

Department of Computer Engineering Academic Year : 2023-24

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Experiment No. 2

To perform web crawling, scraping and parsing using Instant data scraper, Netlytic and Octoparse

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Aim: To perform web crawling, scraping and parsing using Instant data scraper, Netlytic and

Octoparse.

Objective: To apply web crawling, scraping, and parsing techniques to extract data from Google

reviews using Instant Data Scraper, extract data from YouTube comments using Netlytic, and set

up and run web scraping tasks to extract data using Octoparse.

Theory:

Web crawling: Web crawling is the process of automatically browsing the internet and indexing

web pages. It is typically done by search engines to discover new content and update their

indexes. Web crawlers, also known as spiders or bots, follow links from one page to another and

download the content of each page for indexing. While web crawling is not the same as web

scraping, web scraping often involves web crawling to navigate through a website and extract

data from multiple pages.

Web scraping: This is the process of extracting specific information from websites. It involves

using software or programming scripts to access the HTML of web pages and extract the desired

data, such as text, images, or links. Web scraping can be done manually or automatically, and it

is used for various purposes, including data collection, market research, and price monitoring.

Parsing: Parsing is the process of analyzing the structure of a document or data file to extract

meaningful information. In the context of web scraping, parsing is used to extract specific data

elements from the HTML or other markup languages used to create web pages. This process

involves identifying the patterns and structures of the data and using techniques like regular

expressions or HTML parsers to extract the desired information.

Instant Data Scraper: Instant Data Scraper is a Chrome extension that allows scraping data

from websites directly in your browser. It provides a simple interface for selecting and extracting

data elements, and it can export the data in various formats like CSV or Excel. Instant Data

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Scraper is useful for quick and easy web scraping tasks, but it may have limitations compared to more advanced scraping tools.

Netlytic: Netlytic is a cloud-based text and social network analyzer that allows users to collect, analyze, and visualize social media data. It can be used to study online communities, track social media trends, and analyze text data from various sources, including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and web forums. Netlytic offers features for data collection, text analysis, and network analysis, making it a versatile tool for social media research and analysis.

Octoparse: Octoparse is a web scraping tool that allows you to extract data from websites without the need for programming. It provides a visual interface for selecting the data to scrape and offers features like scheduled scraping, cloud extraction, and data export options. It's commonly used for tasks such as web data collection, price monitoring, and market research.

Implementation and Output:

Scrape Google Reviews

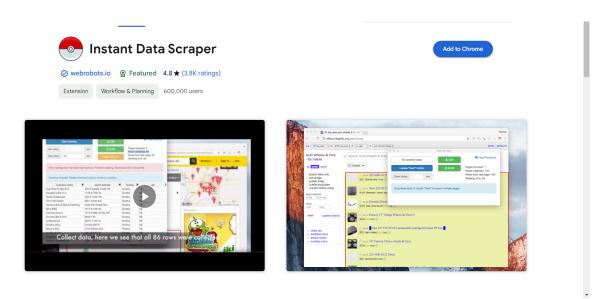
Step 1: Install the Google Chrome extension Instant Data Scraper to scrape Google reviews for any local business

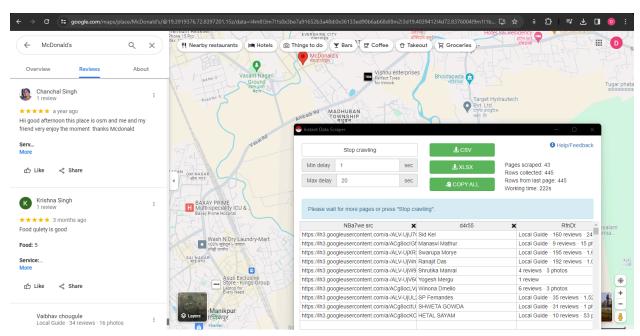
Step 2 : Go to Google Maps and look for a business that interests you

Step 3 : Choose the reviews and launch Instant Data Scraper to crawl Google reviews. Wait until all reviews have been scraped



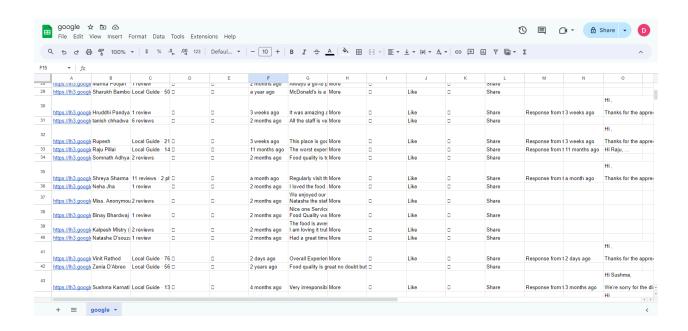
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Scrape YouTube Comments using Netlytic

