https://bit.ly/nicar-passive

Passive Scraping for social media

(and everything else)

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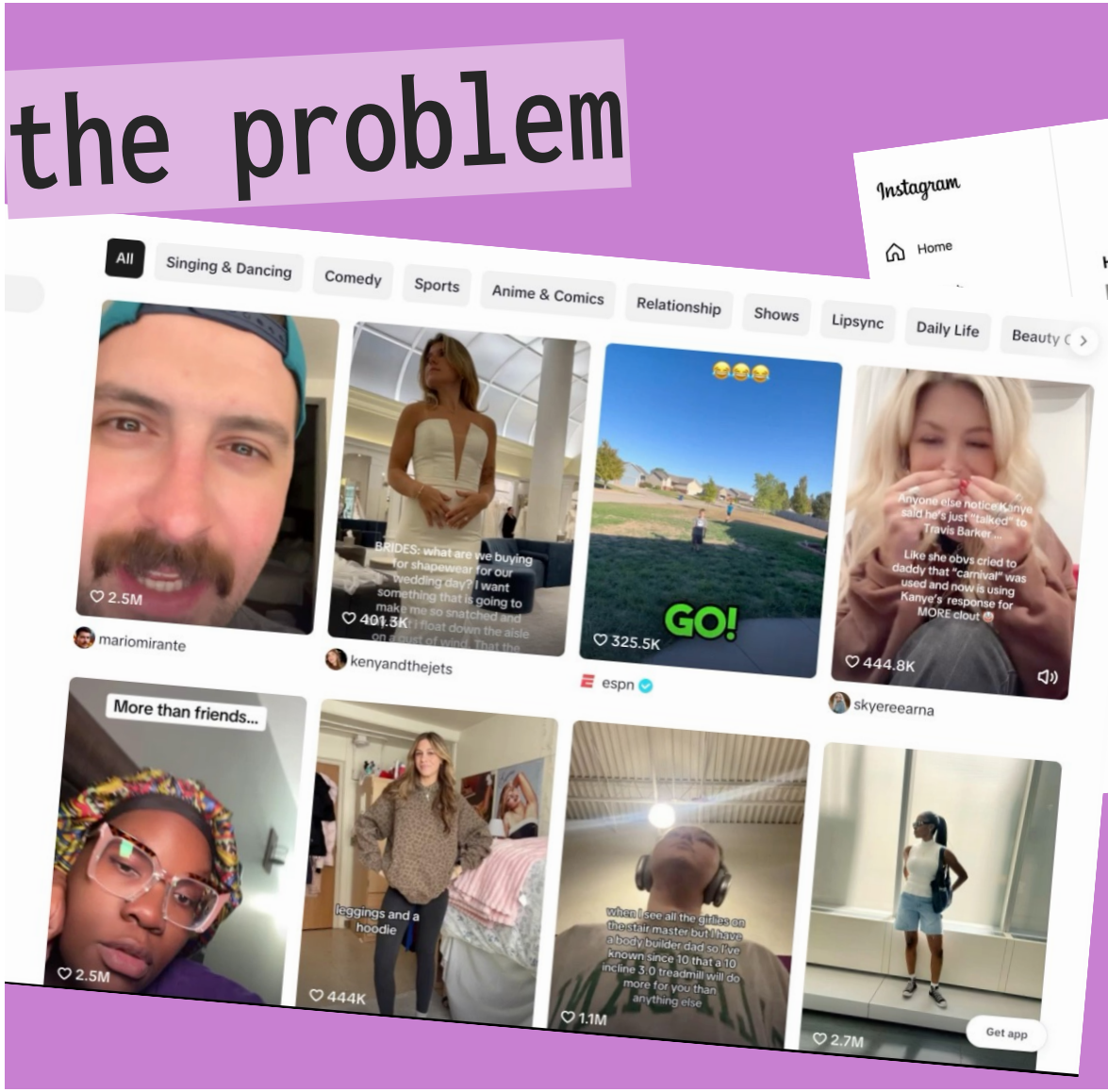
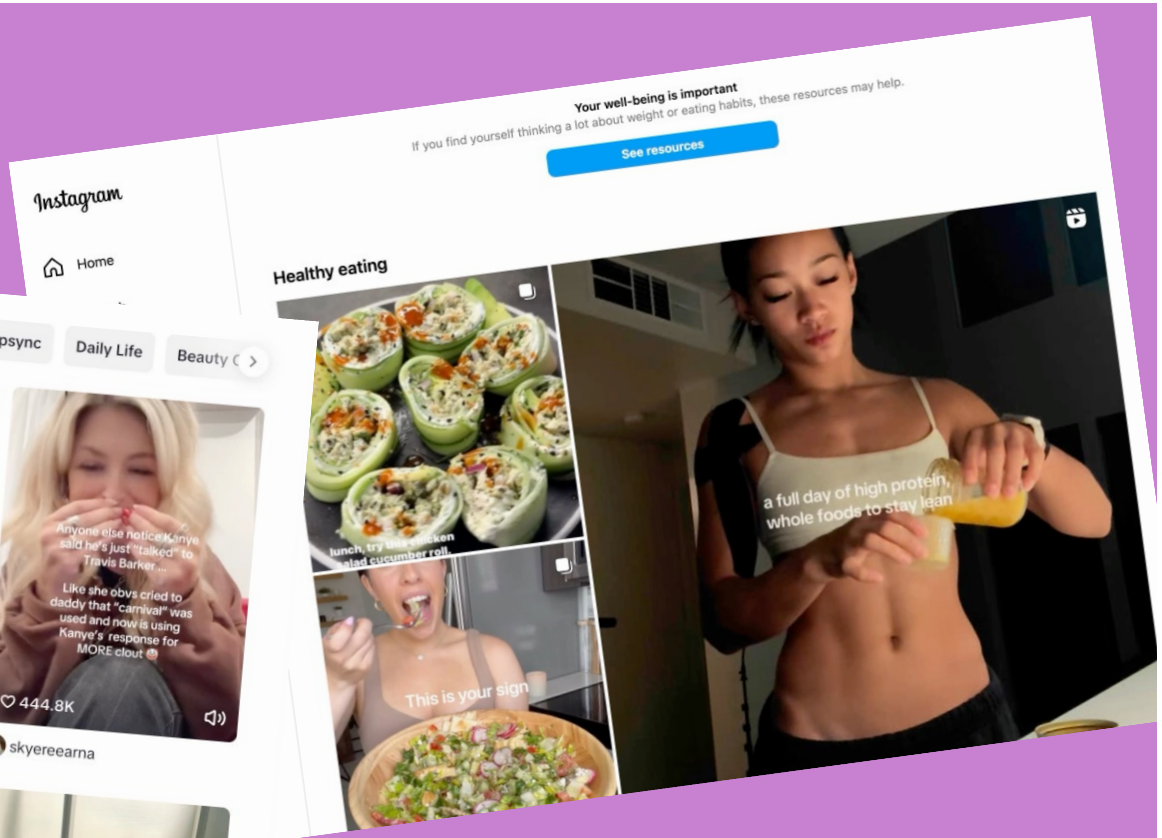
@dangerscarf

