Scrapy beyond the first steps

Eugenio Lacuesta

Python Brasil, october 2018

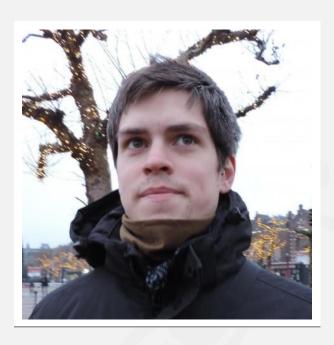
Hello everyone!

About me:

- Python developer from Montevideo, Uruguay
- Scrapinghubber since 2015
- Scrapy contributor

About this talk:

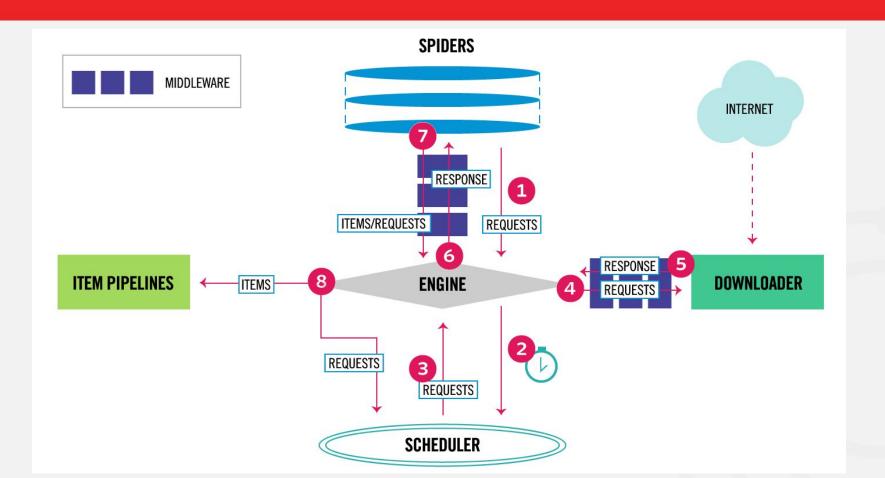
- Only basic Scrapy knowledge needed (spiders, requests)
- Scrapy project at https://github.com/elacuesta/scrapy-beyond-first-steps



Talk summary

- Quick architecture overview
- Basic spider
- Item exporters
- Item pipeline
- Signals
- from_crawler factory method
- Downloader middleware

Architecture



```
from scrapy import Spider
class BooksSpider(Spider):
     name = 'books'
     start urls = ['http://books.toscrape.com']
     def parse(self, response):
          for book link in response.css('article.product pod h3 a::attr(href)').getall():
               yield response.follow(book link, callback=self.parse book)
     def parse book(self, response):
          return {
               'url': response.url,
               'title': response.css('h1::text').get(),
               'price': float(response.css('p.price_color::text').re_first(r'(\d+.?\d*)')),
```

```
from scrapy import Spider
class BooksSpider(Spider):
     name = 'books'
                                                                  First URL to crawl
     start urls = ['http://books.toscrape.com'] \rightarrow
     def parse(self, response):
          for book link in response.css('article.product pod h3 a::attr(href)').getall():
               yield response.follow(book link, callback=self.parse book)
     def parse_book(self, response):
          return {
               'url': response.url,
               'title': response.css('h1::text').get(),
               'price': float(response.css('p.price_color::text').re_first(r'(\d+.?\d*)')),
```

```
from scrapy import Spider
                                                                 Iterate over the
                                                                links and produce
class BooksSpider(Spider):
                                                                  requests to the
     name = 'books'
                                                                   specific books
     start_urls = ['http://books.toscrape.com']
     def parse(self, response):
         for book link in response.css('article.product pod h3 a::attr(href)').getall():
              yield response.follow(book link, callback=self.parse book)
     def parse book(self, response):
         return {
               'url': response.url,
               'title': response.css('h1::text').get(),
               'price': float(response.css('p.price_color::text').re_first(r'(\d+.?\d*)')),
```

```
from scrapy import Spider
class BooksSpider(Spider):
     name = 'books'
     start urls = ['http://books.toscrape.com']
     def parse(self, response):
          for book link in response.css('article.product pod h3 a::attr(href)').getall():
               yield response.follow(book link, callback=self.parse book)
                                                                  Extract information
     def parse book(self, response):
                                                                 from each book page
          return {
               'url': response.url,
               'title': response.css('h1::text').get(),
               'price': float(response.css('p.price color::text').re first(r'(\d+.?\d*)')),
```

```
$ scrapy crawl books -o books.json
2018-10-08 14:36:31 [scrapy.utils.log] INFO: Scrapy 1.5.0 started (bot: pybr2018)
(\ldots)
2018-10-08 14:36:34 [scrapy.core.engine] INFO: Spider closed (finished)
$ cat books.json | jq .
     "url": "http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/a-light-in-the-attic 1000/index.html",
     "title": "A Light in the Attic",
     "price": 51.77,
     "url":
"http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/scott-pilgrims-precious-little-life-scott-pilgrim-1_987/index.html",
     "title": "Scott Pilgrim's Precious Little Life (Scott Pilgrim #1)",
     "price": 52.29,
 },
```

