# Introduction:

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# **RSS Feed Filter Program Explanation**

### **Overview**

This program is designed to fetch and display news articles from Google and Yahoo News RSS feeds. It allows users to filter these news articles based on specific keywords using various types of triggers. The filtered news articles are displayed in a graphical user interface (GUI) built with Tkinter.

# **Key Components**

### 1. Fetching and Parsing RSS Feeds

• The **process** function fetches news items from a given RSS URL and parses them into a list of **NewsStory** objects. Each **NewsStory** object contains details like the GUID, title, description, link, and publication date of a news article.

### 2. NewsStory Class

- Represents a single news story.
- Contains methods to retrieve the GUID, title, description, link, and publication date.

## 3. Triggers

- These are conditions used to filter news stories based on their content.
- There are different types of triggers:
  - PhraseTrigger: Checks if a given phrase is present in a text.
  - **TitleTrigger**: Inherits from **PhraseTrigger** and checks if the phrase is in the title of the story.
  - **DescriptionTrigger**: Inherits from **PhraseTrigger** and checks if the phrase is in the description of the story.
  - TimeTrigger: Abstract class to compare story publication times.

- **BeforeTrigger**: Inherits from **TimeTrigger** and checks if the story was published before a certain time.
- AfterTrigger: Inherits from TimeTrigger and checks if the story was published after a certain time.
- **NotTrigger**: Inverts the evaluation of another trigger.
- AndTrigger: Combines two triggers and evaluates to True if both are True.
- OrTrigger: Combines two triggers and evaluates to True if either is True.

### 4. Filtering Stories

• The filter\_stories function filters a list of news stories based on a list of triggers. Only stories that meet the criteria of at least one trigger are included in the filtered list.

### 5. **Reading Trigger Configuration**

The read\_trigger\_config function reads a configuration file to create a list
of triggers specified by the user. This allows for dynamic and flexible
trigger setup without modifying the code.

### 6. GUI and Main Thread

- The main\_thread function sets up the GUI using Tkinter and continuously fetches and displays filtered news stories.
- Users can specify keywords that are used to create **OrTrigger** objects for filtering the news stories.
- The GUI displays the title and description of each filtered news story.

# **Running the Program**

### 1. Setting Up the GUI

• When the program runs, it sets up a Tkinter GUI with a text area to display news stories and a button to exit the program.

### 2. Fetching and Filtering News Stories

- The program continuously polls the Google and Yahoo RSS feeds every 120 seconds.
- It processes the fetched news stories and filters them based on the userdefined triggers.

### 3. Displaying News Stories

- Filtered news stories are displayed in the GUI.
- Each story's title is shown in a larger font, followed by a separator line and the story's description.

# **Example Usage**

- To run the program, execute it in a Python environment.
- You will be prompted to enter keywords for filtering news stories.
- The program will start a thread that sets up the GUI and begins polling the RSS feeds.
- Filtered news stories will be displayed in the GUI based on the entered keywords.

