Web Scraping With Python

WEB SCRAPING IN PYTHON



Thomas LaetschData Scientist, NYU



Business Savvy

What are businesses looking for?

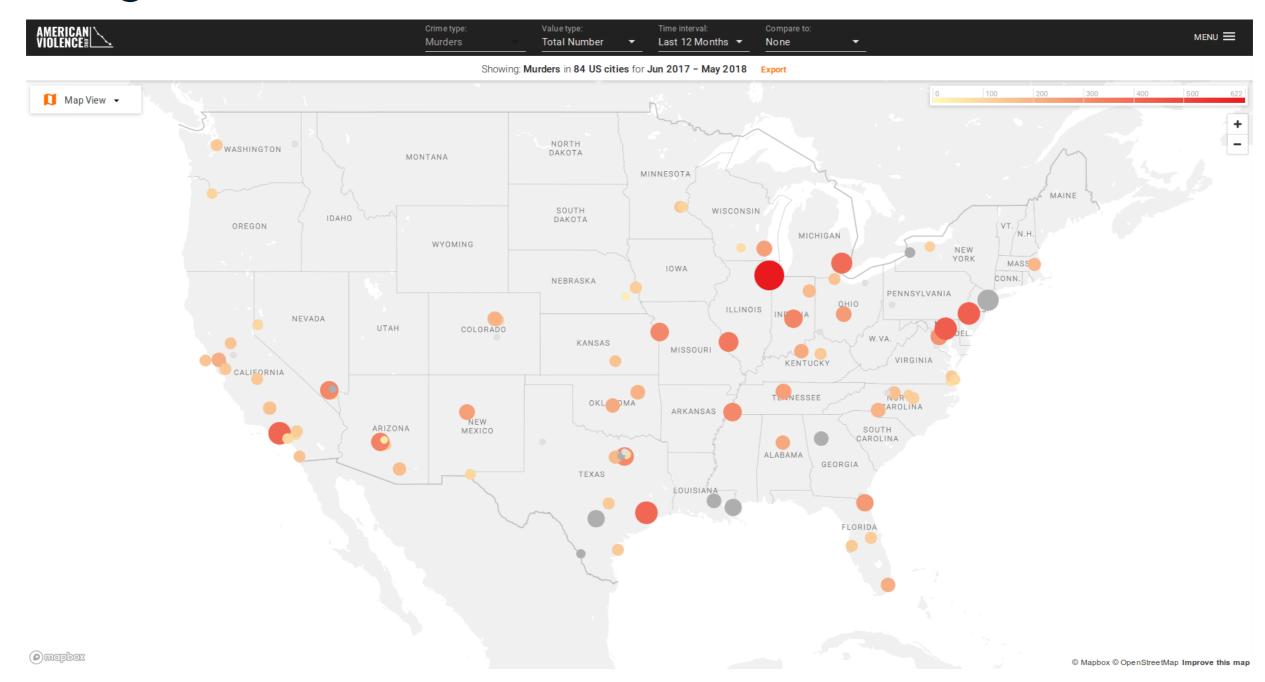
- Comparing prices
- Satisfaction of customers
- Generating potential leads
- ...and much more!

It's Personal

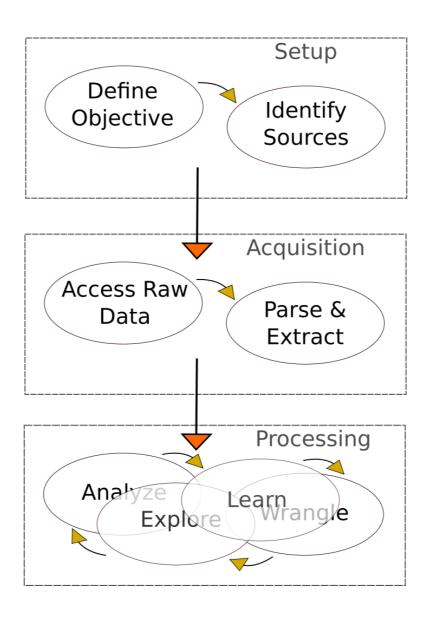
What could you do?

