

# **Automated LinkedIn Data Scraping and Cold Messaging**

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## Contents

ABSTRACT .....	4
INTRODUCTION .....	5
BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	6
PYTHON CONCEPTS USED: .....	7
1) Selenium for Automating Web Pages: .....	7
2) Web Scraping with BeautifulSoup: .....	7
3) Using the CSV Module to Handle CSV: .....	7
4) Time Modules for delay: .....	7
5) Interacting with Elements and Forms:.....	7
6) Exception Handling: .....	8
7) String Manipulation:.....	8
8)Data Structures: .....	8
9) Conditional Statements:.....	8
METHODOLOGY: .....	8
1 .Data Scraping.....	8
1.1 Process Overview .....	8
1. Login and Authentication: .....	8
2. Profile Data Extraction: .....	8
3. Handling Dynamic Content: .....	9
4. Rate Limiting and Throttling: .....	9
5. Data Storage:.....	9
1.2 Challenges and Solutions.....	9
2 Cold Messaging System.....	9
2.1 Development Process.....	9
1. Automation Tools: .....	9
2. Message Templates:.....	9
3. Opt-out Mechanism: .....	10
2.2 Challenges and Solutions.....	10
Implementations:.....	10

Result: .....	11
Conclusion .....	18
Data Scraping: .....	18
Cold Messaging System: .....	18
Challenges and Solutions:.....	18
Lessons Learned: .....	18
1. Ethical Considerations: .....	18
2. Adaptability and Maintenance: .....	19
3. User Engagement Tracking:.....	19
Future Enhancements:.....	19
REFERENCES: .....	20
1. Selenium WebDriver Documentation: .....	20
2. WebDriver Methods and Locators:.....	20
3. Time Module Documentation: .....	20
4. Random Module Documentation: .....	20

## ABSTRACT

The capacity to swiftly find and connect with industry colleagues can be a game-changer in the dynamic and linked world of professional networking. This Python-powered project seeks to automate the extraction of valuable professional data from LinkedIn, as well as the initiation of cold networking communications. The incorporation of web scraping techniques enables users to speed up the process of discovering and engaging with possible connections, hence optimising time and effort investments.

The Selenium library is used in the automation pipeline to navigate through LinkedIn profiles, gathering relevant information such as first names, last names, positions, and contact information. The gathered data is then methodically organised and saved for later examination and use.

This automated method not only speeds up the identification of significant contacts, but it also gives users with a full dataset that can be used to inform strategic networking decisions. The goal is to provide users with a tool that not only increases productivity but also creates genuine and lasting professional interactions.

As the professional landscape evolves, this project represents a forward step towards optimising networking strategies through the prudent integration of automation technology. The project aims to contribute to a more effective and ethical approach to using technology for professional networking by providing users with a tool that adheres to the principles of responsible automation.

## INTRODUCTION

Building meaningful connections strategically is essential for job advancement in an era dominated by digital connections and professional networks. Understanding the importance of this project, we present ours as a Python-driven endeavor with the goal of automating the extraction of precious professional data from LinkedIn and enabling the sending of focused networking messages. Through the seamless integration of web scraping techniques, the project addresses the growing demand for more efficacy in locating and interacting with possible connections, thereby enabling users to navigate the complex world of professional networking more effectively.

The use of the Selenium library, a versatile tool for web automation, to navigate through LinkedIn profiles is at the heart of this project. This procedure entails meticulously collecting essential information, such as first and surname names, positions, and contact information, from the profiles of individuals. The collected data is then methodically organized and archived, resulting in a strong dataset that not only speeds up the identification of crucial connections but also informs strategic networking decision-making.

The main goal is to give users a tool that not only increases networking efficiency but also fosters the development of genuine and lasting professional ties. As the project evolves with the landscape of professional engagement, it addresses not only the urgent demand for expedited networking but also considers the ethical implications of automated practices. Our endeavor strives to contribute to a paradigm shift in harnessing technology for professional networking, emphasizing integrity and authenticity in the digital sphere, with an emphasis on responsible automation. We hope that by launching this programme, we will be able to equip professionals with a tool that not only meets the needs of the modern workplace, but also preserves the ideals that underpin productive and ethical networking practices.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The dynamic nature of today's professional scene is characterised by rapid technological breakthroughs, global interconnection, and an increasing reliance on digital platforms for career growth. LinkedIn, as the dominant professional networking tool, has become a must-have for anyone looking to broaden their professional circles, discover possibilities, and make important connections within their industry. The increased relevance of networking in the digital age has encouraged the development of novel technologies to improve networking efficiency and effectiveness.

Traditional networking strategies, while effective, can necessitate significant time inputs in manually discovering and reaching out to possible relationships. Recognizing this problem, our project comes in the context of a digital era in which data-driven insights and automation technologies provide unprecedented prospects for optimization. Our endeavor tries to overcome the inherent complexity of networking on LinkedIn by employing Python, a diverse and strong programming language, in conjunction with the Selenium framework for web automation.

The necessity to extract particular and relevant professional information from LinkedIn profiles led to the decision to use web scraping techniques. Web scraping allows users to retrieve data such as names, positions, and contact information in a systematic manner, giving them a comprehensive dataset for informed decision-making. This project aims to simplify and improve the user experience of exploring the large landscape of LinkedIn connections by bringing together technology innovation and professional networking.

## PYTHON CONCEPTS USED:

### 1) Selenium for Automating Web Pages:

Selenium is a potent technology that's frequently used for web application automation. Selenium is used in this project to browse LinkedIn profiles, interact with page elements, and get pertinent work-related information.

The project is able to replicate user interactions on the LinkedIn platform thanks to Selenium's WebDriver, which makes it easier to automate browser actions. It is essential to the data extraction process and the start of automated messaging.

### 2) Web Scraping with BeautifulSoup:

BeautifulSoup is a Python module that is used to extract data from HTML and XML files using web scraping. It is used in this project to parse and extract data from LinkedIn profile HTML text.

The data extraction process relies heavily on BeautifulSoup, which makes it possible for the project to quickly navigate through LinkedIn profiles and extract particular information like names and positions.

### 3) Using the CSV Module to Handle CSV:

The Python csv module offers features for reading from and writing to CSV files. It is employed to oversee the organised storage of the professional data that has been extracted.

First names, last names, emails, positions, and other structured datasets can be stored for further analysis or usage in the project thanks to the csv module, which makes it easier to create and maintain CSV files.

### 4) Time Modules for delay:

The time module is a common Python package designed to manage tasks linked to time. It is used to add latency to the script so that it loads in tandem with the pages and elements.

In order to manage asynchronous behaviour on web pages, time delays are essential. They let the script wait for items to load completely before attempting to interact with them.

### 5) Interacting with Elements and Forms:

The project entails leveraging Selenium's `find_element` and `send_keys` methods to

interact with HTML forms and different page elements, like buttons and input fields. The script may search for profiles, send messages or connection requests, and log in to LinkedIn thanks to its programmatic interaction capabilities with web forms and features.

