Overview

history.py is a computer script that takes in the raw history from Capitol Track and outputs a cleaner history that focuses on the committees a bill passes. history.py takes in a file called og_history.txt and outputs the results into a file called new_history.txt.

Make sure that og_history.txt is in the same folder as history.py. And new_history.txt will be generated/updated in the same file as history.py.

The way you will use this program is through your Terminal app.

Warning

For some votes, it is hard to determine which committee it passed, as the Capitol Track history is not very clear. For these instances, the program will tell you that it cannot determine which committee to put and you will need to manually put it in. The error message will let you know which bill you need to look at, as well as the date and vote count to make searching easier.

Here is an example of the error message:

```
Oops, it is ambiguous to determine a committee in Bill AB 2901. Please manually
 put in the committee in the spot that says 'COMMITTEE_TBD'. It has a date of 6
/12/2024 and vote count of (5-0).
```

Here is what it looks like in new_history.txt:

```
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Bill AB 2901

6/19/2024 Passed by S. Labor, Public Employees, and Retirement Committee (5-0)
6/12/2024 Passed by S. COMMITTEE_TBD Committee (5-0)
5/21/2024 Passed by Assembly (67-1)
5/16/2024 Passed by A. Appropriations Committee (11-1)
4/24/2024 Passed by A. Higher Education Committee (9-1)
4/4/2024 Passed by A. Education Committee (7-0)


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```

Instructions

This section is broken into navigation, set up and how to use. You will need to use Navigation before you do Set Up or How to Use. Set Up is done only once, while How to Use allows you to use the programs

Navigation

Since these programs are done on the terminal, we must navigate to where the programs are stored in order to use them

1. Open your terminal app (command + space bar → type in Terminal → Enter → Terminal app opened)
2. Navigate to the folder where the programs are held
   - In the Terminal, type "cd " (with the space)
   - Drag and drop the folder into the terminal
   - Should look something like this (your stuff before the % will be different than mine, but the stuff after it should be the same)
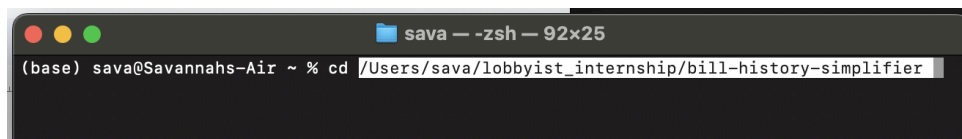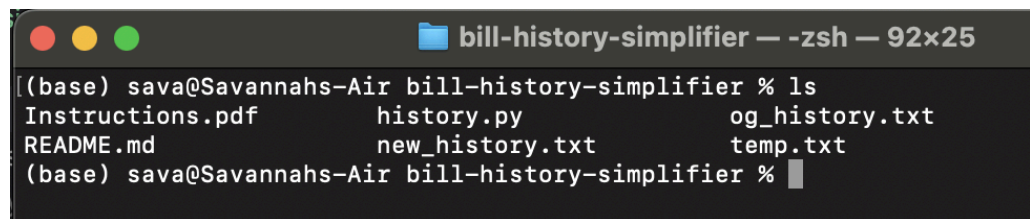

   -
   - Press enter
3. Check to make sure you are in the correct directory (both Methods work)

- Method #1
  - Your terminal prompt should say "bill-history-simplifier" right before the "%"
  - Example on my terminal
  -
    ```
    (base) sava@Savannahs-Air bill-history-simplifier %
    ```
- Method #2
  - Type in "ls" and hit enter
    - This is a command that just lists the files present in a folder
  - You should see Instructions.pdf, history.py, og_history.py, and new_history.txt pop up. More file names may show up depending if you added other files to this folder.
 - Example

    ```
    bill-history-simplifier — -zsh — 92×25
    [(base) sava@Savannahs-Air bill-history-simplifier % ls
    Instructions.pdf        history.py              og_history.txt
    README.md               new_history.txt         temp.txt
    (base) sava@Savannahs-Air bill-history-simplifier %
    ```
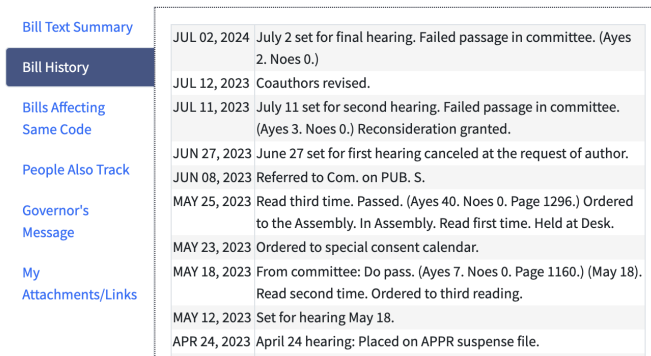 -

