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CIS 3238 Software Design

Project Proposal Draft

9/22/16

**Project Name:** Town Crier

**Github:** https://github.com/colinbarnes01/Town-Crier

**Project Description**

I plan on making a twitter bot known as the ‘Town-Crier’. This bot will grab headlines from news sources such as Google News and tweet the headlines in pseudo-Shakespearean English. An example of a such a tweet would be:

Original news headline:

**Yahoo Says Information on at Least 500 Million User Accounts Was Stolen**

Town-Crier headline:

**‘Hear ye, Hear ye, Yahoo sayeth information on at Least 500 Million User Accounts wast stolen!’**

The program will run on some sort of webserver and generate tweets once every hour or so. The frequency of the tweets will be defined programmatically. The program will also provide a url link to the (original) webpage hosting the news article. I plan to write this program in Python.

**Project Requirements**

This project will require several software modules to be developed. Firstly, I will need to learn Twitter’s API and create a module to handle the twitter bot’s Twitter account information and its connection to Twitter’s servers. A second module will handle getting news article from the web. This will involve scraping Google News for the top headlines around once an hour, and turning the scraped data into data structures that are useful for my program. I plan on using the Scrapy[[1]](#footnote-1) python module to scrape the website. A third module will convert the scraped news headlines from modern English to ‘pseudo-Shakespearean’. This will make use of an API I found here: <http://funtranslations.com/api/shakespeare#translate.> Finally, a fourth module will handle the actual posting of tweets using twitter’s API.

1. Scrapy website: https://scrapy.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)