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CPSC 499

### Yale Admissions Office Report and Write - Up

One of my goals for my senior project was to learn the basics of scripting, create a proof of concept, and work with a Yale office to write a script for them, to fulfill a need of theirs. I immediately thought of the Yale Admission Office, which employs not only admissions officers but many student employees as well. They work with parents and families of prospective and admitted students, high schoolers, the Yale community, the Yale financial aid office, and the Yale administration. I spoke to one of the head admissions officers, Hannah Mendlowitz, and she suggested a few different areas of busy work that could be accomplished using scripting.

- She mentioned that every year the admissions has to update their directory of all of the department DUS names and emails.
  - I looked into this and was able to scrape the information successfully, but it did require a bit of finagle-ing, because I didn't know how to separate the departments and the directors by department, so I had to do that part manually.
  - I expected there to be more prevention of web crawling/scraping on the official Yale website, but there wasn't.
- They have to keep an updated list of student organization websites and officers.
  - I first tried this with the official college dean's office list of student organizations, and there were some hidden displays that prevented me from being able to scrape the site.
  - However, I looked around some more and found that the admissions office already had a section with a limited subset of student groups, so I crawled that and used that.
  - Similarly to the issue with the departments, I couldn't find a smart way to categorize the student groups/links into the categories of the type of group they were, so I left that out of the spreadsheet.
- She mentioned that sometimes they have to find/update every mention or usage of a certain thing on their website, which can be hard because they have lots of pages. An example of this would be when they changed "freshmen" to "first year".
  - I decided this wouldn't be the best use of my time to look further into / try to write a script for, because testing would require the ability to make changes to the site.

- She mentioned that sometimes she would look at lists of award recipients for STEM competitions to see who in their applicant pool or accepted students pool had been awarded or recognized, and that it would be easier to have a spreadsheet.
  - She directed me to a few different websites to look into:
    - <https://www.societyforscience.org/regeneron-sts/2020-finalists/>
    - <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/awards/>
    - <https://www.cee.org/news/rsi-welcomes-82-top-scholars-2019-summer-stem-institute>
  - Most of these have pretty simple structures, and I feel confident I'll be able to write scripts to transfer the students names into an excel spreadsheet.