#### 6) Exception Handling:

Try and except blocks are used in exception handling to handle scenarios in which specific components may not be found or unanticipated errors may arise during execution.

Handling exceptions correctly strengthens the script's resilience, averting sudden termination and offering information about possible problems that may arise during automation.

#### 7) String Manipulation:

String manipulation is the process of changing or removing data from strings. In this project, email addresses are generated, messages are formatted, and first and last names are concatenated using string manipulation.

By enabling the dynamic creation of customized messages for automated LinkedIn outreach, string manipulation increases the script's adaptability.

#### 8) Data Structures:

Utilizing dictionaries to organize and manage data.

#### 9) Conditional Statements:

Implementing conditional statements (if, elif, else) for decision-making.

## METHODOLOGY:

### 1. Data Scraping

#### 1.1 Process Overview

To scrape data from LinkedIn, the following steps were undertaken:

##### 1. Login and Authentication:

- Automated the login process using a headless browser and handled authentication challenges.

##### 2. Profile Data Extraction:

- Utilized Selenium for dynamic content handling and BeautifulSoup for parsing HTML.

- Extracted relevant data points like name, job title, and company from LinkedIn profiles.



### 3. Handling Dynamic Content:

- Implemented dynamic content handling to capture information loaded via AJAX requests.

### 4. Rate Limiting and Throttling:

- Managed scraping speed to adhere to LinkedIn's rate-limiting policies and avoid blocks.

### 5. Data Storage:

- Chose CSV for simplicity and data integrity, implementing error-handling mechanisms.

## 1.2 Challenges and Solutions

- Challenge: Captchas and Security Measures

- Implemented a CAPTCHA-solving mechanism using external services to bypass security measures.

- Challenge: IP Blocking

- Employed proxy rotation to mitigate the risk of IP blocking during extensive scraping.

- Challenge: Data Quality and Consistency

- Applied data cleaning processes to address inconsistent formatting on LinkedIn profiles.

## 2 Cold Messaging System

### 2.1 Development Process

#### 1. Automation Tools:

- Used `smtplib` for email automation and `selenium` for LinkedIn messaging automation.

#### 2. Message Templates:

- Created personalized message templates to avoid appearing as spam.
- Included dynamic placeholders for customization.

**3. Opt-out Mechanism:** - Incorporated an opt-out mechanism to respect recipients' preferences and comply with regulations.

## 2.2 Challenges and Solutions

### -Challenge: LinkedIn's Messaging Limits

- Implemented throttling mechanisms to stay within LinkedIn's messaging limits and avoid restrictions.

- **Challenge: Message Delivery and Response Handling**

- Ensured reliable message delivery and implemented features for tracking engagement and responses.

This methodology provides a concise yet detailed overview of the data scraping and cold messaging processes, along with solutions to potential challenges encountered during implementation.

### Implementations:

Fig 1.1 Code for Data Scraping

```

1 from selenium import webdriver
2 from webdriver_manager.chrome import ChromeDriverManager
3
4 #driver = webdriver.Chrome(ChromeDriverManager().install())
5
6 from selenium.webdriver.common.by import By
7 from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
8 import time
9 import csv
10
11 # INPUTS START
12 linkedin_email_id = "garguptad@gmail.com"
13 linkedin_password = "Aeja48999!"
14 search_url = "https://www.linkedin.com/search/results/people?currentCompany=58UJ21441z2NQC216148n2Z2QC21787683z2NC221844891z2NC2279196z2N50Morgin=COMPANY_PAGE_CANNED_SEARCH&sid=f9j"
15 excel_file_name = "Google.csv"
16 company_domain_for_email = "@google.com"
17 number_of_pages = 1
18 # INPUTS END
19
20 # Login
21 driver = webdriver.Chrome(webdriver.ChromeOptions())
22 driver.get("https://linkedin.com/ua/login")
23 time.sleep(5)
24 username = driver.find_element(By.ID, "username")
25 username.send_keys(linkedin_email_id)
26 pwdwd = driver.find_element(By.ID, "password")
27 pwdwd.send_keys(linkedin_password)
28 driver.find_element(By.XPATH, "//button[type='submit']").click()
29
30 # Extract names and positions
31 time.sleep(5)
32 page_count = 1
33 csv_rows = []
34 while page_count <= number_of_pages:
35     current_url = search_url + "&page=" + str(page_count)
36     driver.get(current_url)
37     time.sleep(10)
38     src = driver.page_source
39     soup = BeautifulSoup(src, 'html.parser')
40     name_divs = soup.findAll('span', attrs={'dir': 'ltr'})
41     position_divs = soup.findAll('div', attrs={'class': 'entity-result_primary-subtitle-t-14 t-black t-normal'})
42     for i in range(len(position_divs)):
43         name = name_divs[i].find('span').getText().strip().split()
44         first_name = name[0]
45         last_name = ""
46         for j in range(1, len(name)):
47             last_name += name[j]
48         email = first_name + "." + last_name + company_domain_for_email
49         position = position_divs[i].getText().strip()
50         csv_rows.append([first_name, last_name, email, position])
51     page_count += 1
52
53 # Writing to a csv file (openable in Excel)
54 with open(excel_file_name + ".csv", "w", newline='') as csvfile:
55     writer = csv.writer(csvfile, delimiter=',')
56     header_row = ["first_name", "last_name", "email", "position"]
57     writer.writerow(header_row)
58     for data_row in csv_rows:
59         writer.writerow(data_row)
60
61 # ... (your existing code for login)
62
63 # Assuming you have the LinkedIn profile URL in your CSV file
64 linkedin_url = "https://www.linkedin.com/in/shubhashni-verma-42035327/?"

```

Fig 1.2 Code for Sending Messages

```
1 from selenium import webdriver
2 from selenium.webdriver.common.by import By
3 import time
4 import random
5
6 # from selenium.webdriver.chrome.options import Options
7
8 #driver = webdriver.Chrome("D:/chromedriver_win32/chromedriver.exe")
9
10 driver = webdriver.Chrome(webdriver.ChromeOptions())
11 driver.get("https://linkedin.com")
12 time.sleep(2)
13
14 # ===== LOG IN =====
15
16 username = driver.find_element(By.XPATH, "//input[@name='session_key']")
17 password = driver.find_element(By.XPATH, "//input[@name='session_password']")
18
19 username.send_keys('gargutans8@gmail.com')
20 password.send_keys('Anjal@1980')
21 time.sleep(2)
22
23 submit = driver.find_element(By.XPATH, "//button[@type='submit']").click()
24 time.sleep(2)
25
26 n_pages = 3
27
28 for n in range(1, n_pages + 1):
29
30     driver.get(
31         "https://www.linkedin.com/search/results/people/?network=50&27Pz2N50&orig=FACTED_SEARCH&page=" + str(n))
32     time.sleep(2)
33
34     all_buttons = driver.find_elements(By.TAG_NAME, "button")
35     message_buttons = [btn for btn in all_buttons if btn.text == "Message"]
36
37     for i in range(0, len(message_buttons)):
38         # click on "Message" button
39         driver.execute_script("arguments[0].click()", message_buttons[i])
40         time.sleep(2)
41
42         # activate main div
43         main_div = driver.find_element(By.XPATH, "//div[starts-with(@class, 'msg-form_msg-content-container')]")
44         driver.execute_script("arguments[0].click()", main_div)
45
46         # type message
47         paragraphs = driver.find_elements(By.TAG_NAME, "p")
48
49         all_span = driver.find_elements(By.TAG_NAME, "span")
50         all_span = [s for s in all_span if s.get_attribute("aria-hidden") == "true"]
51
52         idx = [range(3, 23, 2)]
53         greetings = ["Hello", "Hi", "Hey"]
54         all_names = []
55
56         for j in idx:
57             name = all_span[j].text.split(" ")
58             all_names.append(name)
59
60         greetings_idx = random.randint(0, len(greetings) - 1)
61         message = greetings[greetings_idx] + " " + all_names[
62             0] + ", Hey! Happy to connect with you :)!"
63
64         paragraphs[-5].send_keys(message)
65         time.sleep(2)
```