the problem


All
Singing & Dancing
Comedy
Sports
Anime & Comics
Relationship
Shows
Lipsync
Daily Life
Beauty
2.5M
mariomirante
BRIDES: what are we buying for shapewear for our wedding day? I want something that is going to make me so snatched and
401.3K
kenyandthejets
GO!
325.5K
espn
Anyone else notice Kanye said he's just "talked" to Travis Barker...
Like she obvs cried to daddy that "carnival" was used and now is using Kanye's response for MORE clout
444.8K
skyereearna
More than friends...
2.5M
leggings and a hoodie
444K
when I see all the girlies on the stair master but I have a body builder dad so I've known since 10 that a 10 incline 3.0 treadmill will do more for you than anything else
1.1M
2.7M
Get app


Instagram
Home
Your well-being is important
If you find yourself thinking a lot about weight or eating habits, these resources may help.
See resources
Healthy eating
a full day of high protein, whole foods to stay lean
This is your sign

tiers of problem-solving

- Using a tool
- Writing a scraper
- Undocumented APIs
- Intercepting browser requests
- Pack-ratting with HAR and WARC/WACZ files

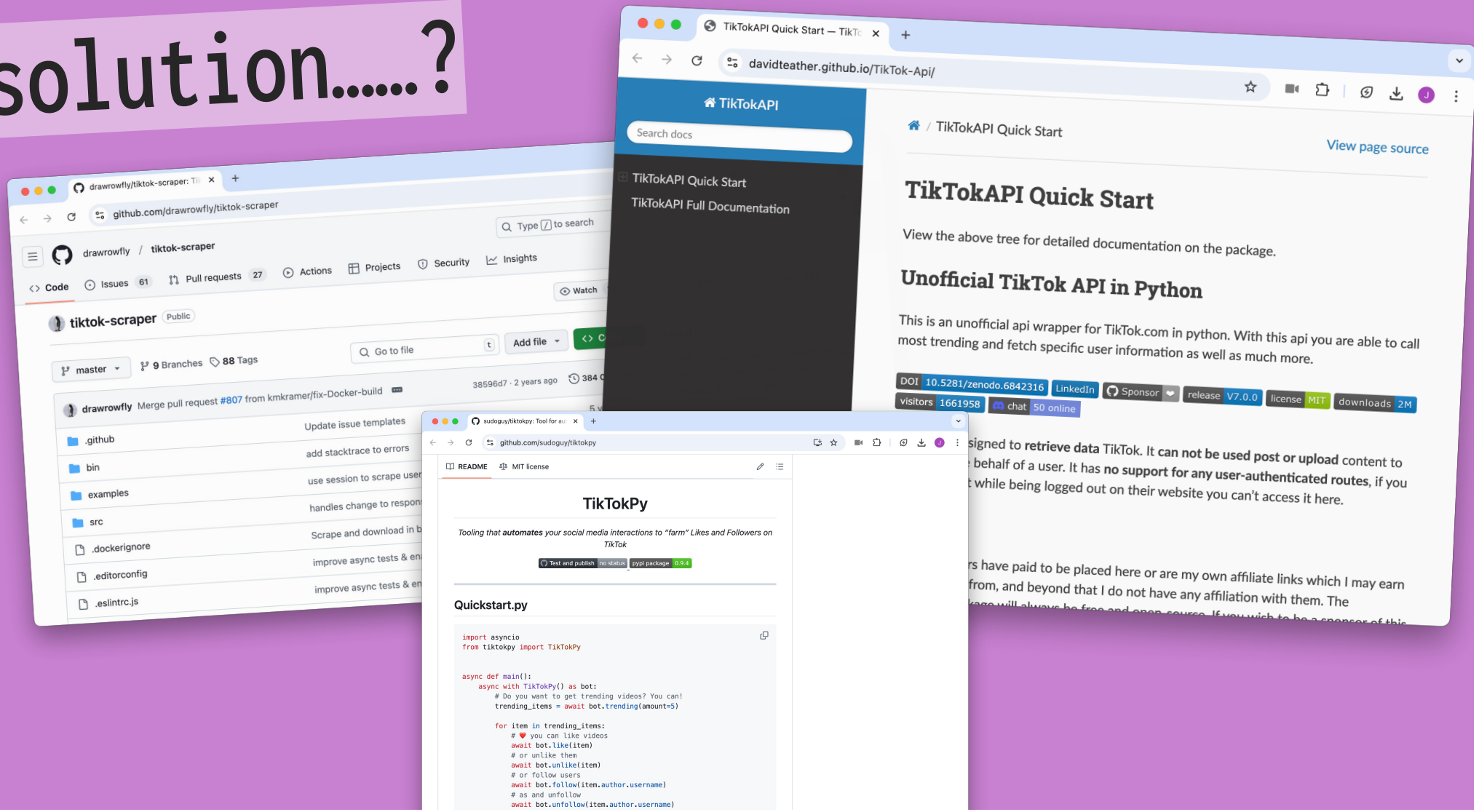
A solution: instaloader

```python
import instaloader

L = instaloader.Instaloader()
L.login(username, password)

profile = instaloader.Profile.from_username(L.context, "catrepublic")

for index, post in enumerate(profile.get_posts()):
    if index >= 10:
        break
    L.download_post(post, target=username)
```