- Search for your favorite memes on your favorite sites.
- Automatically look through classified ads for your favorite gadgets.
- Scrape social site content looking for hot topics.
- Scrape cooking blogs looking for particular recipes, or recipe reviews.
- ...and much more!

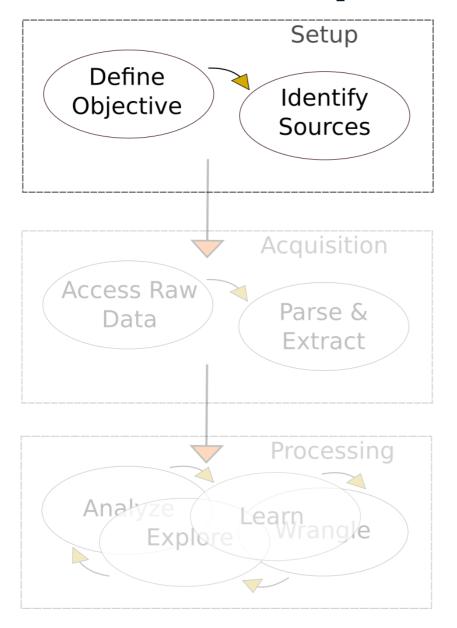
About My Work



Pipe Dream



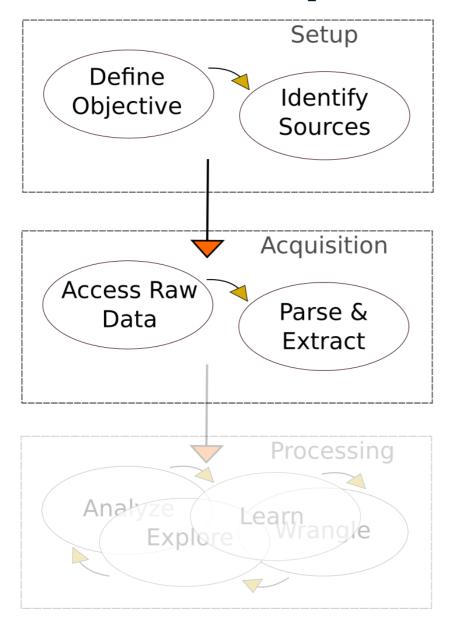
Pipe Dream: Setup



Setup

- Understand what we want to do.
- Find sources to help us do it.

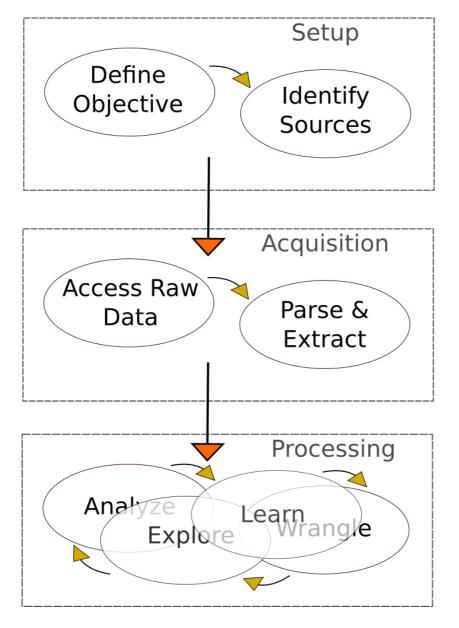
Pipe Dream: Acquisition



Acquisition

- Read in the raw data from online.
- Format these data to be usable.

Pipe Dream: Processing



Processing

Many options!

How do you do?

Our Focus

- Acquisition!
- (Using scrapy via python)