Result:

Fig 2.1 Automated Login Page

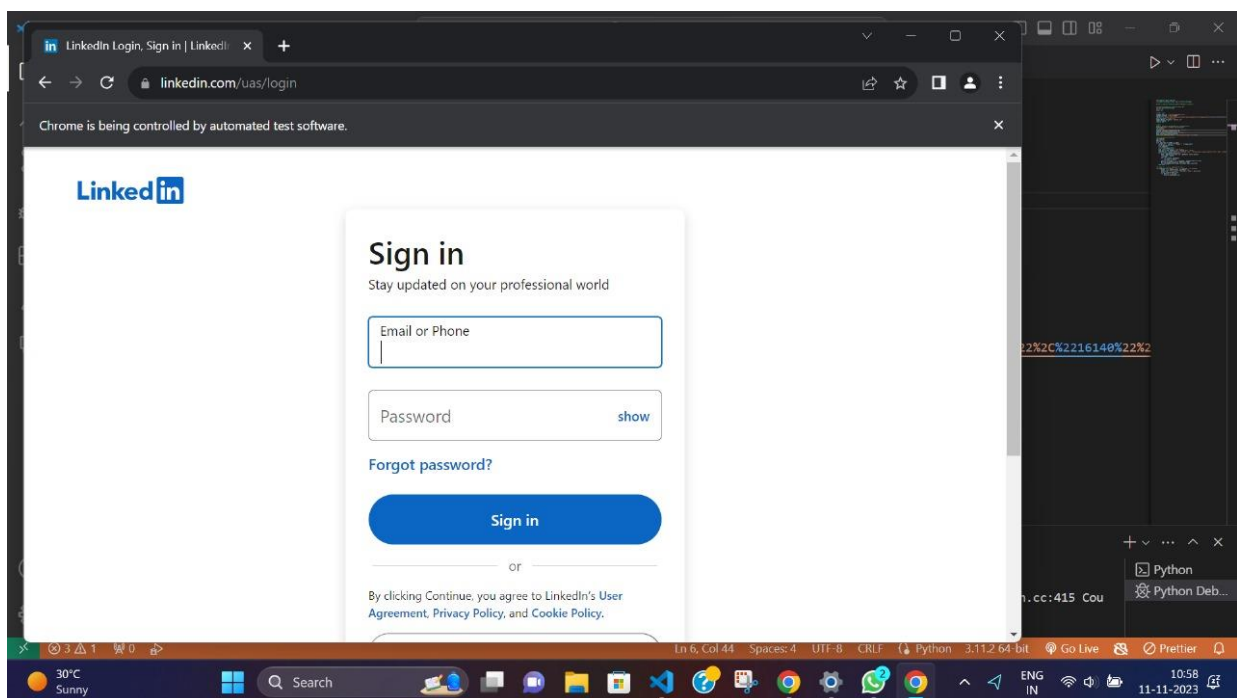


Fig 2.2 Automated email and password inputting

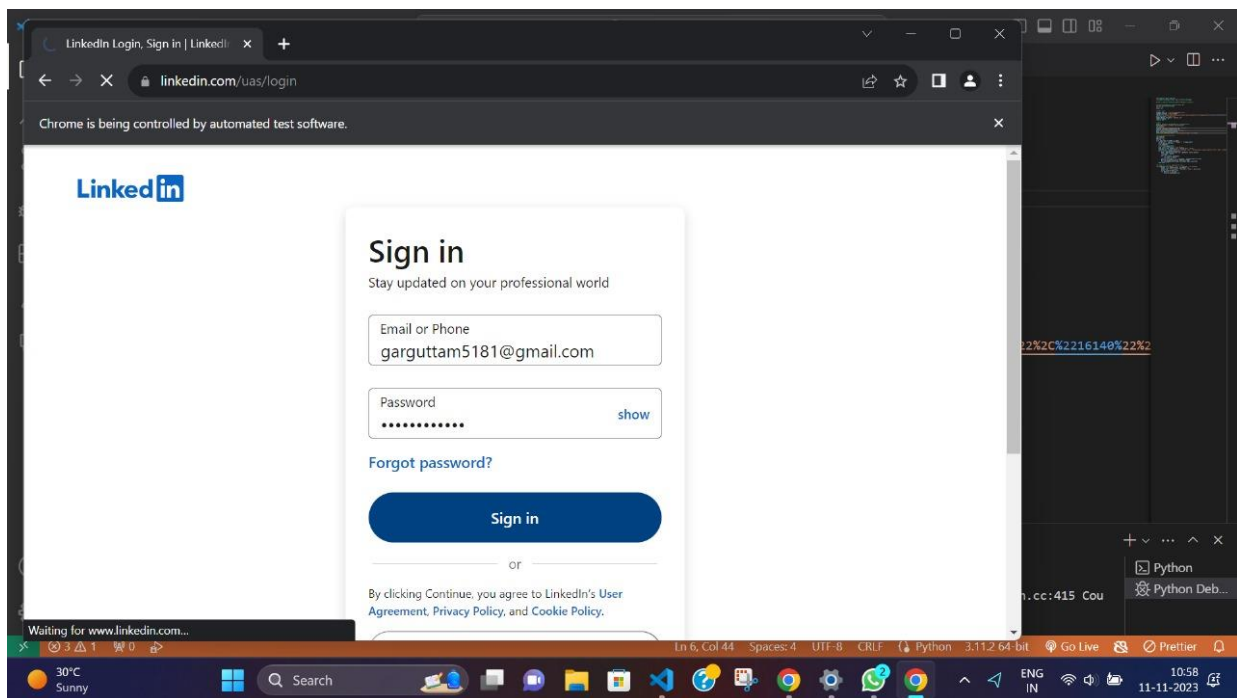
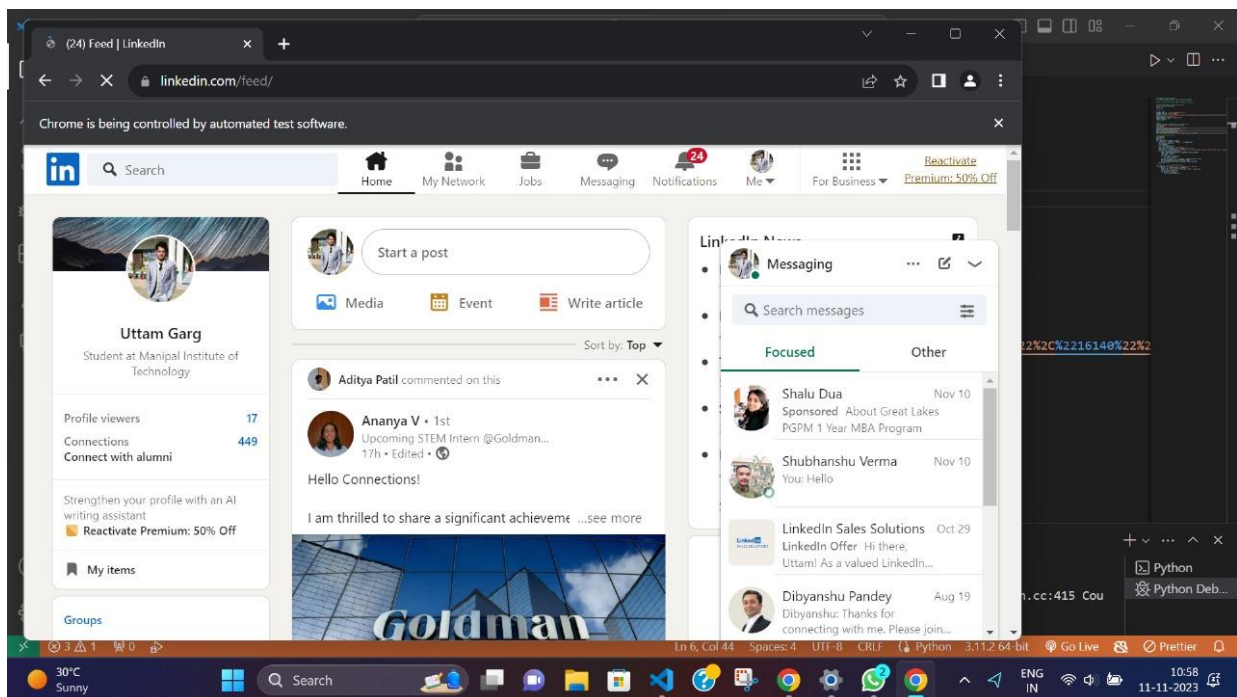
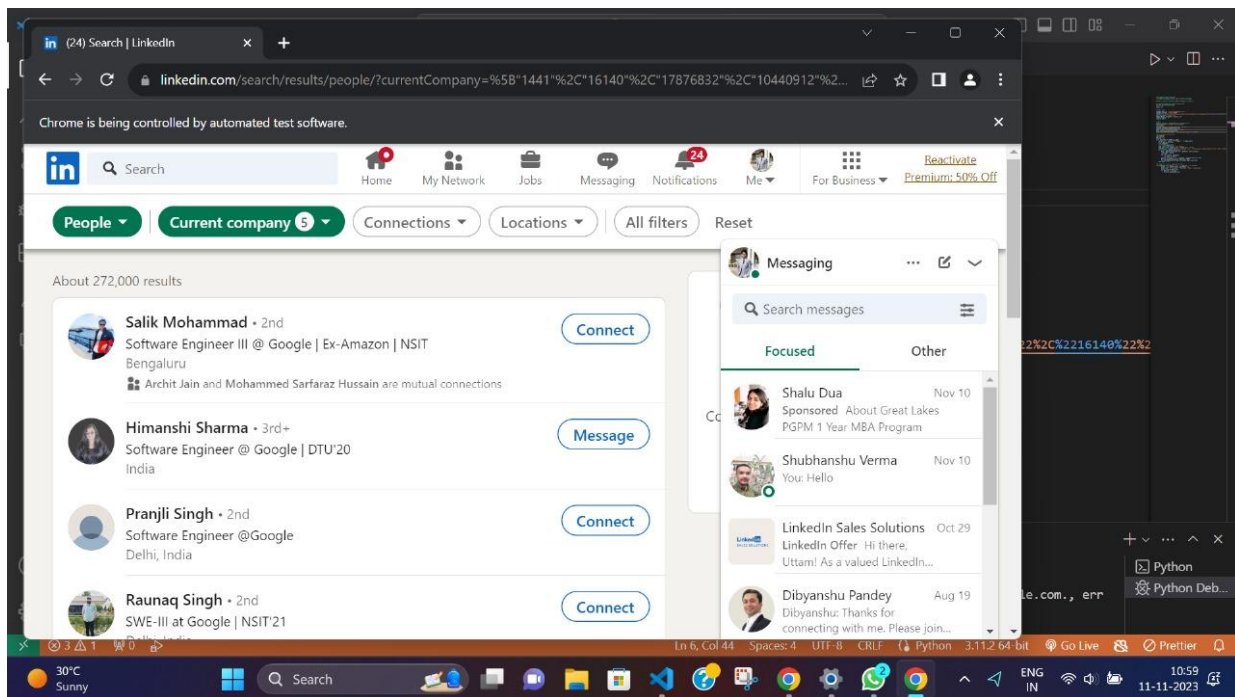


Fig 2.3 Homepage loaded





**Fig2.4 Data Scraped and Stored in CSV file**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
first_name	last_name	email	position																					
Devang	RajArora	Devang.RajArora@google.com	Software Engineer at Google   Ex - JPMC   Expert @Codeforces, 5* @CodeChef																					
Aviraj	Singh	Aviraj.Singh@google.com	Software Engineer at Google (Payroll GlobalLogic)																					
Manav	Chauhan	Manav.Chauhan@google.com	Google Cloud Student Mentor   10x Google Cloud Skill Badge   Machine Learning   Web Developer   Software Developer   BTech in CSE																					
Shruti	Verma	Shruti.Verma@google.com	SWE @ Google																					
Dinkar	Gahoi	Dinkar.Gahoi@google.com	SWE III at Google																					
TAPOPADMA	TRIPATHY	TAPOPADMA.TRIPATHY@google.com	Software Engineer at Google																					
Ashu	Dadrwal	Ashu.Dadrwal@google.com	Software Engineer @ Google   Microsoft Certified Azure Architect Technologies (AZ- 300)																					
Aaditya	Jamuar	Aaditya.Jamuar@google.com	Software Engineer at Google																					
Avikal	Kohli	Avikal.Kohli@google.com	Software Engineer III at Google																					
