Lab 7. The News Bot



By the end of this lab, you will be able to:

- Understand the basics of the Twitter API
- · Create a bot that listens to hashtags
- Build a Twitter bot that tweets and retweets
- Integrate NewsAPI and tweet top stories

Lab Solution

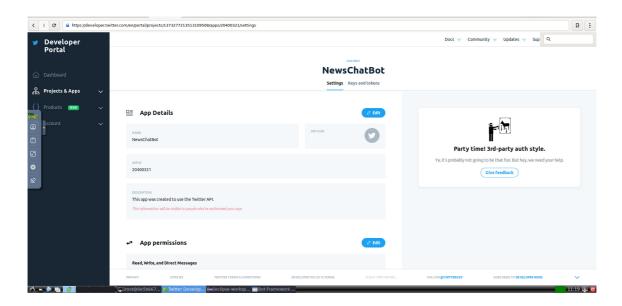
Complete solution of this lab is present in following directory. Run "npm install" in the terminal to download node modules and run application:

/root/Desktop/chatbots-development/Lab07

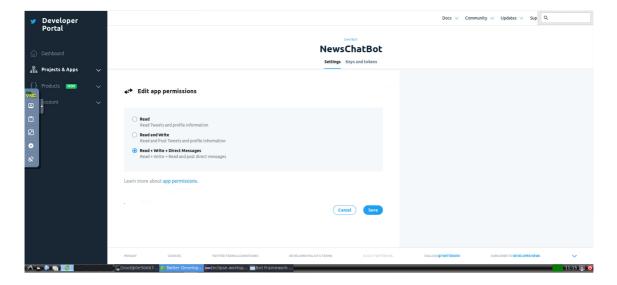
Getting started with the Twitter app

To get started, let us explore the Twitter developer platform. Let us begin by building a Twitter app and later explore how we can tweet news articles to followers based on their interests:

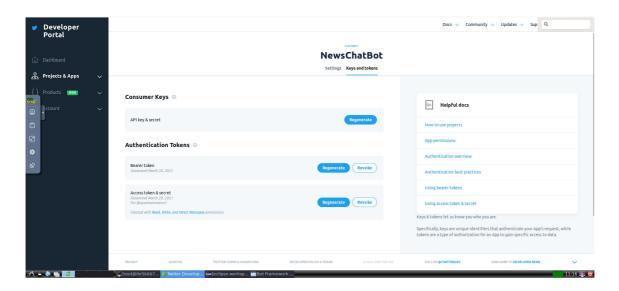
- 1. Log on to Twitter at www.twitter.com. If you don't have an account on Twitter, create one.
- 2. Go to https://developer.twitter.com, which is Twitter's application management dashboard.
- 3. Apply for Twiiter developer account.
- 4. Create an application by filling in the form providing name & description



5. Change App Permissions to "Read, Write, and Direct Messages"



- 6. Copy consumer key and consumer secret (i-e: API key & secret) and hang on to them.
- 7. Click Access Token & Secret to create a new token for your app:



8. Copy the Access Token and Access Token Secret and hang on to them.

Now, we have all the keys and tokens we need to create a Twitter app.

Building your first Twitter bot

Let's build a simple Twitter bot. This bot will listen to tweets and pick out those that have a particular hashtag. All the tweets with a given hashtag will be printed on the console. This is a very simple bot to help us get started. In the following sections, we will explore more complex bots.

1. Go to the root directory and create a new Node.js program using <code>npm init</code>:

```
C:\Users\Srini\Dropbox\_Book\workspace\twitterbot>npm init
This utility will walk you through creating a package.json file.
It only covers the most common items, and tries to guess sensible defaults.
See `npm help json` for definitive documentation on these fields
and exactly what they do.
Use `npm install <pkg> --save` afterwards to install a package and
save it as a dependency in the package.json file.
Press ^C at any time to quit.
name: (twitterbot)
version: (1.0.0)
description: my news bot
entry point: (index.js)
test command:
git repository:
keywords:
author:
license: (ISC)
About to write to C:\Users\Srini\Dropbox\_Book\workspace\twitterbot\package.json:
  "name": "twitterbot",
  "version": "1.0.0",
  "description": "my news bot",
  "main": "index.js",
  "scripts": {
    "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
  "author": "",
  "license": "ISC"
```