solution: inst
2025-02-25_16-23-25_UTC_comments.json
catrepublic
Search
Dropbox › Soma › Curriculum › 2025-nicar › passive-scraping › catrepublic
37 items, 750.19 GB available

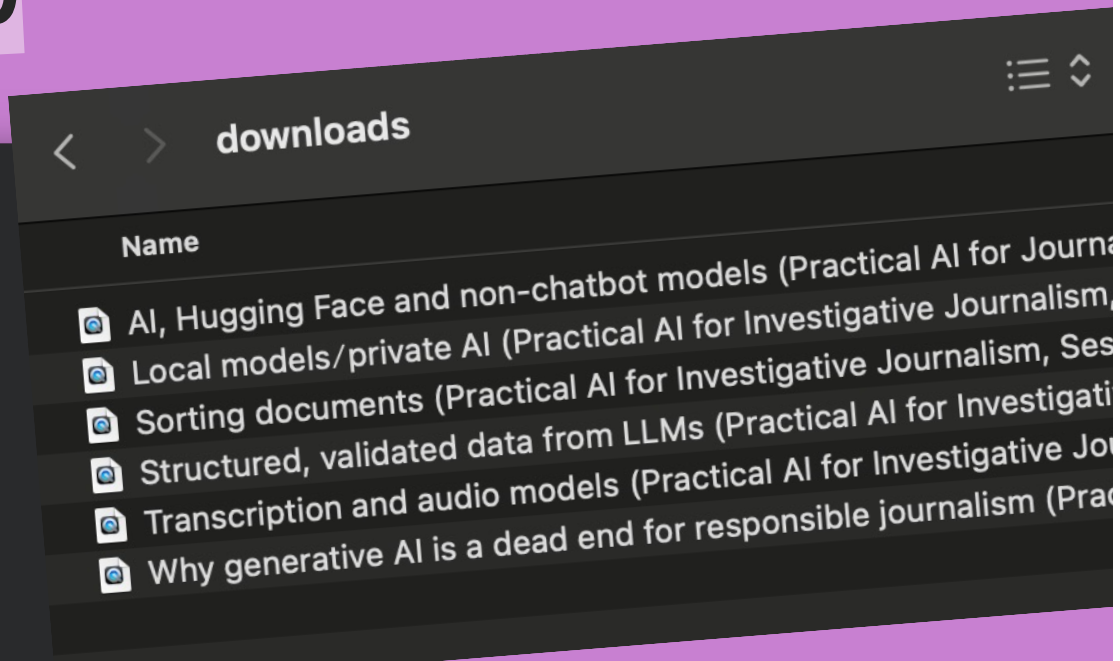
```python
import instaloader
import getpass

L = instaloader.Instaloader(
    download_pictures=True,
    download_videos=True,
    download_video_thumbnails=True,
    download_geotags=False,
    download_comments=True,
    save_metadata=True,
    compress_json=False
)

try:
    L.load_session_from_file('dangerscarf')
    print("Session loaded")
except:
    username = input("Enter your Instagram username: ")
    password = getpass.getpass("Enter your Instagram password: ")

    try:
        L.login(username, password)
        print("Login successful!")
    except instaloader.exceptions.TwoFactorAuthRequiredException:
        print("Two-factor authentication required.")
        code = input("Enter the 2FA code from your authenticator app or SMS: ")
        try:
            L.two_factor_login(code)
            print("Two-factor authentication successful!")
            L.save_session_to_file()
        except instaloader.exceptions.InstaloaderException as e:
            print(f"Two-factor authentication failed: {e}")
    except instaloader.exceptions.InstaloaderException as e:
        print(f"Login failed: {e}")
```

solution.....?