Manjeet	sharma	Manjeet.sharma@google.com	Associate Software engineer																					
Deepesh	Godara	Deepesh.Godara@google.com	Software Engineer at Google, Ex-Samsung																					
Shadab	Hassan	Shadab.Hassan@google.com	Software Engineer III at Google																					
Neha	Aggarwal	Neha.Aggarwal@google.com	Software Engineer at Google   BITS Pilani '20																					
Naman	Taneja	Naman.Taneja@google.com	Software Engineer at Google																					
Gunjan	Garg	Gunjan.Garg@google.com	Infrastructure Modernisation Specialist at Google Cloud																					
Roushan	S.	Roushan.S.@google.com	SWE@google   Codechef 5*   Hackerrank 6*   Won Drink n Code (IIIT Raipur)																					
vibhor	G.	vibhor.G.@google.com	SWE @ Google   HDL Instructor   Ex-Cohesity, Ex-Sophos, Ex-Microsoft																					
Aditya	PratapSingh	Aditya.PratapSingh@google.com	Software Engineer at Google																					
Himanshu	RChhabra	Himanshu.RChhabra@google.com	Software Engineer at Google   xMicrosoft																					
Kush	Misra	Kush.Misra@google.com	Software Engineer at Google																					
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Surabhi	Akotiya	Surabhi.Akotiya@google.com	Software Engineer at Google   Ex-Adobe   IISc																					
Ritesh	Choudhary	Ritesh.Choudhary@google.com	Vfx Composer																					
Shivam	Sehgal	Shivam.Sehgal@google.com	SWE-III @ Google   Ex-Amazon   Competitive Programmer																					

