

shortener-analysis

November 19, 2022

An analysis of different approaches for implementing link-shortener

The first solution is to get the hash of the URL :

```
[7]: import hashlib
url = 'https://www.pinterest.dk/pin/99642210487893134/?
      ↪amp_client_id=CLIENT_ID(&) &mweb_unauth_id=%7B%7Bdefault.
      ↪session%7D%7D&simplified=true'
hashed_url = hashlib.sha256(url.encode('utf-8')).hexdigest()
print(hashed_url)
```

348f0fa71cd97914f48aa226ae3a2fee9ab86dfd3f34ca268c5e0b5719f67357

```
[5]: print(len(hashed_url))
```

64

It is too long, so just getting hash is not enough for us. it is not suitable for URLs longer than 64 characters because there is a chance of collision, we have to avoid this, so let's take a look for a better solution. let me check out what is happening behind the scenes in the hash function :

$$h(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{r-1}) = z \sum_{i=0}^{r-1} z_i x_i$$

assume that every characters of URL is correspond to an integer (in this case we use ascii) like $X(i)$ then take some random odd prime numbers for $Z(i)$

it is proved that :

$$Pr(h(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{r-1}) = h(y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{r-1})) \leq 3/2^w$$

```
[58]: w = 64
a = 2 ** w
pr = 3 / a

print("the probability of having collision: ", pr)
```

the probability of having collision: 1.6263032587282567e-19

We see that the probability is very low and close to zero so I decided to use this hash function. first of all, we need a function to map every char to int, let's leave it to the python internal function which is Ord. Here for each Zi I use prime $** i$, i increasing from 0 to 2000 (2000 is safe margin)

```
[60]: import string
prime = 96527
modbase = 64 ** 8
max_len = 2000
primes = [prime ** i for i in range(max_len)]

def ordsum(text: str) -> int:
    return sum([(ord(c) * primes[i]) % modbase for i, c in enumerate(text)]) % modbase

print("resault: ", ordsum(url))
```

resault: 73106310689270

we have to change the output base so we use this function (I found it on the internet)

```
[62]: digs = string.ascii_letters + string.digits + '-_'
```

A URL character can be one of the following

- A lower case alphabet ['a' to 'z'], total 26 characters
- An upper case alphabet ['A' to 'Z'], total 26 characters
- A digit ['0' to '9'], total 10 characters

There are total $26 + 26 + 10 = 62$ possible characters.

```
[63]: def int2base(x, base=64):
    if x < 0:
        sign = -1
    elif x == 0:
        return digs[0]
    else:
        sign = 1

    x *= sign
    digits = []

    while x:
        digits.append(digs[int(x % base)])
        x = int(x / base)

    if sign < 0:
        digits.append('-')
```

```

digits.reverse()

return ''.join(digits)

```

```

[76]: shortener_10_base = ordsum(url)
print("\nshort link with base 10 : ", shortener_10_base, "\n")

```

short link with base 10 : 73106310689270

```

[80]: shortener_64_base = int2base(shortener_10_base)
print("\nshort link with base 64 : ", shortener_64_base, "\n")

```

short link with base 64 : qN1JRFh2

Ok now we have a solution that long url map to 8 characters and the probability of collision is almost zero, but for more safety we can use several prime number to make sure everything goes right.

```

[81]: prime_numbers = [65423, 66721, 73517, 78697, 86249, 95923, 50591, 20663, 22739, 101141]

```

If we have 10,000 link how much time does it take to generate short links ?

```

[82]: def x():
        for i in range(10000):
            s = ordsum(url)
            r = int2base(s)
        return r

get_ipython().run_line_magic('timeit', 'x()')

```

662 ms ± 1.4 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1 loop each)

preprocessing primes values is a way to optimize the solution :

```

[85]: primes = [prime ** i for i in range(max_len)]

```

matrix multiplication of Zi & Xi is the best practice for optimization the run time.

I've implemented all of them in service.py in my project