. . .

Item exporters

Item exporters

In the previous example, the -o books.json part indicated Scrapy that we wanted the output in JSON format.

Scrapy comes with a few built-in exporters (JSON, XML, CSV)

Custom item exporters are supported though the FEED EXPORTERS setting:

```
. . .
from ruamel.yaml import YAML
from scrapy.exporters import BaseItemExporter
class YAMLItemExporter(BaseItemExporter):
     def init (self, file, *args, **kwargs):
           super(). init (*args, **kwargs)
           self.file = file
           self.yaml = YAML()
           self.yaml.encoding = self.encoding
     def export item(self, item):
           self.yaml.dump([dict(item)], self.file)
```

```
• • •
from ruamel.yaml import YAML
from scrapy.exporters import BaseItemExporter
                                                                 Inherit from Scrapy's
                                                                     Base Item Exporter
class YAMLItemExporter(BaseItemExporter):
     def init (self, file, *args, **kwargs):
          super(). init (*args, **kwargs)
          self.file = file
          self.yaml = YAML()
          self.yaml.encoding = self.encoding
     def export item(self, item):
          self.yaml.dump([dict(item)], self.file)
```

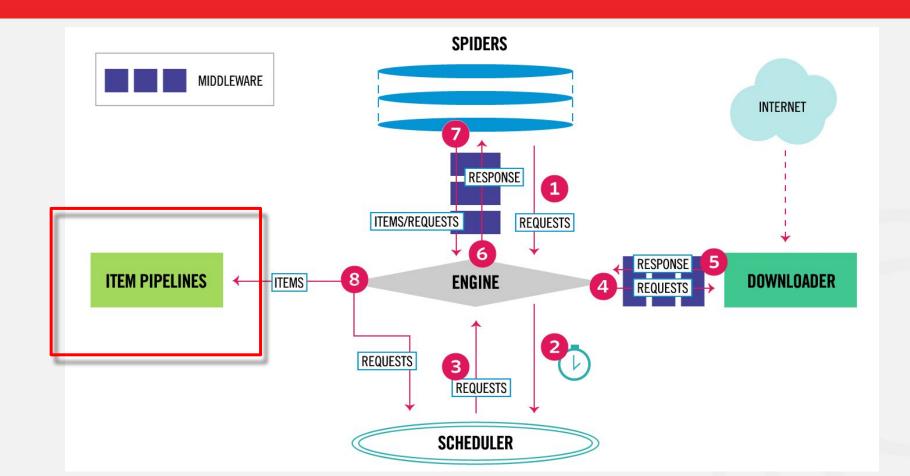
```
from ruamel.yaml import YAML
from scrapy.exporters import BaseItemExporter
class YAMLItemExporter(BaseItemExporter):
                                                        Initialize the base exporter.
     def __init__(self, file, *args, **kwargs):
                                                   Store the output file pointer and
          super(). init (*args, **kwargs)
                                                               create the YAML exporter
          self.file = file
          self.yaml = YAML()
          self.yaml.encoding = self.encoding
     def export item(self, item):
          self.yaml.dump([dict(item)], self.file)
```

```
• • •
from ruamel.yaml import YAML
from scrapy.exporters import BaseItemExporter
class YAMLItemExporter(BaseItemExporter):
     def init (self, file, *args, **kwargs):
          super(). init (*args, **kwargs)
          self.file = file
          self.yaml = YAML()
          self.yaml.encoding = self.encoding
     def export item(self, item):
                                                                      Serialize each item
          self.yaml.dump([dict(item)], self.file)
```

```
$ scrapy crawl books -o books.yaml
2018-10-08 15:43:01 [scrapy.utils.log] INFO: Scrapy 1.5.0 started (bot: pybr2018)
(...several log lines...)
2018-10-08 15:43:04 [scrapy.core.engine] INFO: Spider closed (finished)
$ head -n 12 books.yaml
 title: A Light in the Attic
 price: 35.02
 title: Set Me Free
 price: 17.46
```