Step 1 : Sign up for Netlytic

Step 2 : Click "New Dataset"

Step 3: Select "YouTube" as the data source

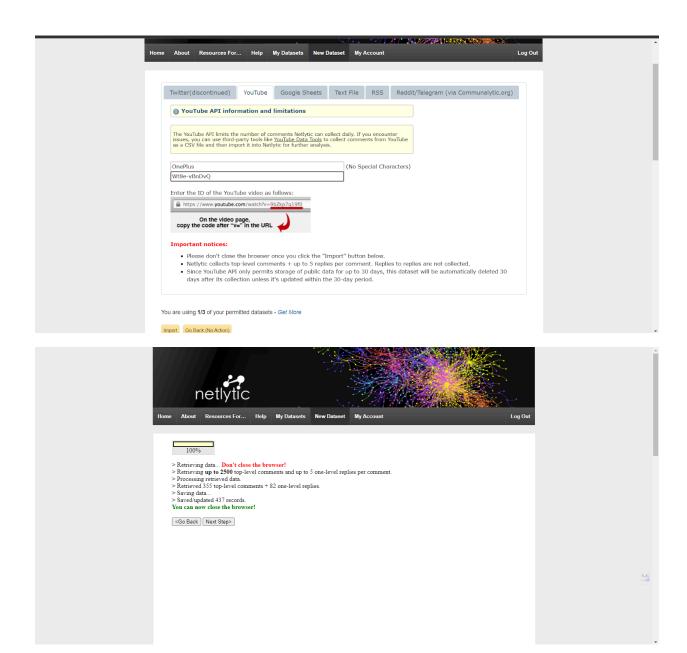
Step 4: Copy the YouTube video ID you want to scrape comments from and paste it into

Netlytic, also enter Dataset Name and click import

Step 5: Go to "My Datasets" tab where you can find your dataset

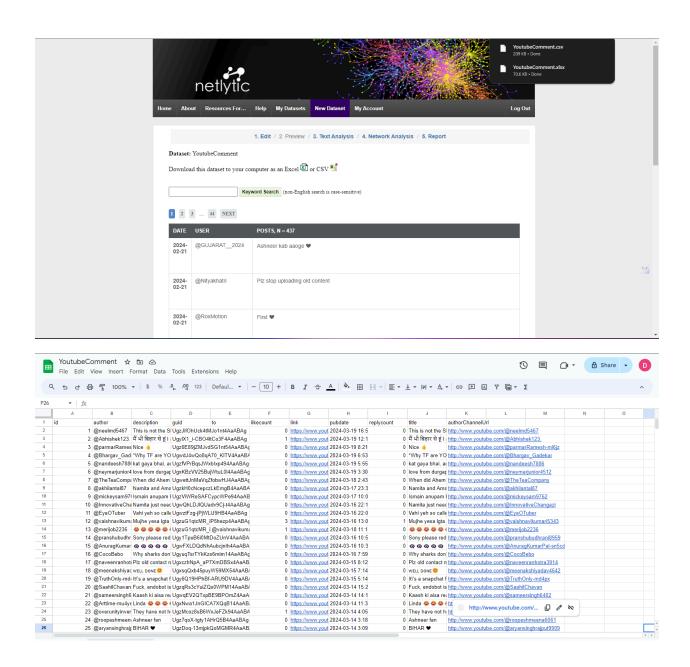


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Web Scraping using Octoparse



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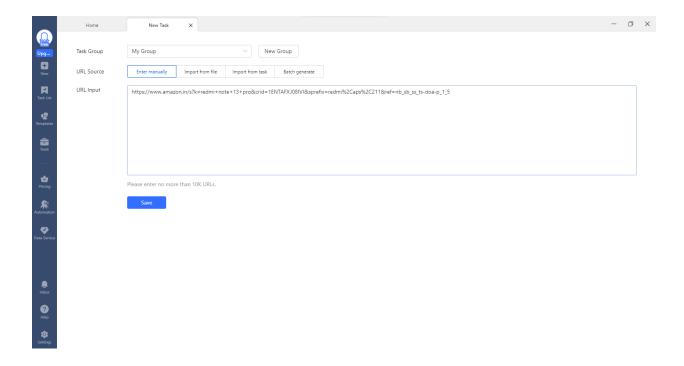
Step 1: Go to web page

