

Getting Twitter Data

Stuart Miller

Requirements

- Request a Twitter API key (see link)
- Install package 'twitteR'

Based on <https://towardsdatascience.com/access-data-from-twitter-api-using-r-and-or-python-b8ac342d3efe>

Overview

- Access Twitter with R (twitteR)
- Query Twitter search with a handle
- Look at the returned data

Access Twitter and Run Query

- Use `setup_twitter_oauth` to initiate access.
- Use `searchTwitter` to search for tweets from @GalarnykMichael.
 - Example doesn't work!
- Change n. API can only get tweets in the last 7 days (only 5 are available).

1. Authenticate with access keys.

```
# I have my access tokens stored in a csv for 'easy access'
twitterAccess <- read.csv('~/.Dropbox/twitterAccess.csv')

# authenticate
with(twitterAccess, setup_twitter_oauth(as.character(APIKey),
                                         as.character(APISecretKey),
                                         as.character(AccessToken),
                                         as.character(AccessTokenSecret)))
```

```
[1] "Using direct authentication"
```

```
tw = searchTwitter('@GalarnykMichael', n = 25)
```

```
25 tweets were requested but the API can only return 5
```

2. Query twitter search for the author of the linked example.

- `searchTwitter` returns a data structure called 'twList'
- `twListToDF` converts a twList to a data.frame

```
# query the twitter handle of author of linked example
# get 6 tweets (n = 6)
tw = searchTwitter('@GalarnykMichael', n = 5)
d = twListToDF(tw)
```

What Data Came Back?

3. Look at the available fields from the query

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```
# get names of data.frame `d`  
names(d)
```

```
[1] "text"          "favorited"    "favoriteCount" "replyToSN"  
[5] "created"       "truncated"    "replyToSID"    "id"  
[9] "replyToUID"    "statusSource" "screenName"    "retweetCount"  
[13] "isRetweet"     "retweeted"    "longitude"     "latitude"
```

4. Get the users and associated text

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```
# Note: paste auto iterates long the sequences (don't need a for loop)  
print(paste(d$screenName, d$text, sep = ': '))
```

```
[1] "manguuiyufumu: How to Build a Data Science Portfolio by @GalarnykMichael https://t.co/8hrHtmSP9p"  
[2] "HanningWamala: How to Build a Data Science Portfolio by @GalarnykMichael https://t.co/gKcV1zRvh5"  
[3] "Shibbir002: How to Build a Data Science Portfolio by @GalarnykMichael https://t.co/jFsXQlhUWV"  
[4] "javierflip: RT @GalarnykMichael: This is so cool!!! https://t.co/u8gb0yMlRh"  
[5] "davegl510: "Take note of all the interview questions you got asked, especially those questions you failed to  
answer. You can f... https://t.co/9k5BTwPuvb"  
[6] "andypiper: @Aakash_Aich @GalarnykMichael You need to find a search term that appears within the past 7 days  
if you are using the standard search API."
```