Item pipeline

Item pipeline



Item pipeline

After an item is scraped, it is sent through the Item Pipeline.

Each Pipeline stage is just a Python class that implements a process_item method, which receives the item and the spider
object that produced it

This method can perform any action on the item, and it can also decide if the item should be sent to the next stage (by returning it) or discarded (by raising the DropItem exception)

Item pipeline - Validate books

```
class BooksSpider(Spider):
    custom_settings = {
        'ITEM_PIPELINES': {'pybr2018.pipelines.ValidateBookPipeline': 100}
}
```

```
from scrapy.exceptions import DropItem
import jsonschema
class ValidateBookPipeline:
      schema = {...} # a valid JSON schema
      def process item(self, item, spider):
           try:
                  jsonschema.validate(dict(item), self.schema)
            except jsonschema.ValidationError as ex:
                  raise DropItem(ex.message)
           else:
                  return item
```

Item pipeline - Validate books

```
class BooksSpider(Spider):
    custom_settings = {
        'ITEM_PIPELINES': {'pybr2018.pipelines.ValidateBookPipeline': 100}
}
Enable the Pipeline
in the spider class
```

```
from scrapy.exceptions import DropItem
import isonschema
class ValidateBookPipeline:
      schema = {...} # a valid JSON schema
      def process item(self, item, spider):
            try:
                  jsonschema.validate(dict(item), self.schema)
            except jsonschema.ValidationError as ex:
                  raise DropItem(ex.message)
            else:
                  return item
```

Item pipeline - Validate books

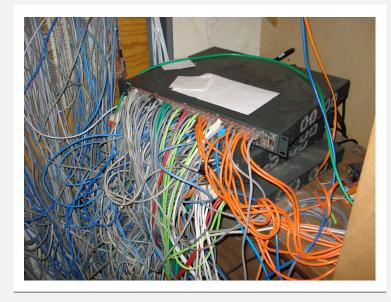
```
class BooksSpider(Spider):
    custom_settings = {
        'ITEM_PIPELINES': {'pybr2018.pipelines.ValidateBookPipeline': 100}
}
```

```
from scrapy.exceptions import DropItem
import jsonschema
                                                     An actual JSON schema (missing
class ValidateBookPipeline:
                                                         here because it's too long)
     schema = {...} # a valid JSON schema
                                                              If the validation fails
     def process item(self, item, spider):
          try:
                                                          raise a DropItem exception
               jsonschema.validate(dict(item), self.schema)
                                                               to indicate Scrapy the
          except jsonschema.ValidationError as ex:
               raise DropItem(ex.message)
                                                            item should be discarded
          else:
               return item
```

```
$ scrapy crawl books
2018-10-08 17:18:06 [scrapy.utils.log] INFO: Scrapy 1.5.0 started (bot: pybr2018)
(\ldots)
2018-10-08 17:18:08 [scrapy.core.scraper] WARNING: Dropped: 52.15 is greater than the maximum of
50
{'url': 'http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/the-black-maria 991/index.html', 'title': 'The Black
Maria', 'price': 52.15}
2018-10-08 17:18:08 [scrapy.core.scraper] WARNING: Dropped: 54.23 is greater than the maximum of
50
{'url': 'http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/sapiens-a-brief-history-of-humankind 996/index.html',
'title': 'Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind', 'price': 54.23}
2018-10-08 17:18:08 [scrapy.core.scraper] WARNING: Dropped: 'The Coming Woman: A Novel Based on
the Life of the Infamous Feminist, Victoria Woodhull' is too long
{'url':
'http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/the-coming-woman-a-novel-based-on-the-life-of-the-infamous-fe
minist-victoria-woodhull 993/index.html', 'title': 'The Coming Woman: A Novel Based on the Life of
the Infamous Feminist, Victoria Woodhull', 'price': 17.93}
(\ldots)
2018-10-08 17:18:09 [scrapy.core.engine] INFO: Spider closed (finished)
```

Signals

Problem - Stateful server



https://www.flickr.com/photos/dcmorton/2446443463/

Now imagine the site stores information about the followed links, and returns responses based on the user's navigation patterns.