2. Execute the npm install twitter --save command to install the Twitter Node.js library:

```
C:\Users\Srini\Dropbox\_Book\workspace\twitterbot>npm install twitter --save

npm WARN package.json twitterbot@1.0.0 No repository field.

npm WARN package.json twitterbot@1.0.0 No README data

twitter@1.7.1 node_modules\twitter

deep-extend@0.5.0

request@2.81.0 (aws-sign2@0.6.0, oauth-sign@0.8.2, forever-agent@0.6.1, tunnel-agent@0.6.0, is-typedarray@1.0.0, caseless@0.12.0, safe-buffer@5.1.1, stringstream@0.0.5, isstream@0.1.2, aws4@1.6.0, json-stringify-safe@5.0.1, extend@3.0.1, performance-now@0.2.0, uuid@3.1.0, qs
@6.4.0, combined-stream@1.0.5, mime-types@2.1.16, tough-cookie@2.3.2, form-data@2.1.4, hawk@3.1.3, http-signature@1.1.1, har-validator@4.2.1)
```

Run npm install request --save to install the Request library as well. We will use this in the future to make HTTP GET requests to a news data source.

3. Explore your package.json file in the root directory:

```
{
  "name": "twitterbot",
```

```
"version": "1.0.0",

"description": "my news bot",

"main": "index.js",

"scripts": {
    "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
},

"author": "",

"license": "ISC",

"dependencies": {
    "request": "^2.81.0",
    "twitter": "^1.7.1"
}
```

4. Create an index.js file with the following code:

```
//index.js

var TwitterPackage = require('twitter');

var request = require('request');

console.log("Hello World! I am a twitter bot!");

var secret = {
   consumer_key: 'YOUR_CONSUMER_KEY',
   consumer_secret: 'YOUR_CONSUMER_SECRET',
   access_token_key: 'YOUR_ACCESS_TOKEN_KEY',
   access_token_secret: 'YOUR_ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET'
}

var Twitter = new TwitterPackage(secret);
```

In the preceding code, put the keys and tokens you saved in their appropriate variables. We don't need the request package just yet, but we will later.

5. Now let's create a [hashtag listener] to listen to the tweets on a specific hashtag:

```
});
});
```

Replace #brexit with the hashtag you want to listen to. Use a popular one so that you can see the code in action.

- 6. Run the index.js file with the node index.js command.
- 7. You will see a stream of tweets from Twitter users all over the globe who used the hashtag:

```
Users\Srini\Dropbox\_Book\workspace\twitterbot>node index.js
Hello World! I am a twitter bot!
Listening to:#brexit
                       RT @weloveeconomics: The UK economy grew faster after joining the EU but popu
Tweet:@belanisiya
lism (no facts!) made people believe the opposite...
                       RT @jlivingstone100: Brexit support fading it seems -'Marketplace did not enc
Tweet:@BazzieSmith
ounter any farmers at the show who admitted voting for Brex...
Tweet:@frankietaggart RT @brexitcountdow1: Brexit is 13850 hours away. #brexit
[weet:@pm kristin
                       RT @laute europaeer: Ist nach Abschluss der #Brexit -Verhandlungen ein 2. #Re
 erendum über das Abkommen zwischen #UK und #EU notwendig?
Tweet:@GillianRAdams
                       RT @nickreeves9876: Shocking how seldom the question of Freedom of Movement i
 couched in terms of the loss of our Right to live & work in...
Tweet:@hpw_llp RT @TheLawSociety: What is the European Court of Justice and why does it matter? A #B
rexit Q&A https://t.co/C0Vi6J0fm4 https://t.co/8ankRoV...
                       RT @LeedsEurope: Leeds for Europe Stop Brexit Day of Action! 16 Sep - Rally,
Tweet:@h1llbillies
Question Time & Social with @RCorbettMEP @emmyzen & mor…
                       RT @trevdick: Britain 2017 with Brexit looming is peddling backwards to 1971.
[weet:@KarenMc10
 Nemories are not made of this...
#Brexit is Barmy https://t…
```

Congratulations! You have built your first Twitter bot. We will use the hashtag listening module later in this lab to build a more complex bot.

Exploring the Twitter SDK

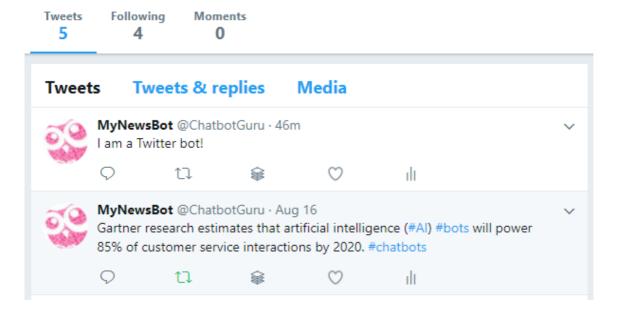
In the previous section, we explored how to listen to tweets based on hashtags. Let's now explore the Twitter SDK to understand the capabilities that we can bestow upon our Twitter bot.