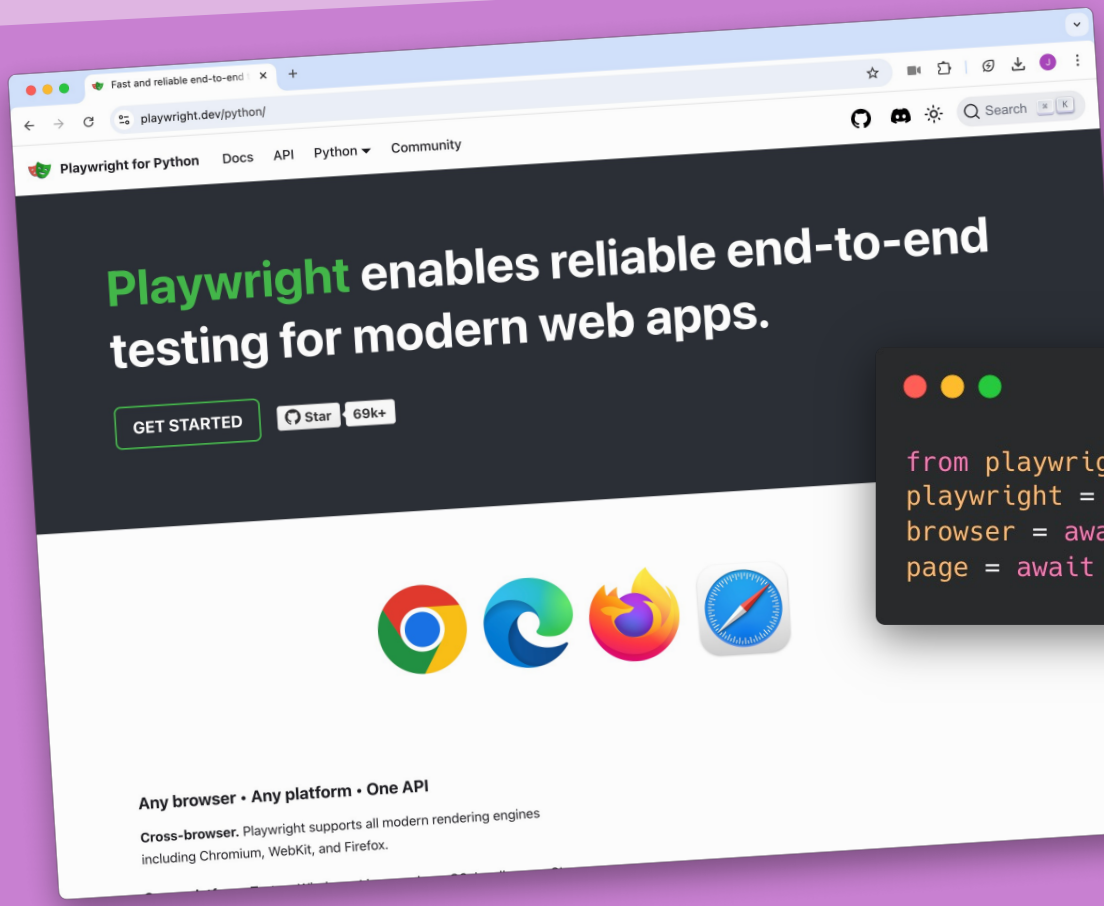

drawrowfly/tiktok-scraper
github.com/drawrowfly/tiktok-scraper
drawrowfly / tiktok-scraper
Code
Issues 61
Pull requests 27
Actions
Projects
Security
Insights
tiktok-scraper
Public
master
9 Branches
88 Tags
Go to file
Add file
drawrowfly Merge pull request #807 from kmkramer/fix-Docker-build
.github
bin
examples
src
.dockerignore
.editorconfig
.eslintrc.js
TikTokAPI Quick Start — TikTo
davidteather.github.io/TikTok-Api/
TikTokAPI
Search docs
TikTokAPI Quick Start
TikTokAPI Full Documentation
TikTokAPI Quick Start
View page source
TikTokAPI Quick Start
View the above tree for detailed documentation on the package.
Unofficial TikTok API in Python
This is an unofficial api wrapper for TikTok.com in python. With this api you are able to call most trending and fetch specific user information as well as much more.
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.6842316
LinkedIn
Sponsor
release V7.0.0
license MIT
downloads 2M
visitors 1661958
chat 50 online
signed to retrieve data TikTok. It can not be used post or upload content to
behalf of a user. It has no support for any user-authenticated routes, if you
while being logged out on their website you can't access it here.
rs have paid to be placed here or are my own affiliate links which I may earn
from, and beyond that I do not have any affiliation with them. The
sudoguy/tiktokpy
github.com/sudoguy/tiktokpy
README
MIT license
TikTokPy
Tooling that automates your social media interactions to "farm" Likes and Followers on TikTok
Test and publish
no status
pypi package
0.9.4
Quickstart.py
import asyncio
from tiktokpy import TikTokPy
async def main():
async with TikTokPy() as bot:
# Do you want to get trending videos? You can!
trending_items = await bot.trending(amount=5)
for item in trending_items:
# ❤ you can like videos
await bot.like(item)
or unlike them
await bot.unlike(item)
or follow users
await bot.follow(item.author.username)
as and unfollow
await bot.unfollow(item.author.username)

solution: yt-dlp

```python
import yt_dlp

# List of YouTube URLs
urls = [
    "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5wvtYRYbfA",
    "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MHEMedLWeI",
    "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6ipSIy7MEk",
    "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsVlvsxfnXw",
    "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8e9YgvkKgc",
    "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Thc0vtnWYOo"
]

# Configure yt-dlp options
ydl_opts = {
    'format': 'bestvideo[height<=720]+bestaudio/best[height<=720]',
    'merge_output_format': 'mp4',
    'outtmpl': 'downloads/%(title)s.%(ext)s',
}

with yt_dlp.YoutubeDL(ydl_opts) as ydl:
    ydl.download(urls)
```