Scheduling parallel requests is not an option anymore.

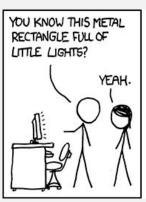
Possible solutions:

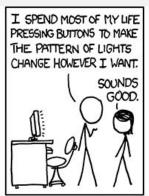
- Sequential crawl
- Parallel sessions

(One) solution - Sequential crawling

We'll take advantage of two design patterns employed on Scrapy:

- Observer pattern (signals)
- Factory pattern (from_crawler class method)

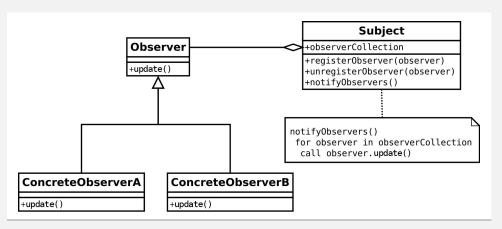






https://www.xkcd.com/722/

Signals



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Observer w update.svg

Observer design pattern: attach handlers to act on system events.

Several available events to handle:

- Engine is started
- Response is downloaded
- Item is scraped
- Spider is idle
- etc

spider_idle signal

From the Documentation:

Fired when the spider has no further requests scheduled/waiting to be downloaded or items being processed by the Item Pipeline

Provides one approach to sequential crawling

from crawler class method

from crawler class method

The main entry point to Scrapy API is the *Crawler* object, passed (...) through the from_crawler class method. This object provides access to all Scrapy core components, and it's the only way (...) to access them and hook their functionality into Scrapy.

```
class MySpider(scrapy.Spider):
    @classmethod
    def from_crawler(cls, crawler, *args, **kwargs):
        spider = super().from_crawler(crawler, *args, **kwargs)
        crawler.signals.connect(spider.schedule_request, signal=scrapy.signals.spider_idle)
        return spider
```

from crawler class method

The main entry point to Scrapy API is the *Crawler* object, passed (...) through the from_crawler class method. This object provides access to all Scrapy core components, and it's the only way (...) to access them and hook their functionality into Scrapy.

```
class MySpider(scrapy.Spider):
    @classmethod
    def from_crawler(cls, crawler, *args, **kwargs):
        spider = super().from_crawler(crawler, *args, **kwargs)
        crawler.signals.connect(spider.schedule_request, signal=scrapy.signals.spider_idle)
        return spider

Connect a handler to the signal
```

```
class SequentialBooksSpider(BooksSpider):
      name = 'books-sequential'
      pending = collections.deque()
      @classmethod
      def from crawler(cls, crawler, *args, **kwargs):
             spider = super().from crawler(crawler, *args, **kwargs)
             crawler.signals.connect(spider.schedule request, signal=scrapy.signals.spider idle)
             return spider
      def schedule request(self):
             if self.pending:
                   request = self.pending.popleft()
                   self.crawler.engine.crawl(request, self)
      def parse(self, response):
             for book link in response.css('article.product pod h3 a::attr(href)').getall():
                   self.pending.append(response.follow(book link, callback=self.parse book))
                   self.pending.append(response.request.replace(dont filter=True, callback=self.parse dummy))
      def parse dummy(self, response):
             self.logger.info('Back at the main page')
```

```
class SequentialBooksSpider(BooksSpider):
                                                                    Inherit from our previous
      name = 'books-sequential'
      pending = collections.deque()
                                                                             spider to reuse the
                                                                                parse book method
      @classmethod
      def from crawler(cls, crawler, *args, ** wargs):
            spider = super().from crawler(crawler, *args, **kwargs)
            crawler.signals.connect(spider.schedule request, signal=scrapy.signals.spider idle)
            return spider
                                                        Container to store pending requests
      def schedule request(self):
            if self.pending:
                  request = self.pending.popleft()
                  self.crawler.engine.crawl(request, self)
      def parse(self, response):
            for book link in response.css('article.product pod h3 a::attr(href)').getall():
                  self.pending.append(response.follow(book link, callback=self.parse book))
                  self.pending.append(response.request.replace(dont filter=True, callback=self.parse dummy))
      def parse dummy(self, response):
            self.logger.info('Back at the main page')
```