Updating your status

You can also update your status on your Twitter timeline by using the following s[tatus update] module code:

```
tweet ('I am a Twitter Bot!', null, null);
function tweet(statusMsg, screen_name, status_id) {
    console.log('Sending tweet to: ' + screen_name);
    console.log('In response to:' + status_id);
    var msg = statusMsg;
    if (screen_name != null) {
        msg = '@' + screen_name + ' ' + statusMsg;
    }
    console.log('Tweet:' + msg);
```

Comment out the hashtag listener code and instead add the preceding status update code and run it. When run, your bot will post a tweet on your timeline:



In addition to tweeting on your timeline, you can also tweet in response to another tweet (or status update). The screen_name argument is used to create a response. tweet. screen_name is the name of the user who posted the tweet. We will explore this a bit later.

Retweet to your followers

You can retweet a tweet to your followers using the following r[etweet status] code:

```
var retweetId = '899681279343570944';
retweet(retweetId);

function retweet(retweetId) {
   Twitter.post('statuses/retweet/', {
      id: retweetId
   }, function(err, response) {
      if (err) {
```

```
console.log('Something went wrong while RETWEETING...');
    console.log(err);
}
else if (response) {
    console.log('Retweeted!!!');
    console.log(response)
}
});
```

Searching for tweets

You can also search for recent or popular tweets with hashtags using the following s[earch hashtags] code:

```
search('#brexit', 'popular')
function search(hashtag, resultType){
    var params = {
        q: hashtag, // REQUIRED
        result_type: resultType,
        lang: 'en'
    }

    Twitter.get('search/tweets', params, function(err, data) {
        if (!err) {
            console.log('Found tweets: ' + data.statuses.length);
            console.log('First one: ' + data.statuses[1].text);
        }
        else {
            console.log('Something went wrong while SEARCHING...');
        }
    });
});
```

Exploring a news data service

Let's now build a bot that will tweet news articles to its followers at regular intervals. We will then extend it to be personalized by users through a conversation that happens over direct messaging with the bot. In order to build a news bot, we need a source where we can get news articles. We are going to explore a news service called NewsAPI.org in this section. NewsAPI is a service that aggregates news articles from roughly 70 newspapers around the globe.

Setting up NewsAPI

Let us set up an account with the NewsAPI data service and get the API key:

1. Go to newsapi.org:

News API is a simple and easy-to-use API that returns JSON metadata for the headlines Live example currently published on a range of news sources and blogs (70 and counting so far). Documentation Articles Use it to display live news headlines and images in your app or on your site! Sources FREAKING FAST ★ FREE TO USE CORS ENABLED Just add a 'powered by' attribution Make requests directly from the Everything is asynchronously cached for a super-fast response.

link back to NewsAPI.org.

front-end!

National Geographic

- 2. Click Get API key.
- 3. Register using your email.
- 4. Get your API key.
- 5. Explore the sources: https://newsapi.org/v1/sources?apiKey=YOUR API KEY.

There are about 70 sources from across the globe including popular ones such as BBC News, Associated Press, Bloomberg, and CNN. You might notice that each source has a category tag attached. The possible options are: business, entertainment, gaming, general, music, politics, science-and-nature, sport, and technology. You might also notice that each source also has language (en, de, fr) and country (au, de, gb, in, it, us) tags. The following is the information on the BBC-News source:

```
{
    "id": "bbc-news",
    "name": "BBC News",
    "description": "Use BBC News for up-to-the-minute news,
    breaking news, video, audio and feature stories.
    BBC News provides trusted World and UK news as well as
    local and regional perspectives. Also entertainment,
    business, science, technology and health news.",
    "url": "http://www.bbc.co.uk/news",
    "category": "general",
    "language": "en",
    "country": "gb",
    "urlsToLogos": {
        "small": "",
        "medium": "",
        "large": ""
    "sortBysAvailable": [
        "top"
        ]
```

