Facebook API

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Facebook

Online social network

- Started as service for college students
- Now largest networking service worldwide

Privacy controls

- Allows user to keep activities private
- Decide with whom they want to share

Self-proclaimed social graph

- Based on friends relationship
- Relationships are reciprocal
- “Likes” feature

Graph API

REST API

- Requests encoded as http URLs

Uses Facebook Query Language (FQL)

- SQL-like syntax

Page where you submit requests

- Resulting JSON results

Supports Open Authorization

Graph API Results

Results—JSON objects

Similar notation to JSON in Python

- Using ‘{ }’ for dictionaries
- Using ‘[ ]’ for lists

Use of edge names

- Fields associated with your account
- Connection fields

Graph API Terms

Feed—things user sees on their wall

Posts—any content a user posts

Statuses—status updates

Installing Facebook

Most widely used package

- Facebook-sdk

To install in python:

- Open an Anaconda prompt
- pip install facebook-sdk

Get Access Token (good for about an hour)

https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer

Facebook SDK

Facebook API

Basically 4 functions:

- get_object(self, id, **args)
- get_objects(self, id, **args)
- get_connections(self, id, connection_name, **args)
- request(self, path, args=None, post_args=None)
- Example usage: request("search",{'q':'social web', 'type':'page'})

Facebook in Python

```
>>> import facebook
>>> import json
>>>ACCESS_TOKEN = '<put access token here>'
>>>fb = facebook.GraphAPI(ACCESS_TOKEN)
```

My Facebook information

>>>myFB = fb.get_object(‘me’)

(then print it out)

>>>print(json.dumps(myFB, indent =2)

(my Friends)

>>>myFriends = fb.get_connections(‘me’, ‘friends’)

>>>print(json.dumps(myFriends, indent =2)

Using Search Function

```
>>> DJ = fb.request("search", {'q' : 'jurafsky', 'type':'page'})
>>>type(DJ)
<class 'dict'>
>>>DJ.keys()
dict_keys(['data', 'paging'])
```

Printing Data

```
>>>Djdata = DJ[‘data’]
>>>type(Djdata)
<class ‘list’>
>>>print(json.dumps(Djdata, indent=2))
```

Now we could dive deeper into Dan Jurafsky