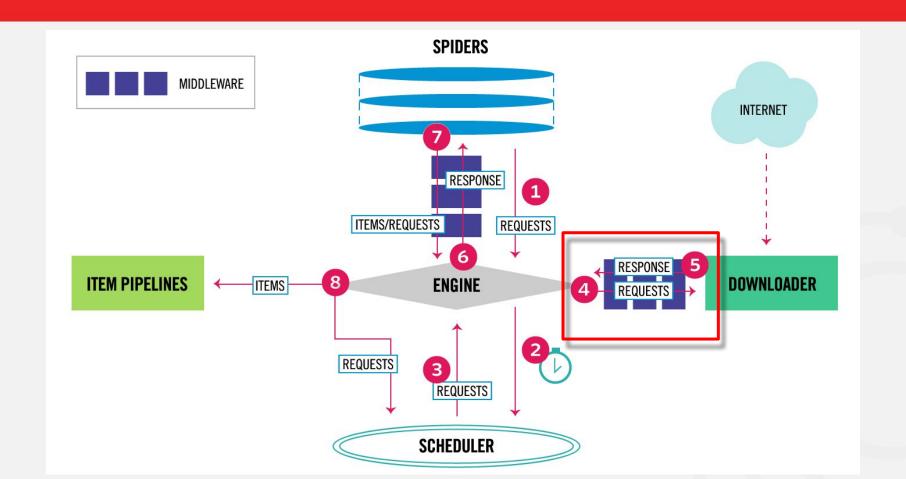
```
class SequentialBooksSpider(BooksSpider):
      name = 'books-sequential'
                                                                         Factory method:
      pending = collections.deque()
                                                                attach signal handler
      @classmethod
      def from crawler(cls, crawler, *args, **kwargs):
            spider = super().from crawler(crawler, *args, **kwargs)
            crawler.signals.connect(spider.schedule request, signal=scrapy.signals.spider idle)
            return spider
      def schedule request(self):
                                                                        Signal handler: crawl next
            if self.pending:
                  request = self.pending.popleft()
                                                                 request when the spider is idle
                  self.crawler.engine.crawl(request, self)
      def parse(self, response):
            for book link in response.css('article.product pod h3 a::attr(href)').getall():
                  self.pending.append(response.follow(book link, callback=self.parse book))
                  self.pending.append(response.request.replace(dont filter=True, callback=self.parse dummy))
      def parse dummy(self, response):
            self.logger.info('Back at the main page')
```

```
class SequentialBooksSpider(BooksSpider):
      name = 'books-sequential'
      pending = collections.deque()
      @classmethod
      def from crawler(cls, crawler, *args, **kwargs):
            spider = super().from crawler(crawler, *args, **kwargs)
            crawler.signals.connect(spider.schedule request, signal=scrapy.signals.spider idle)
            return spider
      def schedule request(self):
                                                                          Store book requests instead
            if self.pending:
                                                                                  of scheduling directly
                  request = self.pending.popleft()
                  self.crawler.engine.crawl(request, self)
      def parse(self, response):
            for book_link in response.css('article.product_pod h3 a::attr(href)').getall():
                  self.pending.append(response.follow(book link, callback=self.parse book))
                  self.pending.append(response.request.replace(dont_filter=True, callback=self.parse_dummy))
      def parse dummy(self, response):
                                                              Simulate going back to the main page
            self.logger.info('Back at the main page')
```

```
$ scrapy crawl books-sequential
2018-10-09 12:54:19 [scrapy.utils.log] INFO: Scrapy 1.5.0 started (bot: pybr2018)
(\ldots)
2018-10-09 12:54:20 [books-sequential] INFO: Scheduling:
http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/a-light-in-the-attic 1000/index.html
2018-10-09 12:54:21 [books-sequential] INFO: Extracting:
http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/a-light-in-the-attic 1000/index.html
2018-10-09 12:54:21 [books-sequential] INFO: Scheduling: http://books.toscrape.com
2018-10-09 12:54:21 [books-sequential] INFO: Back at the main page
2018-10-09 12:54:21 [books-sequential] INFO: Scheduling:
http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/tipping-the-velvet 999/index.html
2018-10-09 12:54:22 [books-sequential] INFO: Extracting:
http://books.toscrape.com/catalogue/tipping-the-velvet 999/index.html
2018-10-09 12:54:22 [books-sequential] INFO: Scheduling: http://books.toscrape.com
2018-10-09 12:54:22 [books-sequential] INFO: Back at the main page
(\ldots)
2018-10-09 12:54:30 [scrapy.core.engine] INFO: Spider closed (finished)
```