Step 2 : Create pagination

Step 3: Build a loop item

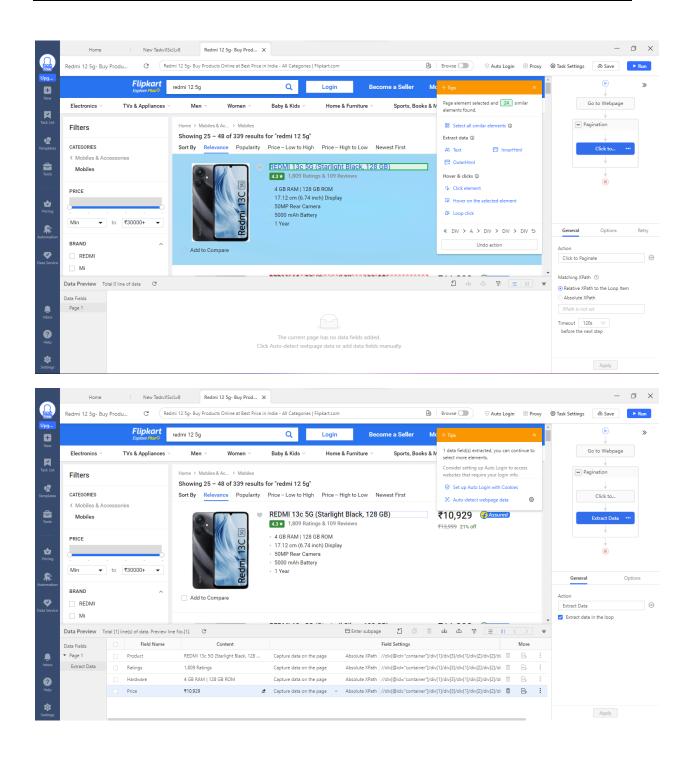
Step 4: Extract the data

Step 5: Run the task and get the data



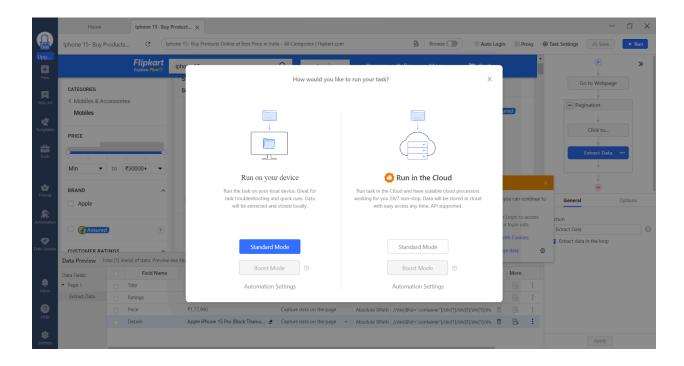


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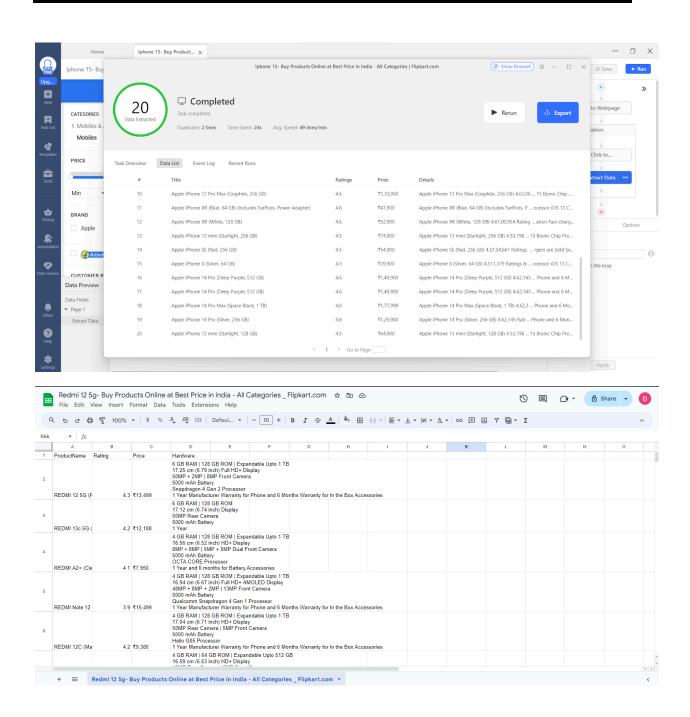


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Conclusion: In conclusion, this experiment showcased the practical application of web crawling, scraping, and parsing techniques using Instant Data Scraper, Netlytic, and Octoparse. Instant Data Scraper proved useful for extracting Google reviews with its user-friendly interface, while Netlytic demonstrated its efficiency in analyzing social media data by extracting YouTube comments effectively. Octoparse's flexibility and automation features made it ideal for complex web scraping tasks, including pagination and data extraction from multiple pages. These tools collectively offer a range of capabilities for web data extraction, catering to different needs and skill levels, and can be valuable assets in research, analysis, and data-driven decision-making processes.