



Tim Schott

“@WashingtonBezos: Your New Favorite
Twitter Bot”

11/4/21

My Project!

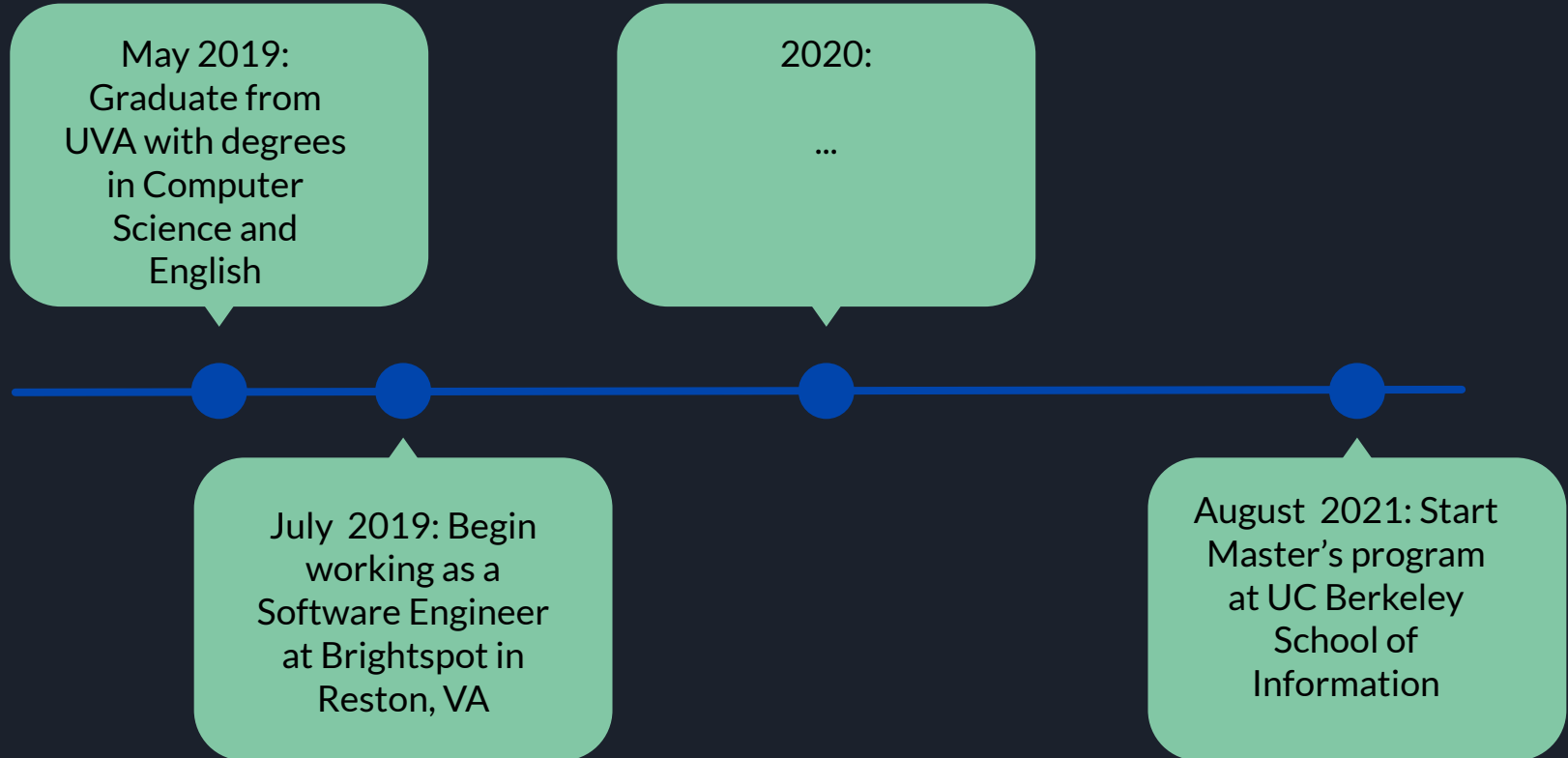




Overview

- My Background
- Project Background
- Project Goal
- Implementation
 - Architecture Diagram
 - Example + Code Walkthrough
- Conclusion and Future Work
- Questions

My Background



Project Background

bernatorial candidate and voting
rights advocate Stacey Abrams.
(Amazon founder Jeff Bezos
owns The Washington Post.)
The recommendation will now

Notice interesting patterns in text...

Write code to learn more!

Sections

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

hearing officer Kerstin Meyers.

“Notwithstanding the Union’s substantial margin of defeat, the Employer’s unilateral decision to create, for all intents and purposes, an on-site collection box for NLRB ballots destroyed the laboratory conditions and justifies a second election,” Meyers wrote.

(Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

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Washington Bezos
@WashingtonBezos

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washingtonpost.com

Amazon union election results should be scrapped over improprieties... The union that lost the initial vote said the recommendation comes from a National Labor Relations Board hearing officer, who wrote tha...

8:00 PM · Aug 2, 2021 · WashingtonBezos

Architecture



Cron Job

1

1: using a cron-job, every hour ...



2



2: invoke a Google Cloud Cloud Function (contains `main.py`, api keys, etc.)



3

The Washington Post

3: `main.py` calls the News API's `/everything` endpoint to scan every *Washington Post* article from the past hour for mentions of "Bezos" -- can't actually ingest full article text w/ this API ... but you can search and get the article URL!

4: if we find one or more mentions, use `beautifulsoup` to scrape that article's content and regular expressions to get the disclosure

BeautifulSoup

4

5: format and tweet out article via Twitter API!

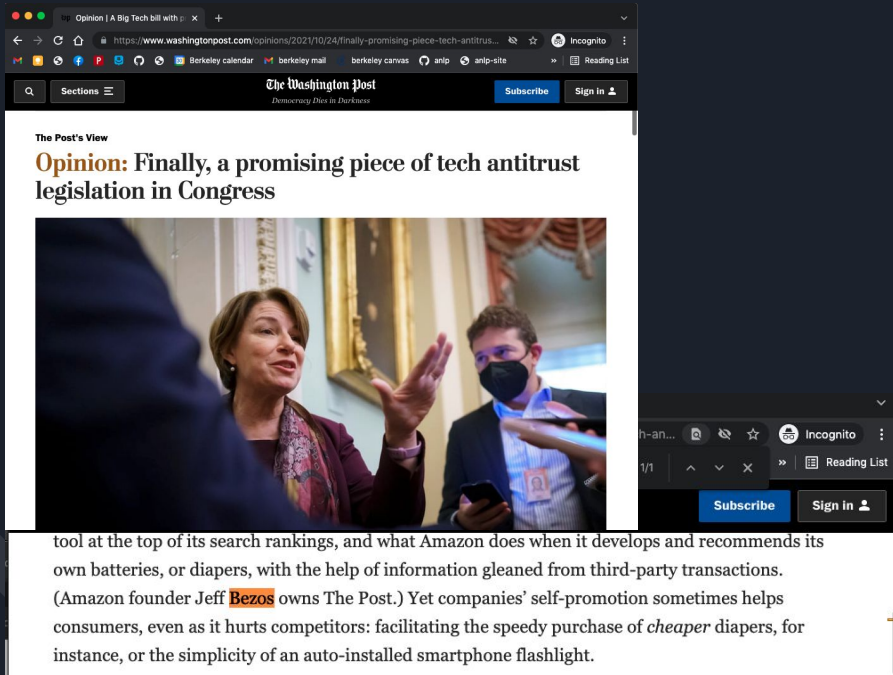


5



Example: Article → Tweet

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/10/24/finally-promising-piece-tech-antitrust-legislation-congress/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying an opinion article from The Washington Post. The article title is "Opinion: Finally, a promising piece of tech antitrust legislation in Congress". The byline is "The Post's View". The main image shows a woman in a purple jacket speaking, with a man in a suit and mask standing next to her. The article text is partially visible, mentioning Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and his ownership of The Post.

The Post's View

Opinion: Finally, a promising piece of tech antitrust legislation in Congress

tool at the top of its search rankings, and what Amazon does when it develops and recommends its own batteries, or diapers, with the help of information gleaned from third-party transactions. (Amazon founder Jeff **Bezos** owns The Post.) Yet companies' self-promotion sometimes helps consumers, even as it hurts competitors: facilitating the speedy purchase of *cheaper* diapers, for instance, or the simplicity of an auto-installed smartphone flashlight.



The screenshot shows a tweet from the account "Washington Bezos" (@WashingtonBezos). The tweet text is "(Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Post.)". The image in the tweet shows a woman in a purple jacket speaking, with a man in a suit and mask standing next to her. The tweet includes a link to the Washington Post article and a preview of the article text.

Washington Bezos
@WashingtonBezos

(Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Post.)

washingtonpost.com
Opinion | Finally, a promising piece of tech antitrust legislation in Co...
The bipartisan bill focuses on self-preferencing, but with nuance.

Code Walkthrough

Code: <https://bit.ly/wapo-bot>

Writeup: <https://bit.ly/yext-prez>



Conclusion and Future Work

Personal

- Data cleaning
- API work with Python
- Automation
- Flexible, creative problem solving

Bot

- Successfully generated 330 tweets in just over a year!
- First effort of its kind

Looking forward

- Analyze tweets - what sections, when note appears in an article, count different usages
- Better error handling - send me an email w/ details when regex's miss
- Get popular ...
https://twitter.com/nyt_first_said has 180k followers!

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Questions