4. Done!
   - Yay you did it!!!
   - Congratulations :)

How to Use

1. Go to the bill-history-simplifier folder and open og_history.txt
   - Right / double click on the file og_history.txt folder and open it with TextEdit
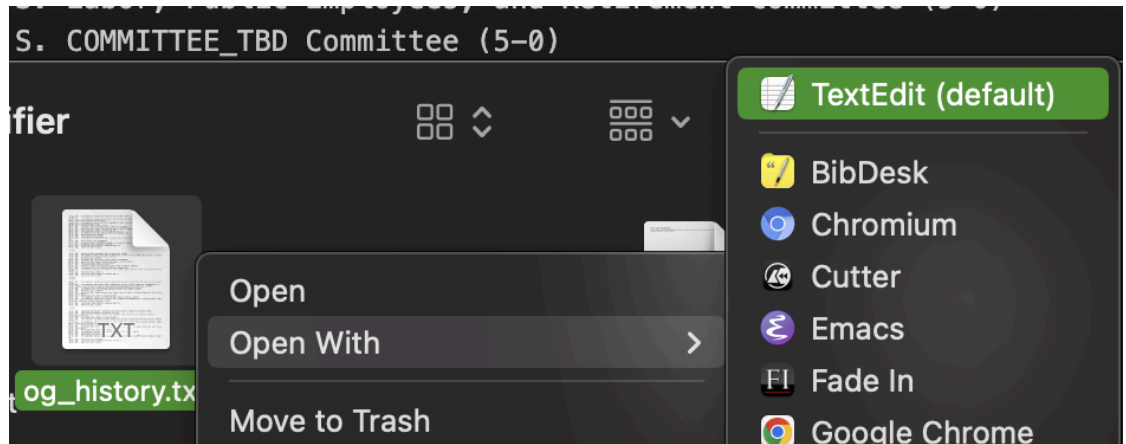
-
- If the file already has text in it, you can quickly delete all the text by doing [CMD A] [DELETE]

2. Update og_history.txt with the bill histories you want
   - Go to Capitol Track and search up the bill you want. Scroll down to "Other Bill Info" section and click "Bill History"
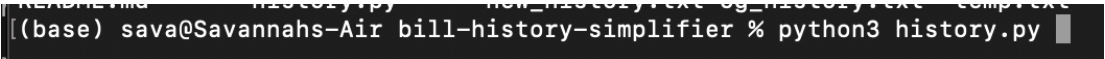   -
   - Copy all of the history and paste it into og_history.txt
   - Underneath the bill history, you **NEED** to put "![BILL NUMBER]"
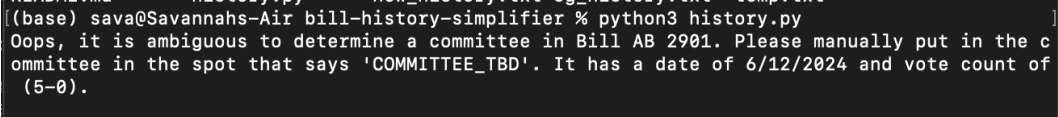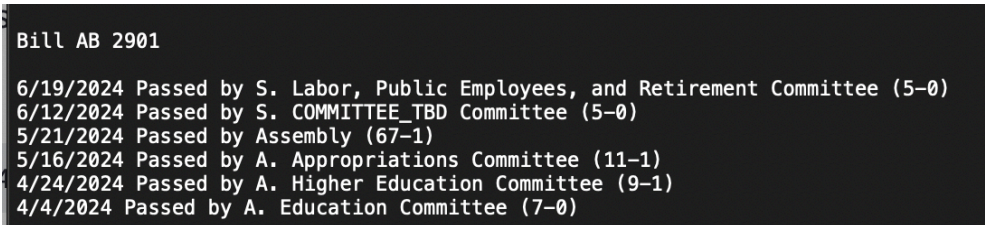   - Example - !AB 194 or !SB 48
     -
   - You can do multiple of the histories, just **make sure that all of the bill histories are followed by** (an optional blank line and) **then ![BILL NUMBER]**

3. Run "python3 history.py" in your terminal

-
```
[(base) sava@Savannahs-Air bill-history-simplifier % python3 history.py █
```

4. IF you get an error like the one below, it means the program will tell you that it cannot determine which committee to put and you will need to manually put it in. The error message will let you know which bill you need to look at, as well as the date and vote count to make searching easier.

-
```
[(base) sava@Savannahs-Air bill-history-simplifier % python3 history.py      ]
Oops, it is ambiguous to determine a committee in Bill AB 2901. Please manually put in the c
ommittee in the spot that says 'COMMITTEE_TBD'. It has a date of 6/12/2024 and vote count of
 (5-0).
```

- Example:

  ○
  ```
  Bill AB 2901

  6/19/2024 Passed by S. Labor, Public Employees, and Retirement Committee (5-0)
  6/12/2024 Passed by S. COMMITTEE_TBD Committee (5-0)
  5/21/2024 Passed by Assembly (67-1)
  5/16/2024 Passed by A. Appropriations Committee (11-1)
  4/24/2024 Passed by A. Higher Education Committee (9-1)
  4/4/2024 Passed by A. Education Committee (7-0)
  ```
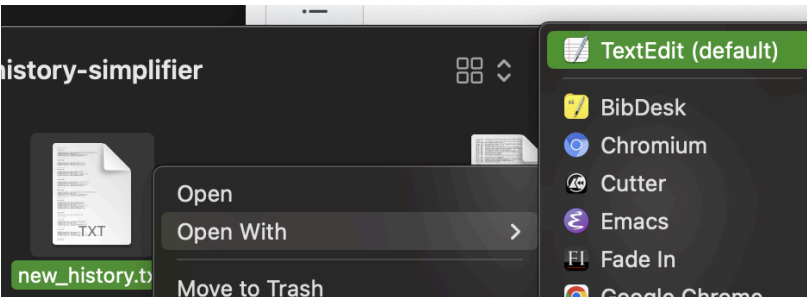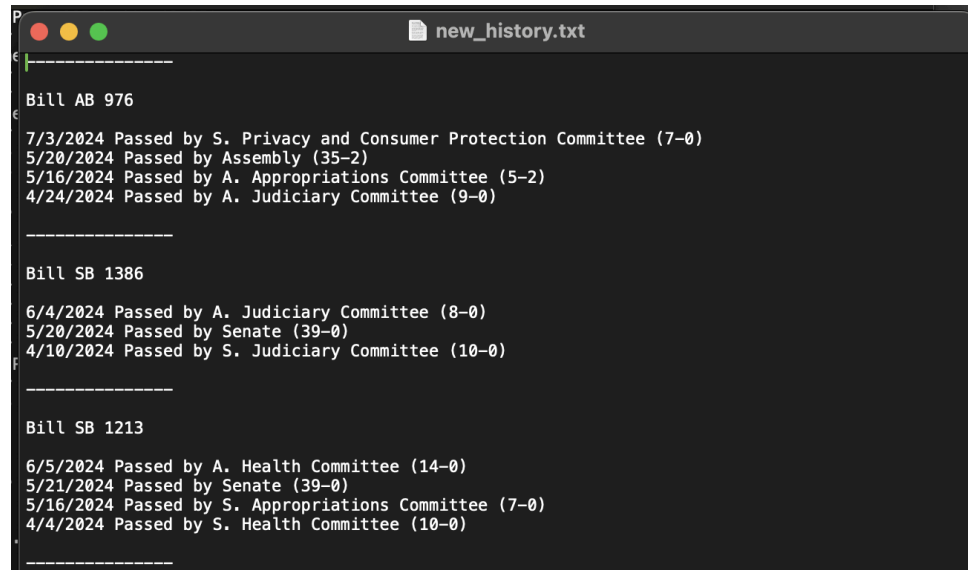
  ○ You would need to go back to bill AB 2901's history from Capitol Track and determine yourself what committee voted on the bill

5. IF you get an error like the one below, then just let me know and I'll send you over a new folder with a fixed program haha
   - "Oops, this script does not have an expansion for [COMMITTEE] committee on [BILL NUMBER]. Either you need to update the committee expansions or manually fix the spot in [BILL NUMBER]"'s history that says 'ERROR'"
   - Or you could manually insert the correct committee in new_history.txt that says "ERROR"

6. Open new_history.txt with TextEdit again

   -

   - You should see something like this, showing the history for all the bills in og_history.txt

```
┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  ● ● ●              📄 new_history.txt                │
├──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┤
│ ───────────────                                        │
│                                                        │
│ Bill AB 976                                            │
│                                                        │
│ 7/3/2024 Passed by S. Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee (7-0) │
│ 5/20/2024 Passed by Assembly (35-2)                    │
│ 5/16/2024 Passed by A. Appropriations Committee (5-2)  │
│ 4/24/2024 Passed by A. Judiciary Committee (9-0)       │
│                                                        │
│ ───────────────                                        │
│                                                        │
│ Bill SB 1386                                           │
│                                                        │
│ 6/4/2024 Passed by A. Judiciary Committee (8-0)        │
│ 5/20/2024 Passed by Senate (39-0)                      │
│ 4/10/2024 Passed by S. Judiciary Committee (10-0)      │
│                                                        │
│ ───────────────                                        │
│                                                        │
│ Bill SB 1213                                           │
│                                                        │
│ 6/5/2024 Passed by A. Health Committee (14-0)          │
│ 5/21/2024 Passed by Senate (39-0)                      │
│ 5/16/2024 Passed by S. Appropriations Committee (7-0)  │
│ 4/4/2024 Passed by S. Health Committee (10-0)          │
│                                                        │
│ ───────────────                                        │
└──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

- You can just copy and paste! :)

Extra Information

Text Edit is a word processor app like Microsoft Word, but much, much more simple.