6. Get sources for a specific category, language, or country using:

https://newsapi.org/v1/sources?category=business&apiKey=YOUR API KEY

The following is the part of the response to the preceding query asking for all sources under the business category:

```
"sources": [
   {
        "id": "bloomberg",
        "name": "Bloomberg",
        "description": "Bloomberg delivers business
        and markets news, data, analysis, and video
        to the world, featuring stories from Businessweek
        and Bloomberg News.",
        "url": "http://www.bloomberg.com",
        "category": "business",
        "language": "en",
        "country": "us",
        "urlsToLogos": {
           "small": "",
            "medium": "",
           "large": ""
        },
        "sortBysAvailable": [
        "top"
        ]
    },
       "id": "business-insider",
        "name": "Business Insider",
        "description": "Business Insider is a fast-growing
        business site with deep financial, media, tech, and
        other industry verticals. Launched in 2007, the
        site is now the largest business news site on the web.",
        "url": "http://www.businessinsider.com",
        "category": "business",
        "language": "en",
        "country": "us",
        "urlsToLogos": {
           "small": "",
           "medium": "",
           "large": ""
        },
        "sortBysAvailable": [
        "top",
        "latest"
       ]
   },
]
```

7. Explore the articles:

The following is the sample response:

```
"articles": [
   {
        "author": "BBC News",
        "title": "US Navy collision: Remains found in
                hunt for missing sailors",
        "description": "Ten US sailors have been missing since Monday's
               collision with a tanker near Singapore.",
        "url": "http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-41013686",
        "urlToImage":
        "https://ichef1.bbci.co.uk/news/1024/cpsprodpb/80D9/
                       production/ 97458923 mediaitem97458918.jpg",
        "publishedAt": "2017-08-22T12:23:56Z"
   },
        "author": "BBC News",
        "title": "Afghanistan hails Trump support in 'joint struggle'",
        "description": "President Ghani thanks Donald Trump for
                       supporting Afghanistan's battle against the
                       Taliban.",
        "url": "http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-41012617",
        "urlToImage":
        "https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/images/ic/1024x576/p05d08pf.jpg",
        "publishedAt": "2017-08-22T11:45:49Z"
   },
]
```

For each article, the author, title, description, url, urlToImage,, and publishedAt fields are provided. Now that we have explored a source of news data that provides up-to-date news stories under various categories, let us go on to build a news bot.

Building a Twitter news bot

Now that we have explored NewsAPI, a data source for the latest news updates, and a little bit of what the Twitter API can do, let us combine them both to build a bot tweeting interesting news stories on its own timeline:

Let's create a new JS file called tweeter.js. Copy code from index.js and paste in the new file.

1. Let's build a news tweeter module that tweets the top news article given the source. The following code uses the tweet() function we built earlier:

```
function (error, response, body) {
    //response is from the bot
    if (!error && response.statusCode == 200) {
        var botResponse = JSON.parse(body);
        console.log(botResponse);
        tweetTopArticle(botResponse.articles, screen_name);
    } else {
        console.log('Sorry. No new');
    }
});

function tweetTopArticle(articles, screen_name, status_id) {
    var article = articles[0];
    tweet(article.title + " " + article.url, screen_name);
}
```

Run the preceding program to fetch news from CNN and post the topmost article on Twitter:

Here is the post on Twitter:



Tweets Tweets & replies Media



MyNewsBot @ChatbotGuru · 4m Hurricane Harvey strengthens to Category 2



Hurricane Harvey strengthens to Category 2

As heavy rain and gusty winds move in over Texas, coastal residents are deciding whether to flee their homes or to stay put and brace for a potent...

cnn.com













2. Now, let us build a module that tweets news stories from a randomly-chosen source in a list of sources:

3. Let's call the tweeting module after we acquire the list of sources:

```
function getAllSourcesAndTweet() {
   var sources = [];
   console.log('getting sources...')
   request({
        url: 'https://newsapi.org/v1/sources?
        apiKey=YOUR_API_KEY',
        method: 'GET'
```

```
function (error, response, body) {
    //response is from the bot
    if (!error && response.statusCode == 200) {
       // Print out the response body
       var botResponse = JSON.parse(body);
        for (var i = 0; i < botResponse.sources.length;</pre>
             <u>i++)</u> {
            console.log('adding.. ' +
                       botResponse.sources[i].id)
            sources.push(botResponse.sources[i].id)
        }
        tweetFromRandomSource(sources, null, null);
    } else {
        console.log('Sorry. No news sources!');
    }
});
```

4. In the tweeter.js file, call getSourcesAndTweet() to get the process started:

```
getAllSourcesAndTweet();
```

5. Run the tweeter.js file on the console. This bot will tweet a news story every time it is called. It will choose top news stories from around 70 news sources randomly.

Task: Tweet Every Hour

Create node js script and schedule a cron that tweets something every hour.

Summary

In this lab, we have covered a lot. We started off with the Twitter API and got a taste of how we can automatically tweet, retweet, and search for tweets using hashtags. We then explored a News source API that provides news articles from about 70 different newspapers.