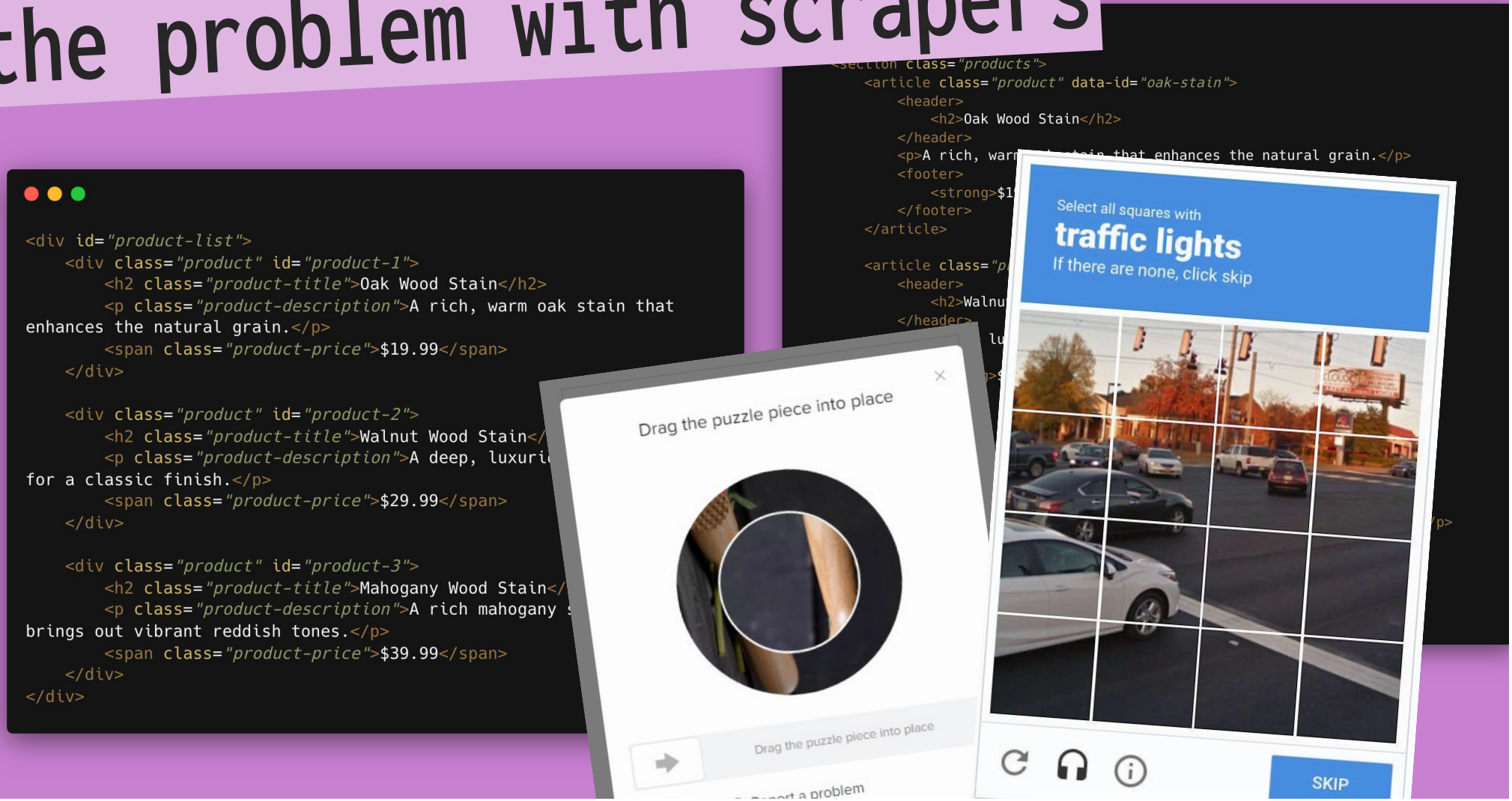


solution: writing a scraper




```python
from playwright.async_api import async_playwright
playwright = await async_playwright().start()
browser = await playwright.chromium.launch(headless=False)
page = await browser.new_page()
```

the problem with scrapers



tiers of problem-solving

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- ~~Writing a scraper~~
- Undocumented APIs
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- Pack-ratting with HAR and WARC/WACZ files