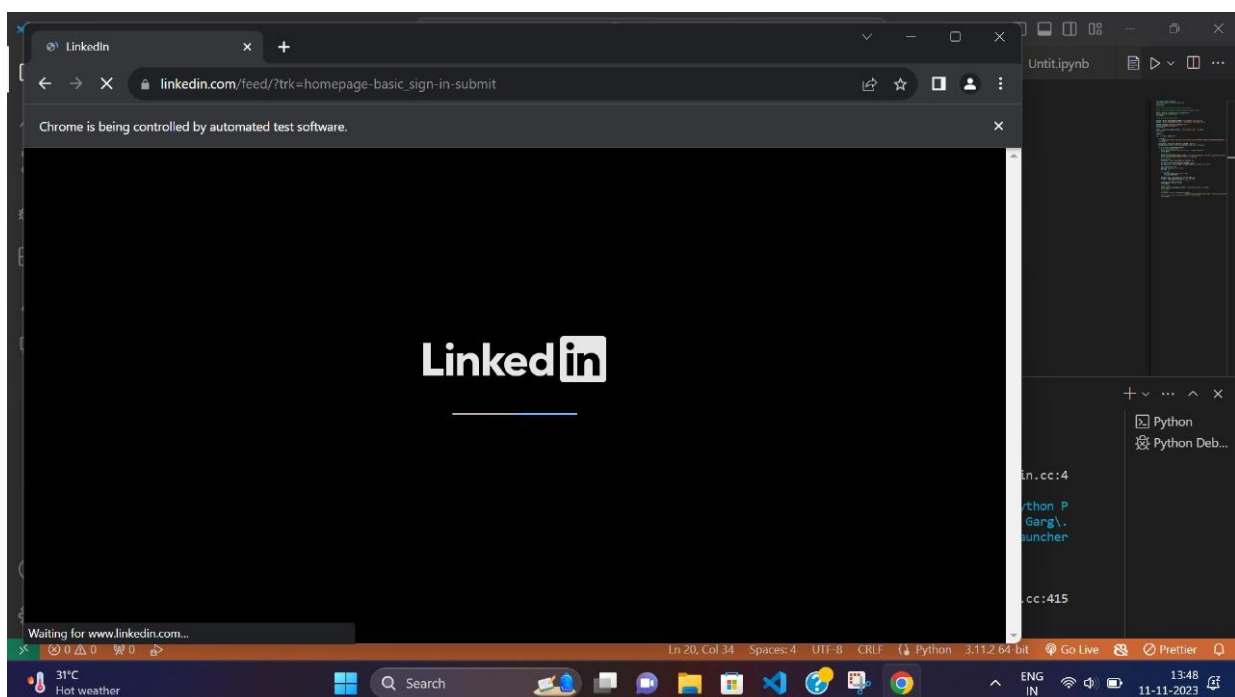
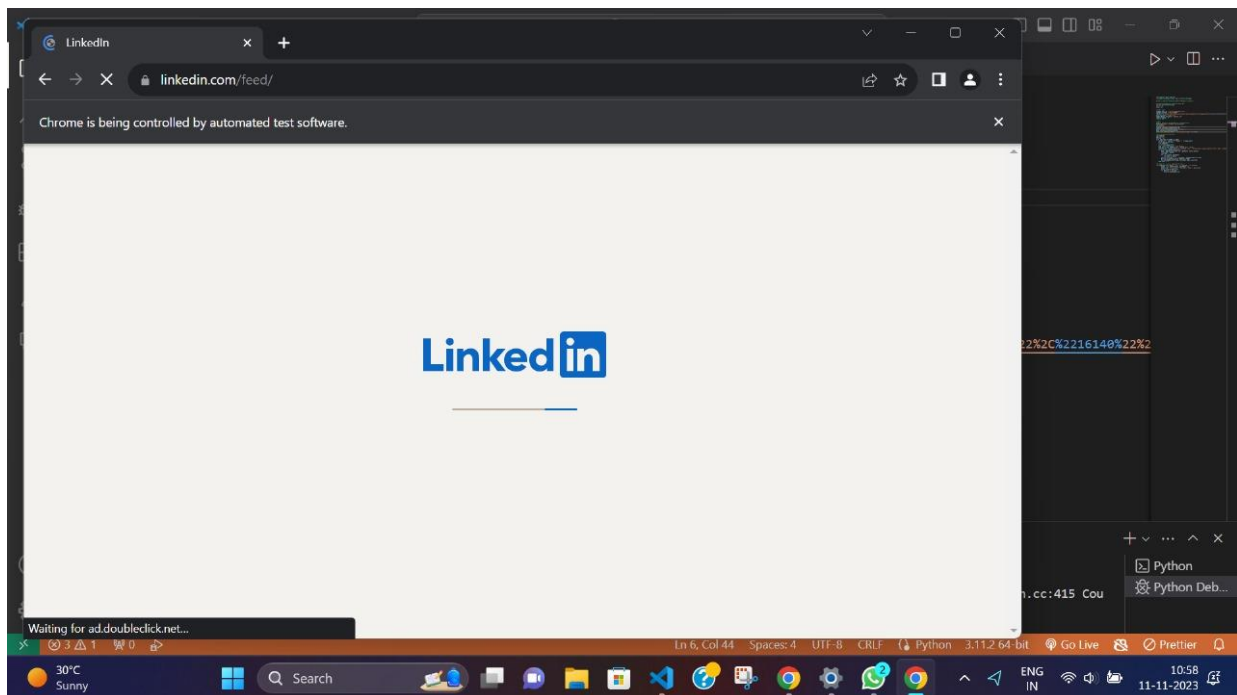
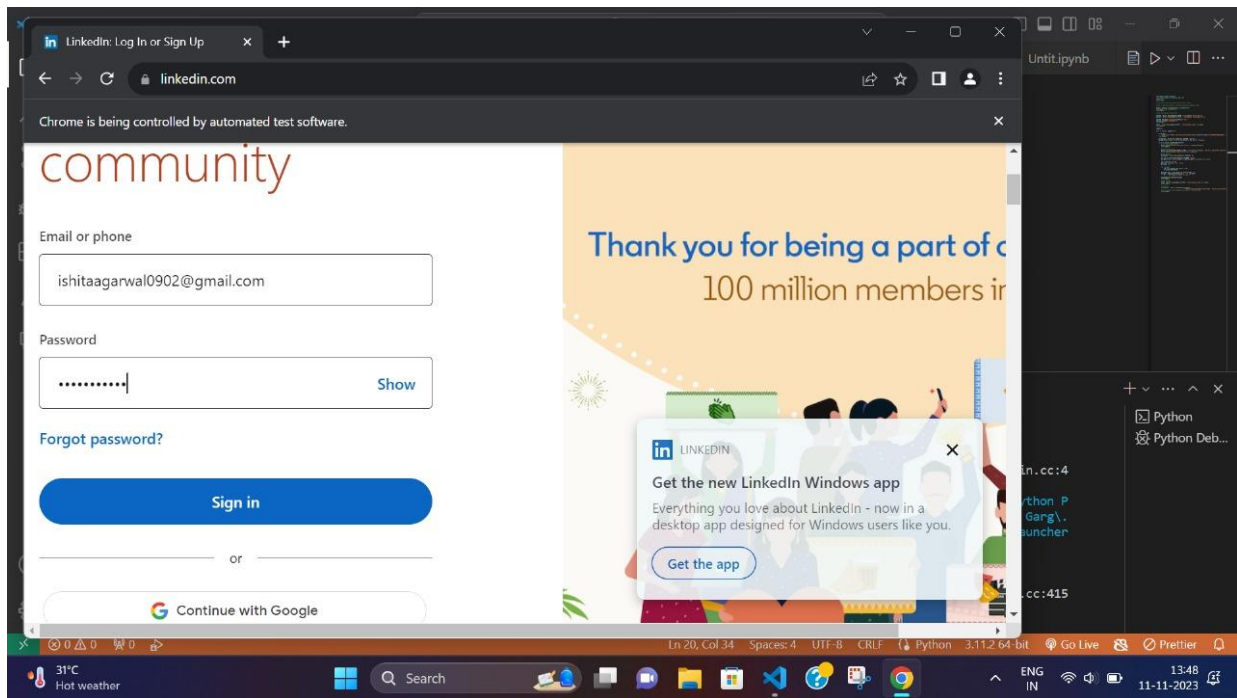


