



11/2/2018 11:31 AM

python 3.x - Move to searched text on active screen with pyautogui - Stack Overflow



# Move to searched text on active screen with pyautogui

Asked 3 years, 8 months ago Active 7 months ago Viewed 10k times



7



I am trying to make a program that searches for a text on a web-page, then places the mouse cursor on the highlighted text after it has been found. Is this possible using pyautogui? If so, how. If not, are there any other alternatives to do this?

Example code below:



2



```
import webbrowser
import pyautogui

var = 'Filtered Questions'
webbrowser.open('https://stackexchange.com/')
time.sleep(2)

pyautogui.hotkey('ctrl', 'f')
pyautogui.typewrite(var)
#code to place mouse cursor to the occurrence of var
```

I would prefer to not use the `pyautogui.moveTo()` or `pyautogui.moveRel()` because the text I am searching for on the website is not static. The position of the searched text varies when the web page loads. Any help would be highly appreciated.

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asked Mar 4 '18 at 22:39



[ElectroMotiveHorse](#)

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3



Yes, you can do that, but you additionally need Tesseract (and the Python-module pytesseract) for text recognition and PIL for taking screenshots.

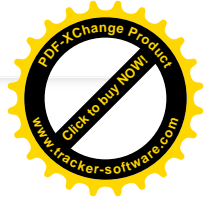
Then perform the following steps:



1. Open the page
2. Open and perform the search (ctrl+f with pyautogui) - the view changes to the first result

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## 5. Use pyautogui to move the mouse and click on it

Here is the needed code for getting the image and the related data:

```
import time
from PIL import ImageGrab # screenshot

import pytesseract
from pytesseract import Output
pytesseract.pytesseract.tesseract_cmd =
(r"C:\...\AppData\Local\Programs\Tesseract-OCR\tesseract") # needed for Windows
as OS

screen = ImageGrab.grab() # screenshot
cap = screen.convert('L') # make grayscale

data=pytesseract.image_to_boxes(cap,output_type=Output.DICT)

print(data)
```

In `data` you find all required information you need to move the mouse and click on the text.

The downside of this approach is the resource consuming OCR part which takes a few seconds on slower machines.

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edited Mar 25 at 6:57

answered Mar 25 at 6:45



Ulrich  
79 ● 8



1

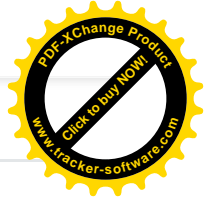
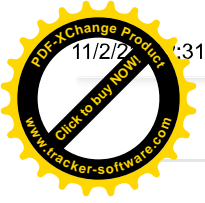


I stumbled upon this question while researching the topic. Basically the answer is no. " major points:

1) Pyautogui has the option of searching using images. Using this you could for example screenshot all the text you want to find and save as individual text files then use that to search for it dynamically and move the mouse there/click/do whatever you need to. However, as explained in the [docs](#), it takes 1-2 seconds for each search which is rather impractical.

2) In some cases, but not always, using ctrl+f on a website and searching for the text will scroll so that the result is in the middle (vertical) of the page. However that relies on some heavy implications about where the text to search is. If it's at the top of the page you obviously won't be able to use that method, same as if it's at the bottom.

If you're trying to automate clicks and have links with distinguishable names, my advice would be to parse the source code and artificially clicking the link. Otherwise you're probably better off with a automation suite like blue prism.



1



pyautogui is for controlling mouse and keyboard and for automating other GUI applications. If your need is to find a text on a webpage, you may look for better options that are intended for scraping webpages. For instance: [Selenium](#)

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answered Oct 10 '20 at 7:03



[rehman\\_00001](#)

583 ● 6 ● 17



1



When you use Chrome or Chromium as a browser there is a much easier and much more stable approach using ONLY pyautogui:

1. Perform Ctrl + F with pyautogui
2. Perform Ctrl + Enter to 'click' on search result / open the link related to the result

With other browsers you have to clarify if there keyboard shortcuts also exists.

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answered Mar 25 at 6:55



[Ulrich](#)

79 ● 8