solution: undocumented APIs

HANDS-ON INTERMEDIATE

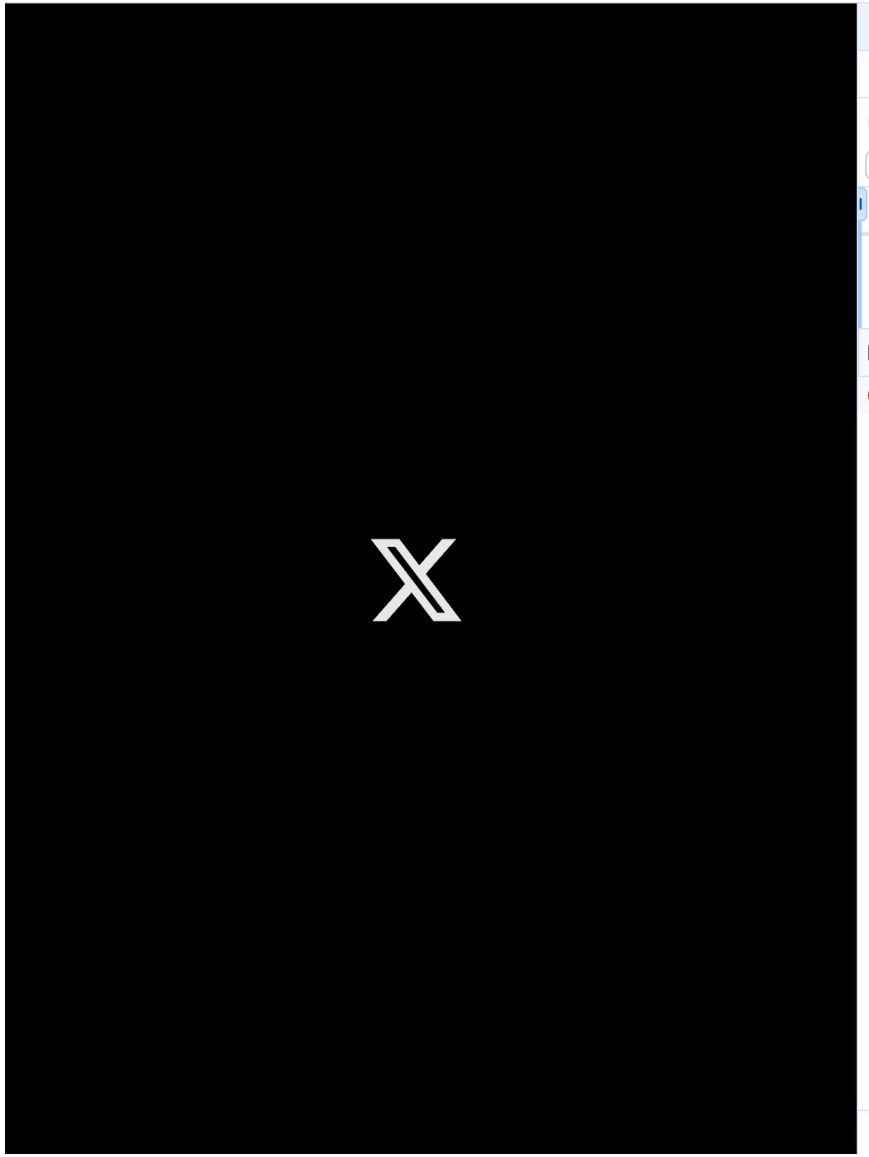
Findings and using undocumented APIs

Time: Friday, March 7, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. (1h)
Location: Gray's Bay, 8th fl, eighth floor (BYO)

SHOW FEWER DETAILS

This tutorial will introduce reporters to an exciting and often overlooked data source found on every website. You will learn how to find and use hidden APIs as a reporting resource, and hear about how this data source has been used in past reporting. We'll be working off this scripted documented: https://inspectelement.org/apis

This session is for reporters who want to diversify their data sources. You don't need to write code: we'll teach participants to find hidden APIs in your web browser, but knowing some coding will let you to unlock detailed and rich datasets hidden in plain sight. Laptops will be provided.



Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory

Preserve log Disable cache No throttling

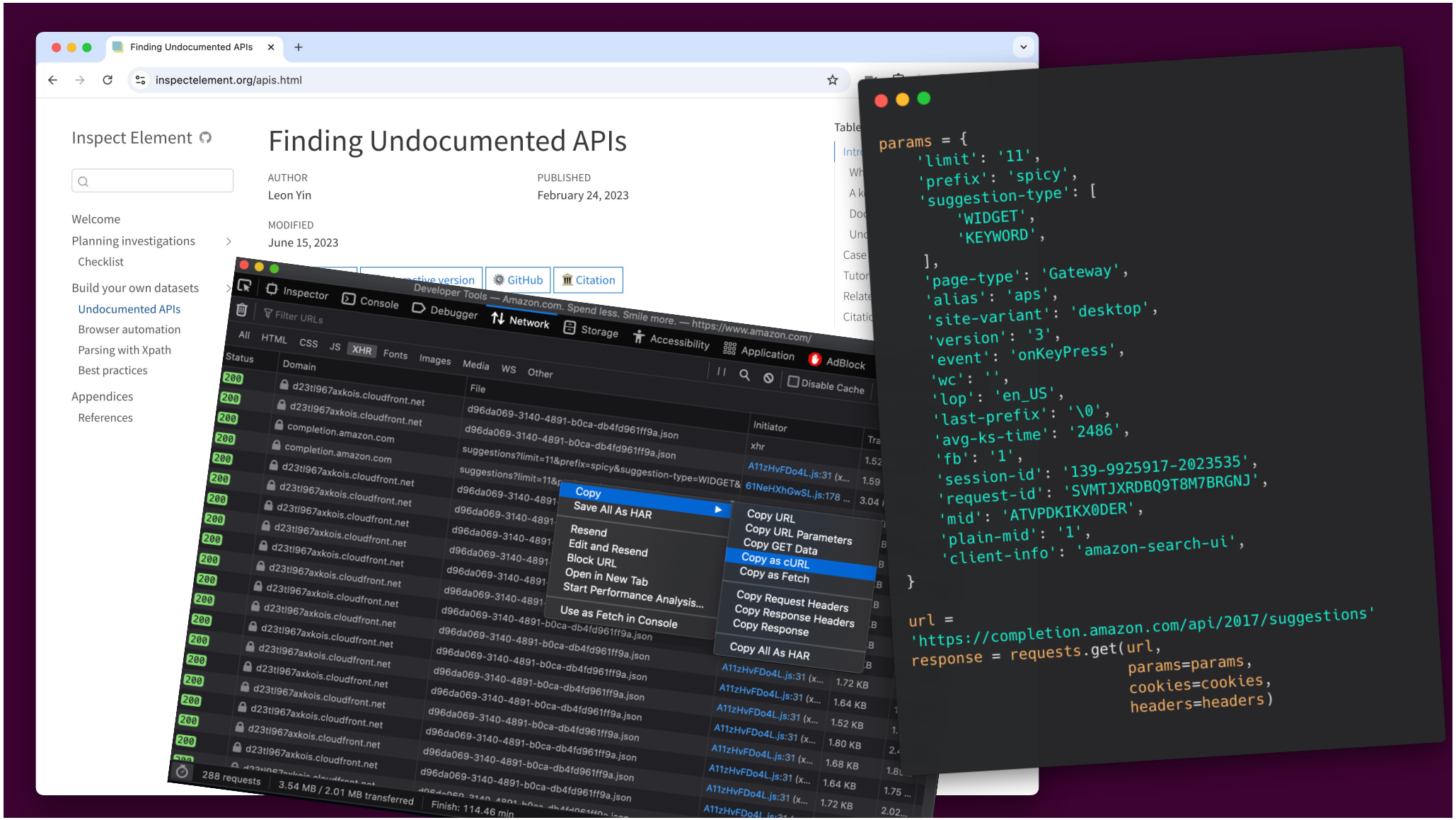
Invert More filters

All Fetch/XHR Doc CSS JS Font Img Media Manifest WS Wasm Other

20 ms 40 ms 60 ms 80 ms 100 ms 120 ms 140 ms 160 ms

Name	Status	Type	Initiator	Size	Time
client_event.json	(blocked:...	fetch	serviceworker.f83c0d	0 B	7 r