Are you in? WEB SCRAPING IN PYTHON



HyperText Markup Language

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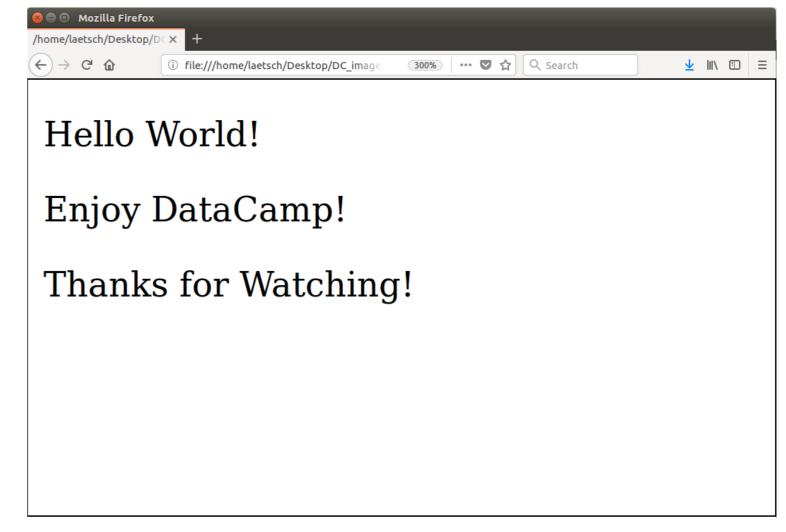


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The main example

```
<html>
                                                                           <body>
                                                                                                                                                       <div>
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                \Policin 
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                Enjoy DataCamp!
                                                                                                                                                    </div>
                                                                                                                                                      Thanks for Watching!
                                                                          </body>
</html>
```



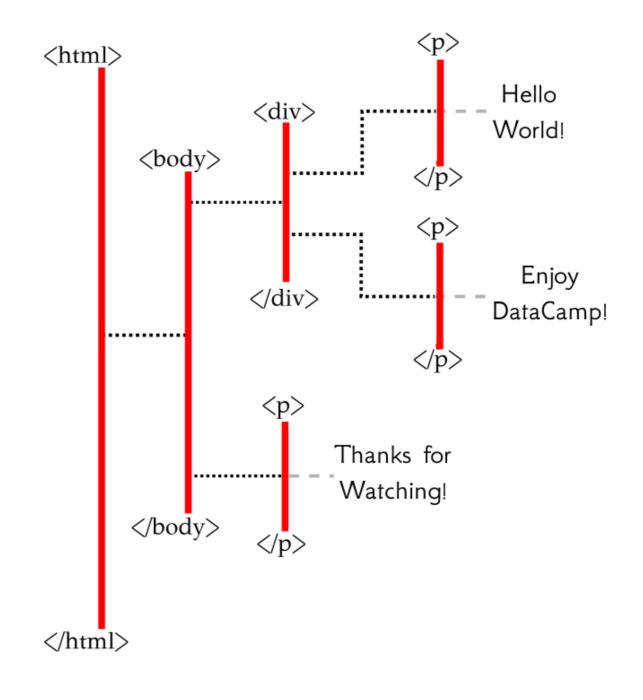
HTML tags

```
<html>
   <body>
      <div>
         Hello World!
         Enjoy DataCamp!
      </div>
      Thanks for Watching!
   </body>
</html>
```

- <html> ... </html>
- <body> ... </body>
- <div> ... </div>
- ...

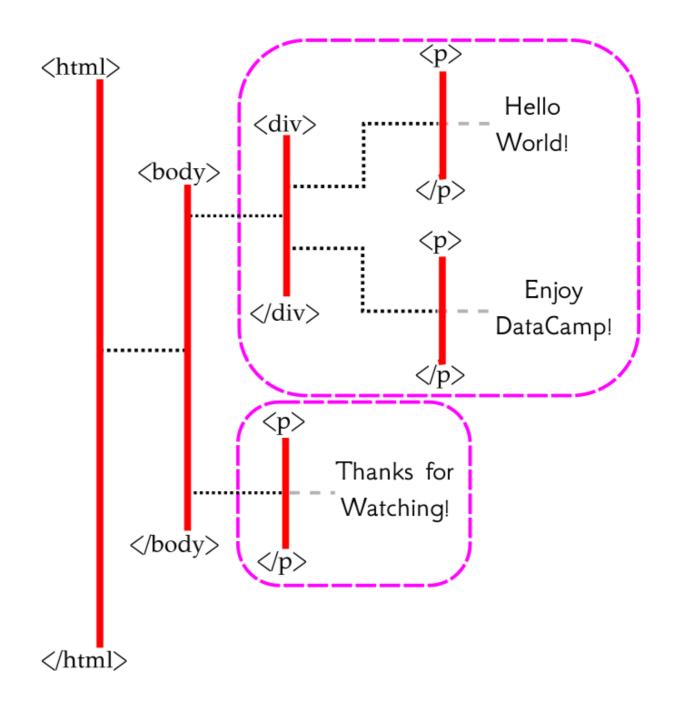
The HTML tree

```
<html>
   <body>
      <div>
         Hello World!
         Enjoy DataCamp!
      </div>
      Thanks for Watching!
   </body>
</html>
```