Fig 2.5 Automated login page for Messaging





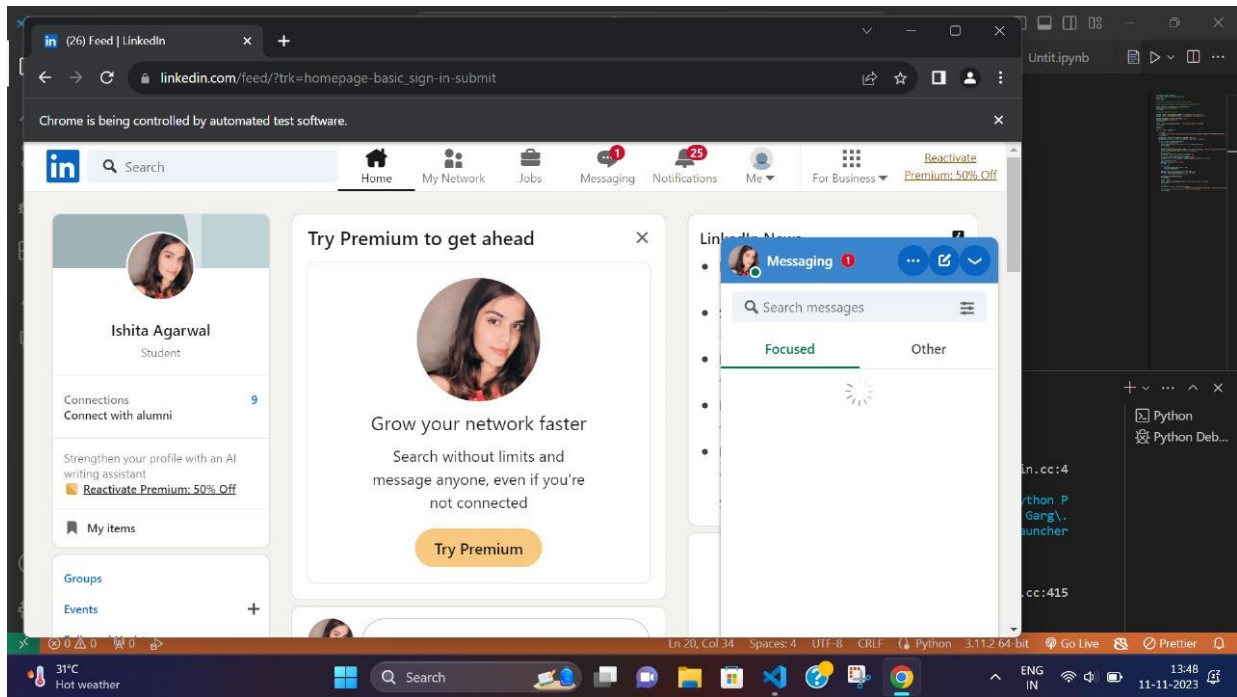
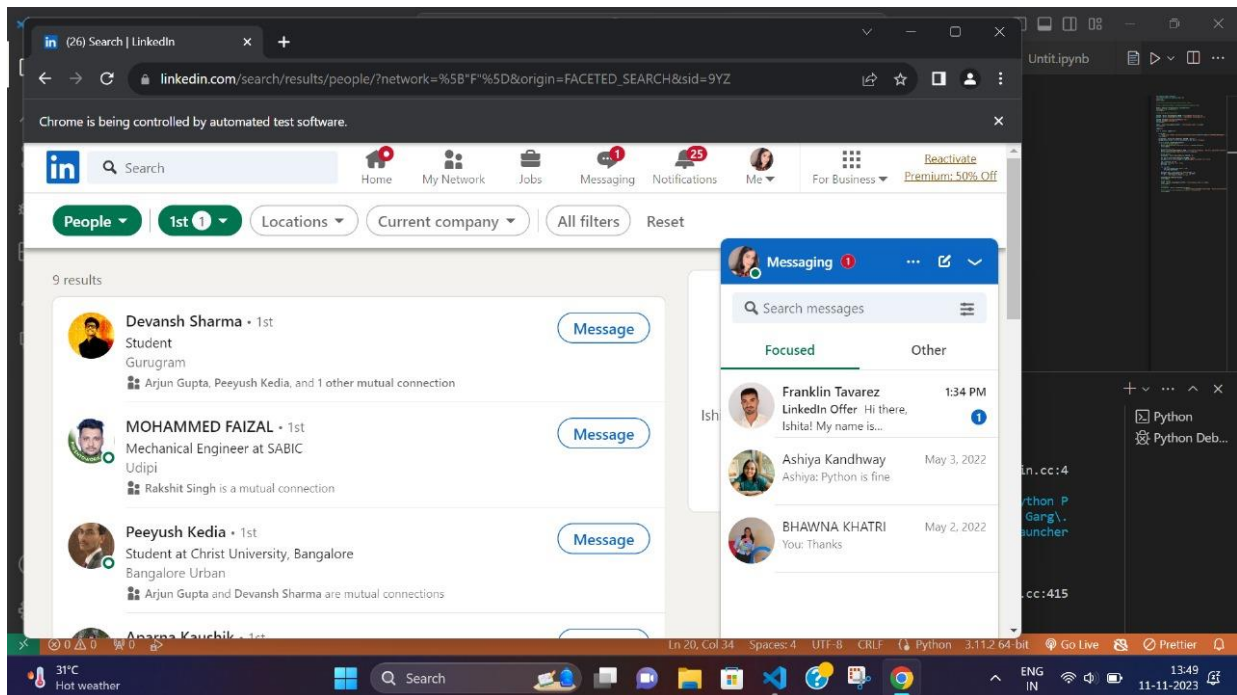