1 / 6 requests | 0 B / 0 B transferred | 0 B / 4.2 MB resources | Finish: 37 ms


Finding Undocumented APIs
inspectelement.org/apis.html
Inspect Element
Welcome
Planning investigations
Checklist
Build your own datasets
Undocumented APIs
Browser automation
Parsing with Xpath
Best practices
Appendices
References
Finding Undocumented APIs
AUTHOR
Leon Yin
PUBLISHED
February 24, 2023
MODIFIED
June 15, 2023
GitHub
Citation
Inspector
Console
Debugger
Network
Storage
Accessibility
Application
AdBlock
Developer Tools — Amazon.com. Spend less. Smile more. — https://www.amazon.com/
Filter URLs
Disable Cache
Status
Domain
File
Initiator
Copy
Save All As HAR
Resend
Edit and Resend
Block URL
Open in New Tab
Start Performance Analysis...
Use as Fetch in Console
Copy URL
Copy URL Parameters
Copy GET Data
Copy as cURL
Copy as Fetch
Copy Request Headers
Copy Response Headers
Copy Response
Copy All As HAR
288 requests
3.54 MB / 2.01 MB transferred
Finish: 114.46 min
params = {
'limit': '11',
'prefix': 'spicy',
'suggestion-type': [
'WIDGET',
'KEYWORD',
],
'page-type': 'Gateway',
'alias': 'aps',
'site-variant': 'desktop',
'version': '3',
'event': 'onKeyPress',
'wc': '',
'lop': 'en_US',
'last-prefix': '\0',
'avg-ks-time': '2486',
'fb': '1',
'session-id': '139-9925917-2023535',
'request-id': 'SVMTJXRDBQ9T8M7BRGNJ',
'mid': 'ATVPDKIKX0DER',
'plain-mid': '1',
'client-info': 'amazon-search-ui',
}
url =
'https://completion.amazon.com/api/2017/suggestions'
response = requests.get(url,
params=params,
cookies=cookies,
headers=headers)

the problem: they change (and we're lazy!)

