Victor Bianchi - MINI-PROJECT #3 - Software Design Fall 2017

Project Overview

For this mini-project I created a solution to a game I played a lot when I was younger and had just discovered wikipedia. The infamous game, the Wikipedia Hitler Game, was a very common game to play in class or after school just to have fun. It seems to be a simple implementation at first; go to a page, click on the first link, and repeat.

Implementation

My program starts by prompting the user for a specific wikipedia page. He also has the choice to have the program randomly choose a page for him to start from. I then use the BeautifulSoup package to extract and parse through the text from the wikipedia HTML page. I look for the valid links and move on the next link. The counter variable is increased by one and the process reiterates till the goal is met. I thought about creating a function that would find other words related to 'Philosophy' from a bank of words and tell the user that the process could have been shortened if this specific word was found before.

Results

Water ↦ Chemical substance ↦ Matter -->Classical physics -->Physics -->Ancient Greek -->Greek language -->Modern Greek -->Help:IPA/Greek -->International Phonetic Alphabet -->Alphabet -->Letter (alphabet) -->Syllabogram -->Grapheme -->Linguistics -->Language -->Communication -->Meaning (semiotics) -->Semiotics -->Meaning-making -->Psychology -->Behavior -->American English -->Language variety -->Sociolinguistics-->Society -->Social group -->Social science -->Discipline (academia)-->Knowledge -->Fact -->Verificationism -->Philosophy

To get from Water to Philosophy, it took 32 clicks.

Reflection

This mini-project taught me how to get information from a website, filter the text and single out the specific parts that I needed. This program plays the game really well and having it display all connecting words seems like an even funner game to me because in the couple of milliseconds that separate each step, I try to guess what word will come next. Going forward, I could try to develop a function that would

immediately see if a link can be made between a specific word and philosophy, instead of having it iterate till failure.