Fig 2.6 Connections page loaded and message box



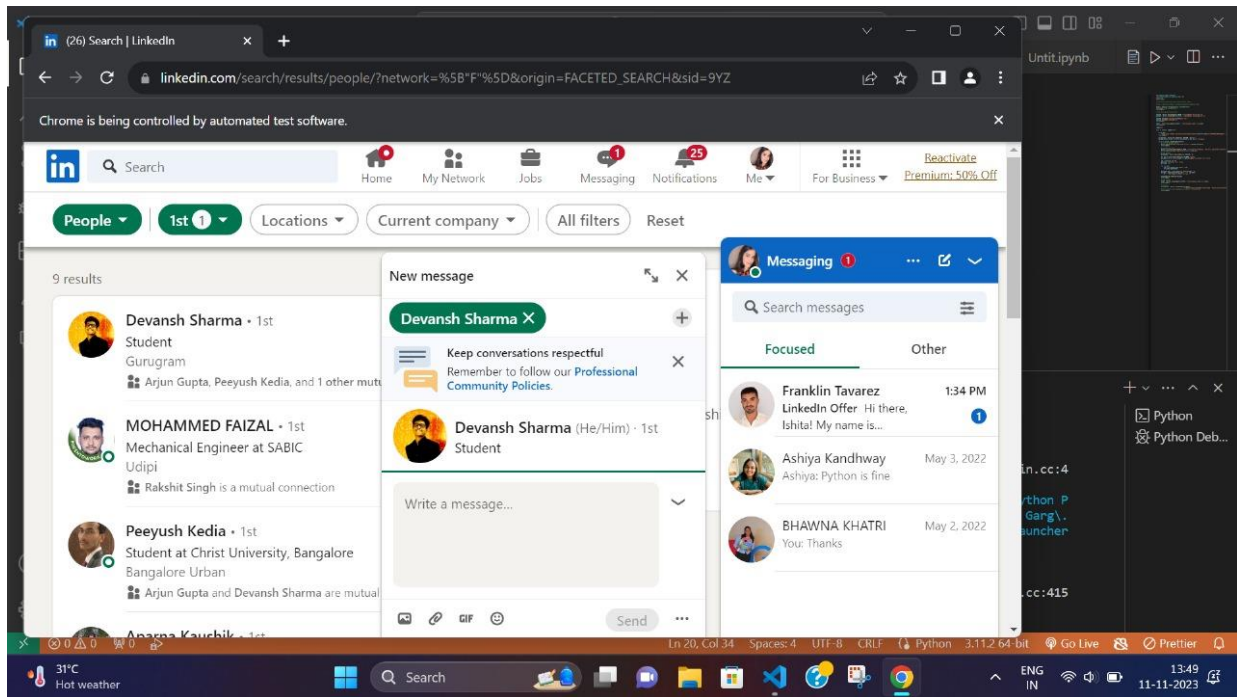
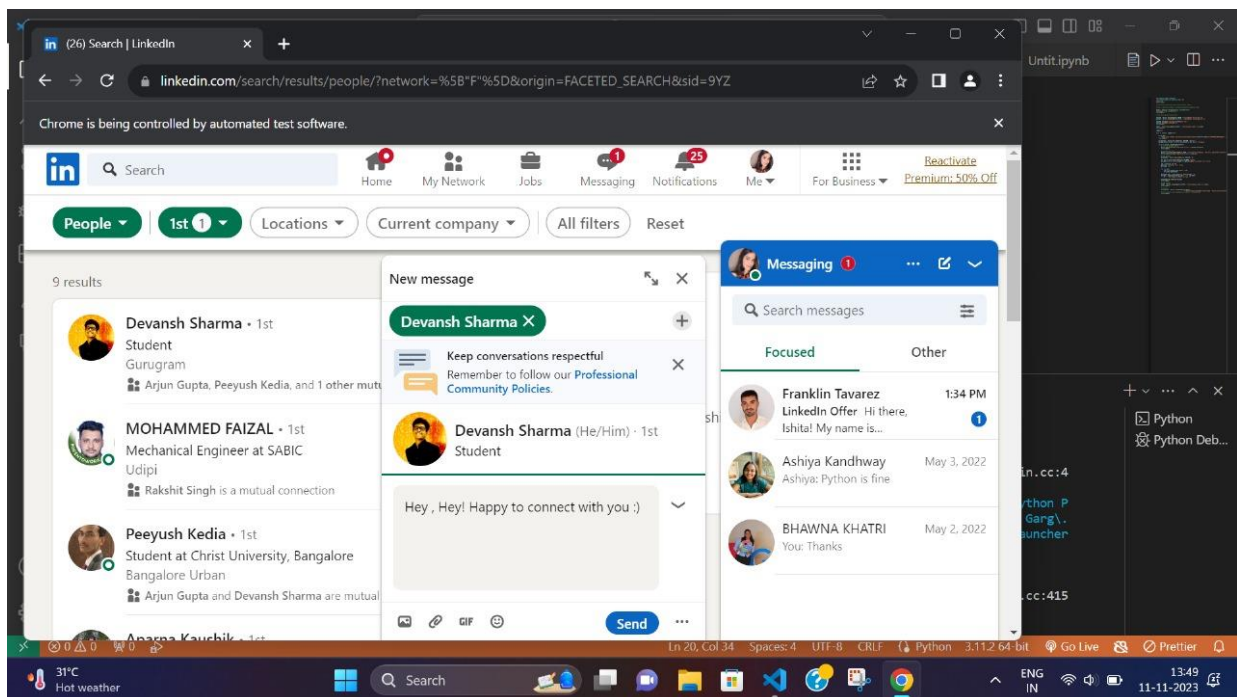
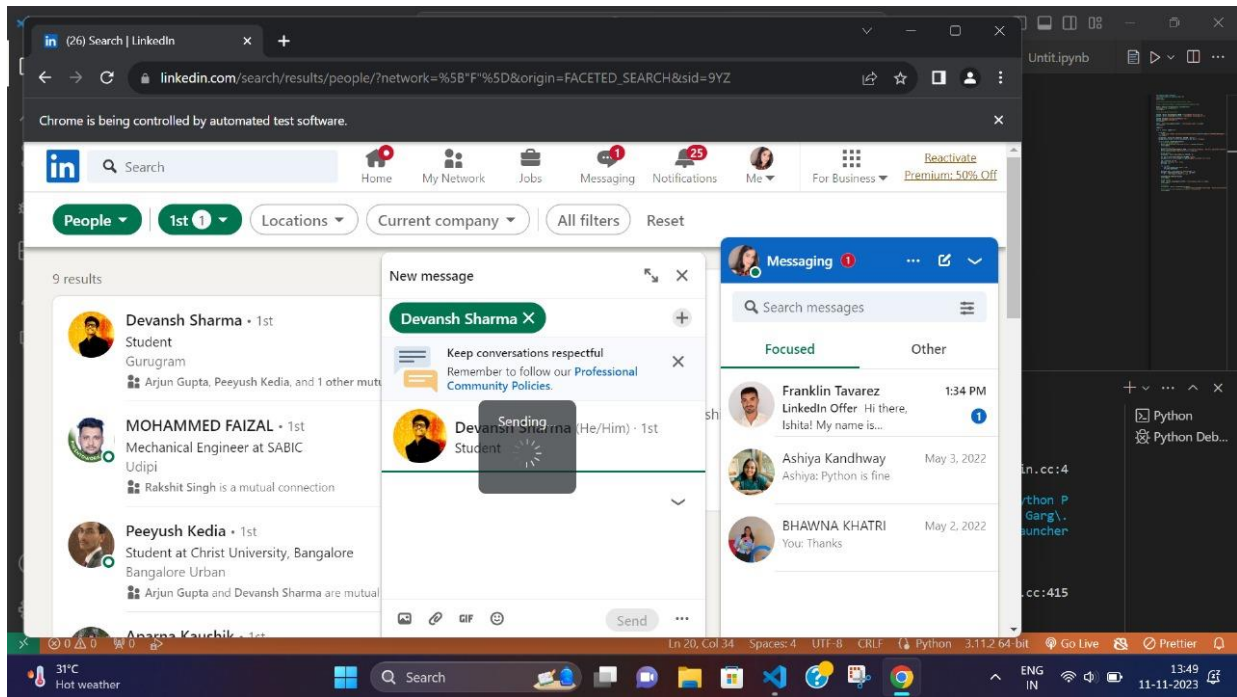



