

Released: Sep 26, 2018

Headless chrome/chromium automation library (unofficial port of puppeteer)


Navigation

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Project links

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Project description

pypi **v0.0.25**python **3.5 | 3.6 | 3.7**docs **latest**build **passing** build **passing** **92%**

Unofficial Python port of [puppeteer](#) JavaScript (headless) chrome/chromium browser automation library.

- Free software: MIT license (including the work distributed under the Apache 2.0 license)
- Documentation: <https://miyakogi.github.io/pyppeteer>

Installation

Pyppeteer requires python 3.6+. (experimentally supports python 3.5)

Headless Browsers



Pyppeteer (Puppeteer) - Requests-HTML

Selenium

Automated Testing

Development Environment

- ◀ **Change to your dev directory. Make a new directory, and cd into the new directory.**
- ◀ **Set the local Python with pyenv.**
- ◀ **Install requests-html and make sure to launch the pipenv shell.**

```
> cd my-dev
> mkdir r-html-project
> cd r-html-project

> pyenv install 3.6.9
> pyenv local 3.6.9

> pipenv --python 3.6.9
> pipenv install requests-html
> pipenv shell
```

```
from requests_html import HTMLSession
```

```
session = HTMLSession()
```

```
start_url = 'https://www.iasecars.com/used-cars/used-tesla-for-sale#Location=66952' + \  
            '&Radius=all&Make=Tesla&Model=Model+3&Condition=used&_t=a&maxResults=15' + \  
            '&sort=BestDeal&sortOrder=desc&lfc_t0=MTU2Nzk2NzkzNDc2NQ%3D%3D'
```

```
r = session.get(start_url)
```

Retrieve a page with requests-html

```
tesla = r.html.find('div#cars_v2-result-list article', first=True)

model = tesla.find('h3', first=True).text

print(model)    // Returns: 2017 Tesla Model S 60D - 17,181 mi
```

Extract Data for a Tesla

```
r.html.render(sleep=5)

tesla = r.html.find('div#cars_v2-result-list article', first=True)

model = tesla.find('h3', first=True).text

print(model)    // Returns: 2018 Tesla Model 3 Mid range battery - 5,818 mi
```

Extract the Right Tesla Data

Selenium

Requests-HTML or Selenium

Requests-HTML

Pyppeteer (Puppeteer) - Based on Chrome

XPath or CSS Selectors

Easier to get started

Selenium

Firefox, Safari, Opera, Chrome, or Edge

XPath or CSS Selectors

Very Powerful

The Selenium Browser Automation Project

Selenium is an unopinionated tool for automating web browsers.

<https://selenium.dev/documentation>

It provides extensions to emulate user interaction with browsers, a distribution server for scaling browser allocation, and the infrastructure for implementations of the [W3C WebDriver specification](#) that lets you write interchangeable code for all major web browsers.

This project is maintained by a community of volunteers, each with their own time, and made the source code available under the [Apache License](#).

`pipenv install selenium`

Selenium brings together a community of people with a common passion around automation of the web platform. The project organises [an annual conference](#) to teach and nurture the community.

At the core of Selenium is [WebDriver](#), an interface to write instruction sets that can be run interchangeably in many browsers. Here is one of the simplest instructions you can make:

Java

Python

C#

Ruby

JavaScript

Kotlin

CONTRIBUTING

Contributing to Firefox

SOURCE CODE DOC

Firefox

DOM

Graphics

Devtools

Toolkit

SpiderMonkey

Geckoview

WebIDL

libpref

Remote Protocol

Services

File Handling

BUILD

Mach

Try Server

geckodriver

Proxy for using W3C WebDriver-compatible clients to interact with Gecko-based browsers.

This program acts as a proxy between a Gecko browser and a WebDriver-compatible client. It acts as a proxy between the browser and the client, allowing the client to interact with the browser via the WebDriver protocol.

Mac: brew install geckodriver

You can consult the [change log](#) for a record of all notable changes to the program. [Releases](#) are made available on GitHub.

- [Support](#)
- [WebDriver](#)
- [Firefox](#)
- [Usage](#)
- [Flags](#)
- [Profiles](#)
- [Reporting bugs](#)
- [Enabling trace logs](#)
- [Analyzing crash data of Firefox](#)
- [macOS notarization](#)

PC: Download, unzip, & add to path

For developers

- [Building geckodriver](#)

```
from selenium import webdriver
from selenium.webdriver.support.ui import WebDriverWait
import time

start_url = 'https://www.iasecars.com/used-cars/used-tesla-for-sale#Location=66952' + \
            '&Radius=all&Make=Tesla&Model=Model+3&Condition=used&_t=a&maxResults=15' + \
            '&sort=BestDeal&sortOrder=desc&lfc_t0=MTU2Nzk2NzkzNDc2NQ%3D%3D'

with webdriver.Firefox() as driver:
    . . .
```

Selenium Imports & Setup

```
with webdriver.Firefox() as driver:
    wait = WebDriverWait(driver, 10)
    driver.get(start_url)

    time.sleep(10)

    teslas = driver.find_element_by_css_selector('div#cars_v2-result-list article')
    model = teslas.find_element_by_css_selector('h3')

    print(model.text)    // Returns: 2018 Tesla Model 3 Mid range battery - 5,818 mi
```

Selenium Scraping

```
with webdriver.Firefox() as driver:
    wait = WebDriverWait(driver, 10)
    driver.get(start_url)

    wait.until ( . . . )

    teslas = driver.find_element_by_css_selector('div#cars_v2-result-list article')
    model = teslas.find_element_by_css_selector('h3')

    print(model.text)    // Returns: 2018 Tesla Model 3 Mid range battery - 5,818 mi
```

Waiting for an element

Summary

Scraping JavaScript generated websites

Requests-HTML

- Code example
- Sleep to give JavaScript time

Selenium

- Code example
- Install a WebDriver
- `wait.until (. . .)`