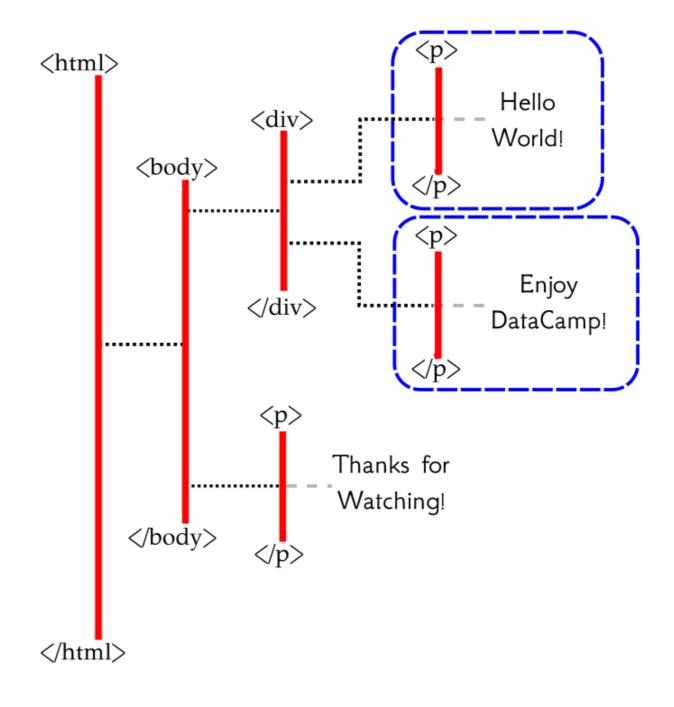
The HTML tree: Example 1

```
<html>
   <body>
      ∕div>
         Hello World!
         Enjoy DataCamp!
      </div>
      Thanks for Watching!
   </body>
</html>
```



The HTML tree: Example 2

```
<html>
   <body>
      <div>
          Hello World!
          (p>Enjoy DataCamp!
      </div>
      Thanks for Watching!
   </body>
</html>
```



Introduction to HTML Outro

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HTML Tags and Attributes

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Do we have to?

- Information within HTML tags can be valuable
- Extract link URLs
- Easier way to select elements

Tag, you're it!

<tag-name attrib-name="attrib info">

..element contents..

</tag-name>

- We've seen tag names such as html, div, and p.
- The **attribute name** is followed by = followed by information assigned to that attribute, usually quoted text.

Let's "div"vy up the tag

```
<div id="unique-id" class="some class">
...div element contents..
```