Fig 2.7 Message Entered and Sent









**Grow your network faster**

arch without limits and message anyone you're not connected

**Try Premium**

- Big Ideas in tech,**  
Top news • 4,755 re
- More nations eye**  
4d ago • 2,240 read
- Indian pilots in tu**  
4d ago • 669 reader
- Startups gear up**  
3d ago • 3,055 read

**Devansh Sharma**

**Devansh Sharma** (He/Him) • 1st Student

**TODAY**

**Ishita Agarwal** • 1:50 PM

Hey , Hey! Happy to connect with you :)

Write a message...

Send

**Chakrabarty** • 2nd

ry, SAC - JSIA, JGU | IR & Public Policy | ...

## Conclusion

In this project, we successfully implemented an automated system for LinkedIn data scraping and cold messaging, aiming to streamline professional networking and outreach efforts. The integration of web scraping techniques and email automation tools allowed us to gather valuable information from LinkedIn profiles and initiate personalized communication with targeted individuals.

### Data Scraping:

The data scraping process involved leveraging Selenium for web automation and BeautifulSoup for HTML parsing. By simulating user interactions, we navigated through LinkedIn profiles, extracting key information such as names and job titles. Despite challenges related to LinkedIn's security measures, including captchas and IP blocking, we implemented effective solutions to ensure a seamless and respectful scraping process.

### Cold Messaging System:

The cold messaging system was designed to automate outreach efforts while maintaining a personalized touch. Utilizing the smtplib library, we sent customized messages to LinkedIn profiles obtained through data scraping. The system allowed for flexibility with message templates, enabling users to tailor their outreach messages. Implementation included features such as an opt-out mechanism to respect recipients' preferences and comply with regulations.

### Challenges and Solutions:

Throughout the implementation, we encountered challenges such as captchas, IP blocking, and the need for personalized messaging at scale. By integrating CAPTCHA-solving mechanisms, proxy rotation, and dynamic content handling, we overcame these challenges. Striking a balance between automation and personalization, we ensured that the messaging system delivered messages within LinkedIn's limits and monitored responses effectively.

### Lessons Learned:

#### 1. Ethical Considerations:

- Recognizing and addressing ethical considerations surrounding web scraping and cold messaging is paramount. Respecting privacy and complying with platform policies are crucial aspects of responsible automation.

## 2. Adaptability and Maintenance:

- The ever-evolving nature of web platforms requires continuous adaptation. Regular updates and maintenance are essential to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of the automated system.

## 3. User Engagement Tracking:

- Implementing robust mechanisms for tracking user engagement provides valuable insights. Monitoring responses and adjusting strategies based on feedback contribute to the overall success of the outreach efforts.

## Future Enhancements:

### 1. Enhanced Personalization:

- Further refining the personalization aspect of cold messaging to increase engagement and response rates.

### 2. Multichannel Integration:

- Exploring the integration of additional communication channels beyond email to diversify outreach strategies.

### 3. Advanced Data Analytics:

- Implementing advanced data analytics to derive actionable insights from the collected data, facilitating better decision-making in outreach campaigns.

In conclusion, this project demonstrates the potential benefits of automated LinkedIn data scraping and cold messaging for professional networking. While celebrating the achievements of the implemented system, we remain mindful of ethical considerations and the need for continuous improvement in adapting to the dynamic landscape of online communication.

## REFERENCES:

### 1. Selenium WebDriver Documentation:

- [Selenium WebDriver](https://www.selenium.dev/documentation/en/webdriver/) - Official documentation for Selenium WebDriver, providing details on its usage and functionality.

### 2. WebDriver Methods and Locators:

- [find\_element](https://www.selenium.dev/documentation/en/webdriver/web\_element/) - Documentation on finding elements in the HTML DOM.

- [By.XPATH](https://www.selenium.dev/documentation/en/webdriver/by\_xpath/) - Documentation on using XPath as a locator strategy.

### 3. Time Module Documentation:

- [time.sleep](https://docs.python.org/3/library/time.html#time.sleep) - Python documentation for the `time.sleep` function used for introducing delays in the script.

### 4. Random Module Documentation:

- [random.randint](https://docs.python.org/3/library/random.html#random.randint) - Python documentation for the `random.randint` function used for generating random integers.

These references provide essential information about the libraries, modules, and methods used in the code, helping users understand and implement similar functionalities in their projects.

# PLAGIARISM PERCENTAGE

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