Downloader middleware

Downloader middleware



Downloader middleware

The downloader middleware is a framework of hooks into Scrapy's request/response processing. It's a light, low-level system for globally altering Scrapy's requests and responses.

From the docs

More at https://doc.scrapy.org/en/latest/topics/downloader-middleware.html

Downloader middleware - SOAP example

In the following example we will use Zeep (https://python-zeep.readthedocs.io) to communicate with a SOAP web service that converts between Celsius and Fahrenheit.

The SOAP-related heavy lifting will be handled by a downloader middleware, making the process relatively transparent to the spider.

```
class TemperatureConversionMiddleware:
     def init (self):
          self.client = zeep.Client('https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx?WSDL')
     def process request(self, request, spider):
          # . . .
          body = self.client.create message(request, ...)
          return Request(
               url=request.url,
               method='POST',
               body=lxml.etree.tostring(body),
               # ...
     def process_response(self, request, response, spider):
          # ...
          request.meta['result'] = process reply(response, ...)
          return response
```

```
class TemperatureConversionMiddleware:
     def init (self):
          self.client = zeep.Client('https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx?WSDL')
     def process request(self, request, spider):
         # . . .
          body = self.client.create message(request, ...)
                                                            The actual middleware is
          return Request(
                                                              longer, lots of stuff
              url=request.url,
                                                             omitted in this slide!
              method='POST',
               body=lxml.etree.tostring(body),
              # ...
     def process_response(self, request, response, spider):
         # . . .
          request.meta['result'] = process reply(response, ...)
          return response
```

```
class TemperatureConversionMiddleware:
     def init (self):
          self.client = zeep.Client('https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx?WSDL')
     def process request(self, request, spider):
         # ...
          body = self.client.create message(request, ...)
                                                                        Create Zeep client
          return Request(
               url=request.url,
               method='POST',
               body=lxml.etree.tostring(body),
              # ...
     def process_response(self, request, response, spider):
         # ...
          request.meta['result'] = process_reply(response, ...)
          return response
```

```
class TemperatureConversionMiddleware:
    def init (self):
         self.client = zeep.Client('https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx?WSDL')
    def process request(self, request, spider):
         # ...
                                                                     Process requests to
         body = self.client.create message(request, ...)
                                                                       the SOAP service.
         return Request(
                                                                 Use Zeep to create XML
              url=request.url,
                                                                      request bodies for
              method='POST',
              body=lxml.etree.tostring(body),
                                                                           Scrapy to send
              # ...
    def process response(self, request, response, spider):
         # ...
         request.meta['result'] = process reply(response, ...)
         return response
```

```
class TemperatureConversionMiddleware:
    def init (self):
         self.client = zeep.Client('https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx?WSDL')
    def process request(self, request, spider):
         # ...
         body = self.client.create message(request, ...)
         return Request(
              url=request.url,
                                                                          Process responses
              method='POST',
                                                                      coming back from the
              body=lxml.etree.tostring(body),
                                                                              SOAP service.
              # ...
                                                                    Use Zeep to parse the
                                                                                  XML bodies
    def process response(self, request, response, spider):
         # ...
         request.meta['result'] = process reply(response, ...)
         return response
```

```
class TemperatureSpider(scrapy.Spider):
      name = 'temperature'
      url = 'https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx'
      custom settings = {
            'DOWNLOADER MIDDLEWARES': {