# Code import feedparser import string import time import threading from project\_util import translate\_html from tkinter import \* from datetime import datetime

```
#=============
# Code for retrieving and parsing
# Google and Yahoo News feeds
#=============
def process(url):
  .....
  Fetches news items from the rss url and parses them.
  Returns a list of NewsStory instances.
  feed = feedparser.parse(url)
  entries = feed.entries
  ret = []
  for entry in entries:
    guid = entry.guid
    title = translate_html(entry.title)
    link = entry.link
    # Check if description field exists
    if 'description' in entry:
       description = translate_html(entry.description)
```

```
else:
       description = ""
    # Handling different date formats
    if 'published' in entry:
       pubdate_str = entry.published
    elif 'published_parsed' in entry:
       pubdate_str = time.strftime('%a, %d %b %Y %H:%M:%S %Z',
entry.published_parsed)
    else:
       continue
    try:
       pubdate = datetime.strptime(pubdate_str, "%a, %d %b %Y %H:%M:%S %Z")
    except ValueError:
       pubdate = datetime.strptime(pubdate_str, "%Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%SZ")
    newsStory = NewsStory(guid, title, description, link, pubdate)
    ret.append(newsStory)
  return ret
#============
```

```
# Data structure design
#==============
class NewsStory:
  def _init_(self, guid, title, description, link, pubdate):
     self.guid = guid
     self.title = title
     self.description = description
     self.link = link
     self.pubdate = pubdate
  def get_guid(self):
     return self.guid
  def get_title(self):
     return self.title
  def get_description(self):
     return self.description
  def get_link(self):
     return self.link
```

```
def get_pubdate(self):
    return self.pubdate
#==============
# Triggers
#===========
class Trigger(object):
  def evaluate(self, story):
    raise NotImplementedError
class PhraseTrigger(Trigger):
  def _init_(self, phrase):
    self.phrase = phrase.lower()
  def is_phrase_in(self, text):
    text = text.lower()
    for char in string.punctuation:
       text = text.replace(char, ' ')
    text_words = text.split()
    phrase_words = self.phrase.split()
```

```
for i in range(len(text_words) - len(phrase_words) + 1):
       if text_words[i:i + len(phrase_words)] == phrase_words:
          return True
     return False
class TitleTrigger(PhraseTrigger):
  def evaluate(self, story):
     return self.is_phrase_in(story.get_title())
class DescriptionTrigger(PhraseTrigger):
  def evaluate(self, story):
     return self.is_phrase_in(story.get_description())
class TimeTrigger(Trigger):
  def _init_(self, time):
     self.time = datetime.strptime(time, "%Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%SZ")
class BeforeTrigger(TimeTrigger):
  def evaluate(self, story):
     return story.get_pubdate() < self.time
class AfterTrigger(TimeTrigger):
```

```
def evaluate(self, story):
     return story.get_pubdate() > self.time
class NotTrigger(Trigger):
  def _init_(self, trigger):
     self.trigger = trigger
  def evaluate(self, story):
     return not self.trigger.evaluate(story)
class AndTrigger(Trigger):
  def _init_(self, trigger1, trigger2):
     self.trigger1 = trigger1
     self.trigger2 = trigger2
  def evaluate(self, story):
     return self.trigger1.evaluate(story) and self.trigger2.evaluate(story)
class OrTrigger(Trigger):
  def _init_(self, trigger1, trigger2):
     self.trigger1 = trigger1
     self.trigger2 = trigger2
```

```
def evaluate(self, story):
    return self.trigger1.evaluate(story) or self.trigger2.evaluate(story)
#==============
# Filtering
#===========
def filter_stories(stories, triggerlist):
  filtered_stories = []
  for story in stories:
    for trigger in triggerlist:
      if trigger.evaluate(story):
        filtered_stories.append(story)
        break
  return filtered_stories
#==============
# User-Specified Triggers
#===========
def read_trigger_config(filename):
```

```
trigger_file = open(filename, 'r')
lines = []
for line in trigger_file:
  line = line.rstrip()
  if not (len(line) == 0 or line.startswith('//')):
     lines.append(line)
trigger_file.close()
triggers = {}
trigger_list = []
for line in lines:
  parts = line.split(',')
  if parts[0] == 'ADD':
     for name in parts[1:]:
        if name in triggers:
          trigger_list.append(triggers[name])
  else:
     trigger_name = parts[0]
     trigger_type = parts[1]
     if trigger_type == 'TITLE':
        triggers[trigger_name] = TitleTrigger(parts[2])
```

```
elif trigger_type == 'DESCRIPTION':
         triggers[trigger_name] = DescriptionTrigger(parts[2])
       elif trigger_type == 'AFTER':
         triggers[trigger_name] = AfterTrigger(parts[2])
       elif trigger_type == 'BEFORE':
         triggers[trigger_name] = BeforeTrigger(parts[2])
       elif trigger_type == 'NOT':
         if parts[2] in triggers:
           triggers[trigger_name] = NotTrigger(triggers[parts[2]])
       elif trigger_type == 'AND':
         if parts[2] in triggers and parts[3] in triggers:
           triggers[trigger_name] = AndTrigger(triggers[parts[2]], triggers[parts[3]])
       elif trigger_type == 'OR':
         if parts[2] in triggers and parts[3] in triggers:
           triggers[trigger_name] = OrTrigger(triggers[parts[2]], triggers[parts[3]])
  return trigger_list
#============
# Main Thread
#============
```

```
SLEEPTIME = 120 # seconds
def main_thread(master, keywords):
  try:
    triggerlist = []
    if keywords:
       for keyword in keywords:
         triggerlist.append(OrTrigger(TitleTrigger(keyword),
DescriptionTrigger(keyword)))
    frame = Frame(master)
    frame.pack(side=BOTTOM)
     scrollbar = Scrollbar(master)
     scrollbar.pack(side=RIGHT, fill=Y)
    t = "Google & Yahoo Top News"
    title = StringVar()
     title.set(t)
    ttl = Label(master, textvariable=title, font=("Helvetica", 18))
    ttl.pack(side=TOP)
     cont = Text(master, font=("Helvetica", 14), yscrollcommand=scrollbar.set)
     cont.pack(side=BOTTOM)
```

```
cont.tag_config("title", justify='center')
    button = Button(frame, text="Exit", command=master.destroy)
    button.pack(side=BOTTOM)
    guidShown = []
    def get_cont(newstory):
       if newstory.get_guid() not in guidShown:
         cont.insert(END, newstory.get_title() + "\n", "title")
         cont.insert(END, "\n-----
\n", "title")
         cont.insert(END, newstory.get_description())
         cont.insert(END, "\n*\n", "title")
         guidShown.append(newstory.get_guid())
    while True:
       print("Polling...")
       stories = process("http://news.google.com/news?output=rss")
       stories.extend(process("http://news.yahoo.com/rss/topstories"))
       stories = filter_stories(stories, triggerlist)
       list(map(get_cont, stories))
```

```
scrollbar.config(command=cont.yview)
       print(f"No keywords provided. Continuing to poll...")
       time.sleep(SLEEPTIME)
  except Exception as e:
    print(f"Error occurred: {e}")
    def get_cont(newstory):
       if newstory.get_guid() not in guidShown:
         cont.insert(END, newstory.get_title() + "\n", "title")
         cont.insert(END, "\n------
\n", "title")
         cont.insert(END, newstory.get_description())
         cont.insert(END, "\n*\n", "title")
         guidShown.append(newstory.get_guid())
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```
stories = filter_stories(stories, triggerlist)
       list(map(get_cont, stories))
       scrollbar.config(command=cont.yview)
       print(f"No keywords provided. Continuing to poll...")
       time.sleep(SLEEPTIME)
  except Exception as e:
     print(f"Error occurred: {e}")
if _name_ == '_main_':
  root = Tk()
  root.title("RSS Feed Filter")
  keywords = input("Enter keywords (comma-separated): ").strip().split(',')
  keywords = [keyword.strip() for keyword in keywords if keyword.strip()]
  t = threading.Thread(target=main_thread, args=(root, keywords))
  t.start()
```

root.mainloop()

# **Summary**

This program is a simple yet powerful tool for filtering and displaying news articles based on user-defined criteria. By leveraging RSS feeds, it ensures that users receive the most relevant news updates in real-time, displayed through an intuitive graphical interface.