Introduction:

After NS(national service), I started to learn python3 in my own time. After learning the basics, I wanted to move on to a small project to try and apply what I have learnt. I decided to help a friend out who was single and busy with work and had no time to find/meet new people. I thought of creating an auto-swiping bot to help him find new people on a dating app without needing him to spend time swiping on his own.

What I needed: Python3, Selenium and Chromedriver

Download:

1)Python3,

2)selenium(pip install selenium)

3)chromedriver

* Add it into a Path variable
* To test: Type chromedriver.exe into your command prompt (Windows) or terminal (macOS), if it opens a local session, it is installed correctly!

Coding:

1. Start with importing all necessary packages:

from selenium import webdriver

import time

from account\_details import username, password

1. Create a class:

class OKCupidBot():

def \_\_init\_\_(self):

self.driver = webdriver.Chrome()

1. Create a method for to login:

def open(self):

self.driver.get("https://www.okcupid.com/home")

time.sleep(3)

def sign\_in(self):

email\_input = self.driver.find\_element\_by\_xpath('//\*[@id="username"]')

email\_input.send\_keys(username)

password\_input = self.driver.find\_element\_by\_xpath('//\*[@id="password"]')

password\_input.send\_keys(password)

next\_btn = self.driver.find\_element\_by\_xpath('//\*[@id="OkModal"]/div/div[1]/div/div/div/div[2]/div/div/div[2]/div/form/div[2]/input')

next\_btn.click()

1. Add a method for liking and passing (to test):

def pass\_dislike(self):

time.sleep(8)

pass\_btn = self.driver.find\_element\_by\_xpath('//\*[@id="quickmatch-wrapper"]/div/div/span/div/div[2]/div/div[2]/span/div/div/div/div[1]/div[2]/button[1]')

pass\_btn.click()

def like\_like(self):

time.sleep(8)

like\_btn = self.driver.find\_element\_by\_xpath('//\*[@id="quickmatch-wrapper"]/div/div/span/div/div[2]/div/div[2]/span/div/div/div/div[1]/div[2]/button[2]')

like\_btn.click()

1. Add a method for auto-swiping:

def auto\_like(self):

while True:

time.sleep(1)

try:

self.like\_like()

except Exception:

try:

self.close\_popup()

except:

self.close\_popup2()

1. Add a method for closing different popups:

def close\_popup(self):

close\_btn = self.driver.find\_element\_by\_xpath('//\*[@id="onetrust-accept-btn-handler"]')

close\_btn.click()

def close\_popup2(self):

close2\_btn = self.driver.find\_element\_by\_xpath('//\*[@id="OkModal"]/div/div[1]/div/div/div/div[1]/button')

close2\_btn.click()

1. Finally, running the bot:

bot = OKCupidBot()

bot.open()

bot.sign\_in()

bot.auto\_like()

Mistakes and Lesson Learnt:

1. After running a test by calling the function bot.pass\_dislike(), there was an error as the page didn't load quick enough for the bot to find the dislike button instantly. Therefore, I imported time as seen above and added time.sleep() for before each function to give the pages some time to load.
2. After running a test by calling the function bot.auto\_swipe(), I realised that there were random pop-ups appearing after liking due to either matches, or running out of likes which causes errors. For that I had to google for a solution. What i found is that this kind of issues are caused due to a condition becoming FALSE. Therefore I learnt to create an infinite loop state adding the try/except statements.

Things I would add in the future:

1. Auto Chatting
2. Retrieving Instagram handles
3. Detecting my preference

Conclusion:

Although this may be regarded as an easy project by many, for me as a beginner, with no knowledge of selenium and chromedriver, I learnt many different things. Even basic things such as forgetting to call the function and wondering why my bot is not running when I run the code. I also learn basic web scraping with selenium and chromedriver and how I can interact with a page in a web browser. Although I constantly googled for answers such as how to get xpaths, what are the selenium webdriver APIs, I felt that i learnt a great deal more going through Object Oriented Programming rather than just basics on youtube.