                  'pybr2018.middlewares.temperature.TemperatureConversionMiddleware': 543,
      def start requests(self):
           for operation in ('CelsiusToFahrenheit', 'FahrenheitToCelsius'):
                 for in range(5):
                       meta = {'operation name': operation, 'source value': random.uniform(0, 50)}
                       yield scrapy.Request(self.url, dont filter=True, meta=meta)
      def parse(self, response):
            source unit, destination unit = response.meta['operation name'].split('To')
            return {
                  'source': '{} {}'.format(response.meta['source value'], source unit),
                  'destination': '{} {}'.format(response.meta['result'], destination unit),
```

```
class TemperatureSpider(scrapy.Spider):
     name = 'temperature'
                                                                              SOAP service base URL
     url = 'https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx'
     custom settings = {
           'DOWNLOADER MIDDLEWARES': {
                 'pybr2018.middlewares.temperature.TemperatureConversionMiddleware': 543,
                                                              Fnable the downloader middleware
     def start requests(self):
           for operation in ('CelsiusToFahrenheit', 'FahrenheitToCelsius'):
                 for in range(5):
                       meta = {'operation name': operation, 'source value': random.uniform(0, 50)}
                       yield scrapy.Request(self.url, dont filter=True, meta=meta)
     def parse(self, response):
           source unit, destination unit = response.meta['operation name'].split('To')
           return {
                 'source': '{} {}'.format(response.meta['source value'], source unit),
                 'destination': '{} {}'.format(response.meta['result'], destination unit),
```

```
class TemperatureSpider(scrapy.Spider):
     name = 'temperature'
     url = 'https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx'
     custom settings = {
           'DOWNLOADER MIDDLEWARES': {
                 'pybr2018.middlewares.temperature.TemperatureConversionMiddleware': 543,
                                                                              Produce requests with
                                                                                   random temperature
     def start requests(self):
                                                                                 values for the SOAP
           for operation in ('CelsiusToFahrenheit', 'FahrenheitToCelsius'):
                                                                                   service to convert
                 for in range(5):
                      meta = {'operation name': operation, 'source value': random.uniform(0, 50)}
                      yield scrapy.Request(self.url, dont filter=True, meta=meta)
     def parse(self, response):
           source unit, destination unit = response.meta['operation name'].split('To')
           return {
                 'source': '{} {}'.format(response.meta['source value'], source unit),
                 'destination': '{} {}'.format(response.meta['result'], destination unit),
```

```
class TemperatureSpider(scrapy.Spider):
     name = 'temperature'
     url = 'https://www.w3schools.com/xml/tempconvert.asmx'
     custom settings = {
           'DOWNLOADER MIDDLEWARES': {
                 'pybr2018.middlewares.temperature.TemperatureConversionMiddleware': 543,
                                                                             Produce items with the
                                                                       converted value, processed
     def start requests(self):
                                                                                    by the middleware
           for operation in ('CelsiusToFahrenheit', 'FahrenheitToCelsius'):
                 for in range(5):
                       meta = {'operation_name': operation, 'source_value': random.uniform(0, 50)}
                       yield scrapy.Request(self.url, dont filter=True, meta=meta)
     def parse(self, response):
           source unit, destination unit = response.meta['operation name'].split('To')
           return {
                 'source': '{} {}'.format(response.meta['source_value'], source_unit),
                 'destination': '{} {}'.format(response.meta['result'], destination unit),
```

```
$ scrapy crawl temperature -o temperature.json
2018-10-10 10:38:41 [scrapy.utils.log] INFO: Scrapy 1.5.0 started (bot: pybr2018)
(\ldots)
2018-10-10 10:38:42 [TemperatureConversionMiddleware] INFO: Creating request for "CelsiusToFahrenheit" operation
(\ldots)
2018-10-10 10:38:43 [TemperatureConversionMiddleware] INFO: Processing response for "CelsiusToFahrenheit" operation
(\ldots)
2018-10-10 10:38:43 [scrapy.core.engine] INFO: Spider closed (finished)
$ cat temperature.json | jq .
     "source": "44.562162995713486 Celsius",
      "destination": "112.211893392284 Fahrenheit"
     "source": "4.497578874865576 Celsius",
      "destination": "40.095641974758 Fahrenheit"
```

Questions?

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Thanks!

Eugenio Lacuesta lacuesta@scrapinghub.com