</div>

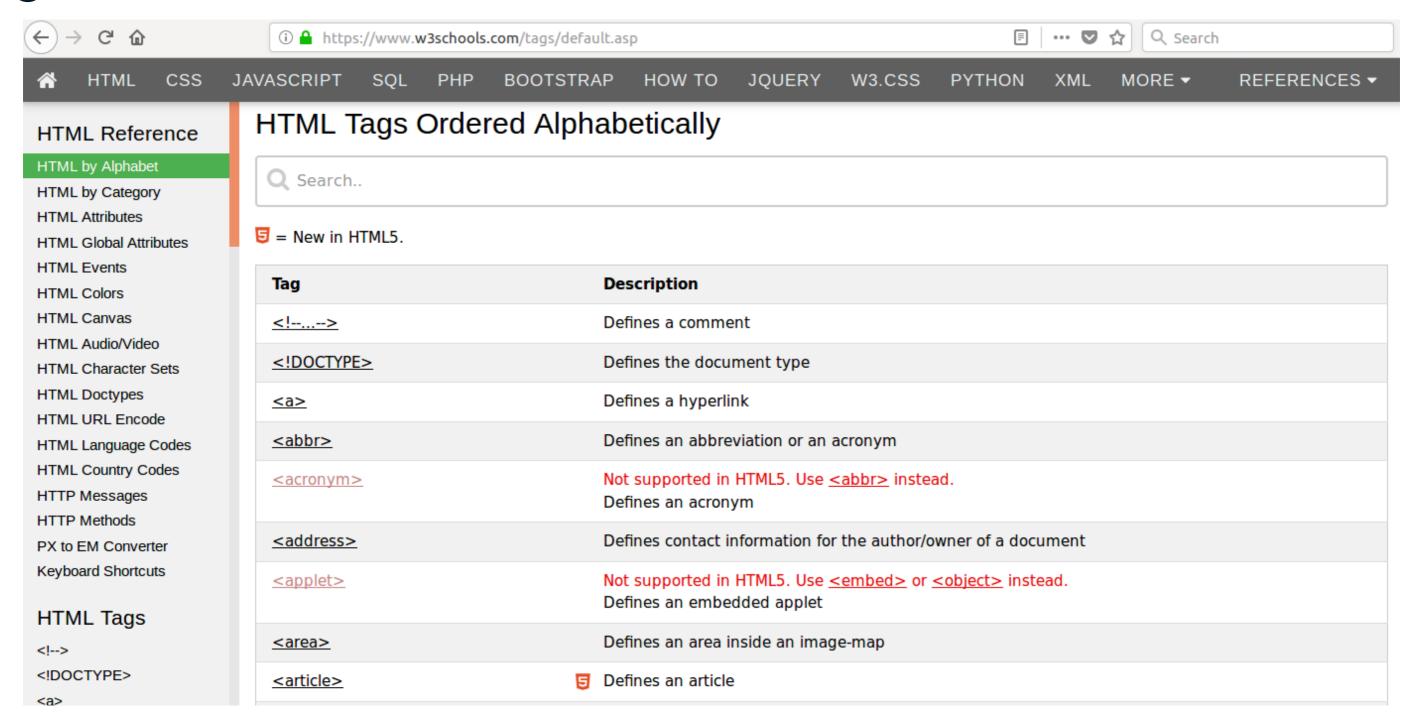
- id attribute should be unique
- class attribute doesn't need to be unique

"a" be linkin'

```
<a href="https://www.datacamp.com">
    This text links to DataCamp!
    </a>
```

- a tags are for hyperlinks
- href attribute tells what link to go to

Tag Traction





Et Tu, Attributes?

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Crash Course X

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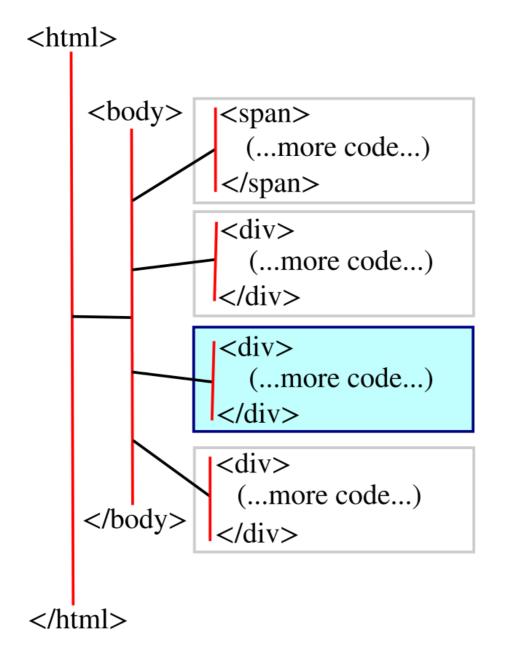
Another Slasher Video?

```
xpath = '/html/body/div[2]'
```

Simple XPath:

- Single forward-slash / used to move forward one generation.
- tag-names between slashes give direction to which element(s).
- Brackets [] after a tag name tell us which of the selected siblings to choose.

Another Slasher Video?



xpath = '/html/body/div[2]'

Slasher Double Feature?

• Direct to all table elements within the entire HTML code:

```
xpath = '//table'
```

• Direct to all table elements which are descendants of the 2nd div child of the body element:

```
xpath = '/html/body/div[2]//table`
```

Ex(path)celent WEB SCRAPING IN PYTHON