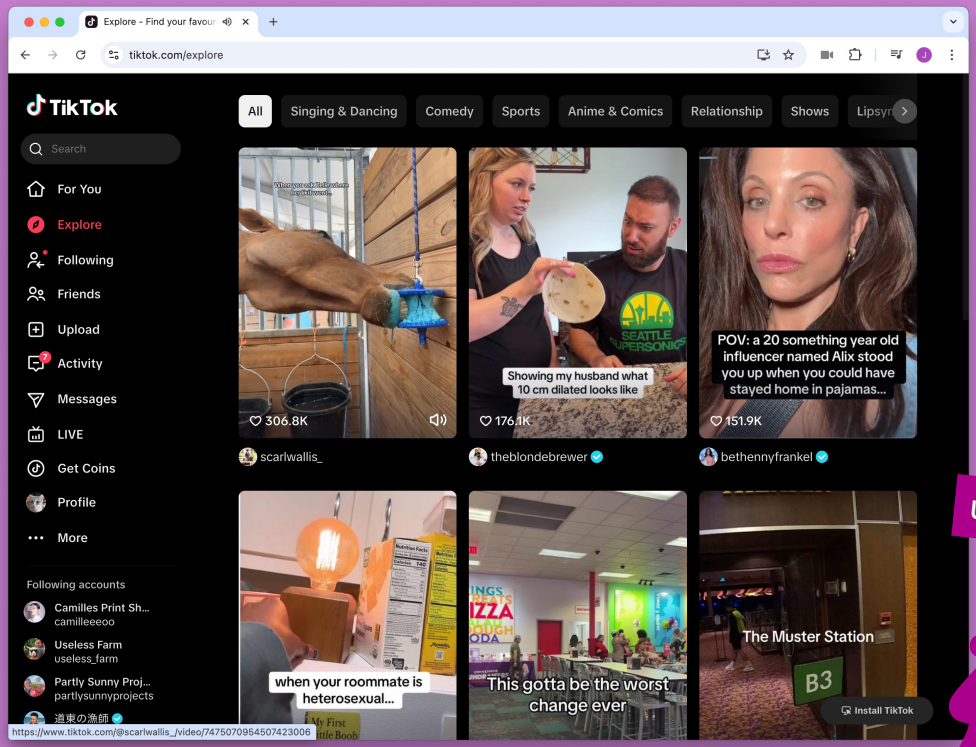
/products/list.json

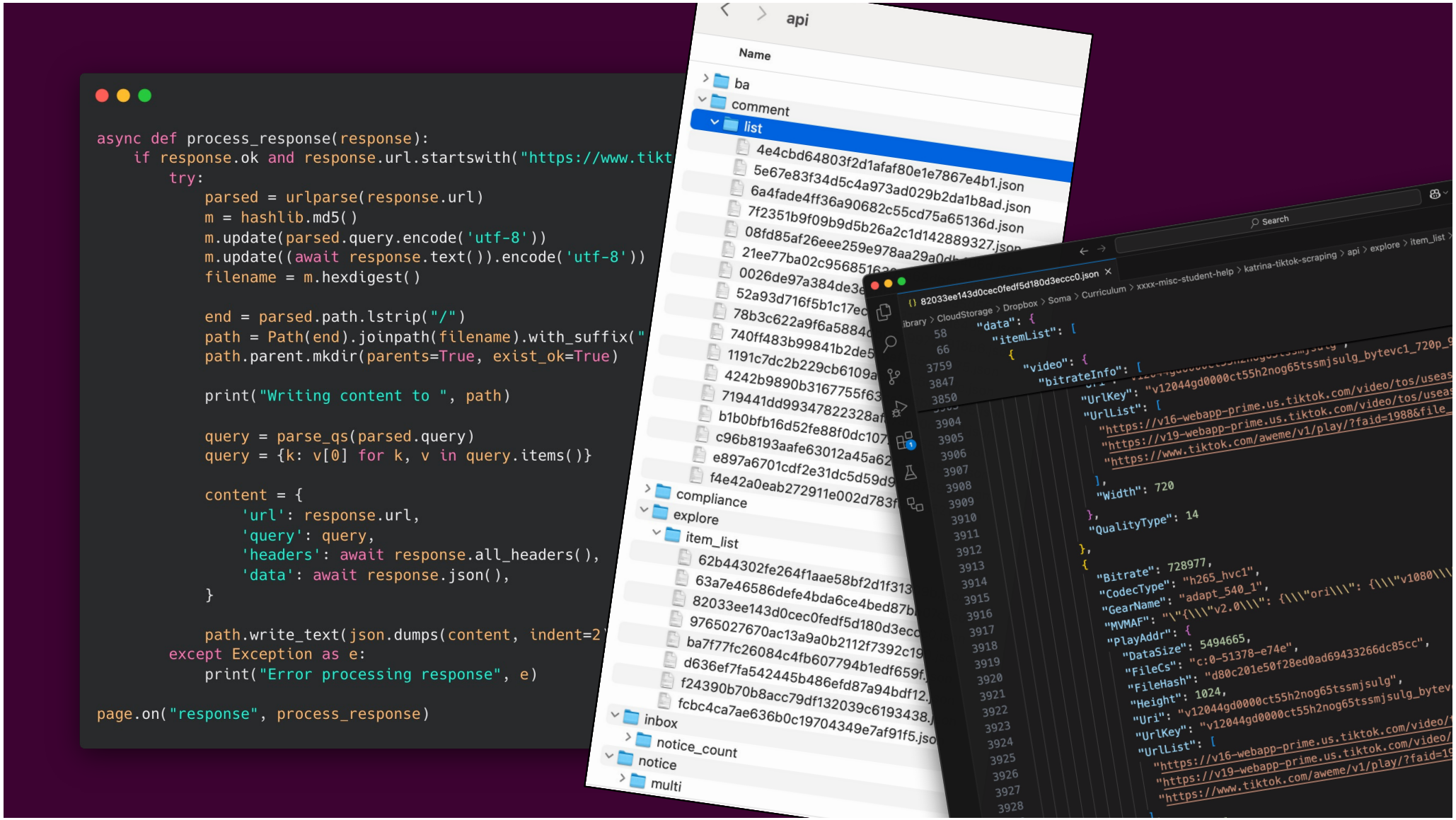
```
{
  "products": [
    {
      "id": "product-1",
      "title": "Oak Wood Stain",
      "description": "A rich, warm oak stain that enhances the natural grain.",
      "price": "$19.99"
    },
    {
      "id": "product-2",
      "title": "Walnut Wood Stain",
      "description": "A deep, luxurious walnut stain for a classic finish.",
      "price": "$29.99"
    },
    {
      "id": "product-3",
      "title": "Mahogany Wood Stain",
      "description": "A rich mahogany stain that brings out vibrant reddish tones.",
      "price": "$39.99"
    }
  ]
}
```

/api/v2/products

```
{
  "products": [
    {
      "data_id": "oak-stain",
      "name": "Oak Wood Stain",
      "details": "A rich, warm oak stain that enhances the natural grain.",
      "price": 19.99,
      "currency": "USD"
    },
    {
      "data_id": "walnut-stain",
      "name": "Walnut Wood Stain",
      "details": "A deep, luxurious walnut stain for a classic finish.",
      "price": 29.99,
      "currency": "USD"
    },
    {
      "data_id": "mahogany-stain",
      "name": "Mahogany Wood Stain",
      "details": "A rich mahogany stain that brings out vibrant reddish tones.",
      "price": 39.99,
      "currency": "USD"
    }
  ]
}
```

solution: intercepting API calls




async def process_response(response):
if response.ok and response.url.startswith("https://www.tikt
try:
parsed = urlparse(response.url)
m = hashlib.md5()
m.update(parsed.query.encode('utf-8'))
m.update((await response.text()).encode('utf-8'))
filename = m.hexdigest()
end = parsed.path.lstrip("/")
path = Path(end).joinpath(filename).with_suffix("
path.parent.mkdir(parents=True, exist_ok=True)
print("Writing content to ", path)
query = parse_qs(parsed.query)
query = {k: v[0] for k, v in query.items()}
content = {
'url': response.url,
'query': query,
'headers': await response.all_headers(),
'data': await response.json(),
}
path.write_text(json.dumps(content, indent=2
except Exception as e:
print("Error processing response", e)
page.on("response", process_response)
api
Name
ba
comment
list
4e4cbd64803f2d1afaf80e1e7867e4b1.json
5e67e83f34d5c4a973ad029b2da1b8ad.json
6a4fade4ff36a90682c55cd75a65136d.json
7f2351b9f09b9d5b26a2c1d142889327.json
08fd85af26eee259e978aa29a0d
21ee77ba02c9568516
0026de97a384de3e
52a93d716f5b1c17ec
78b3c622a9f6a5884c
740ff483b99841b2de5
1191c7dc2b229cb6109a
4242b9890b3167755f63
719441dd99347822328af
b1b0bfb16d52fe88f0dc107
c96b8193aafe63012a45a62
e897a6701cdf2e31dc5d59d9
f4e42a0eab272911e002d783f
compliance
explore
item_list
62b44302fe264f1aae58bf2d1f313
63a7e46586defe4bda6ce4bed87b
82033ee143d0cec0fedf5d180d3ecc
9765027670ac13a9a0b2112f7392c19
ba7f77fc26084c4fb607794b1edf659f
d636ef7fa542445b486efd87a94bdf12
f24390b70b8acc79df132039c6193438
fcbc4ca7ae636b0c19704349e7af91f5.jso
inbox
notice_count
notice
multi
Search
82033ee143d0cec0fedf5d180d3eccc0.json
ibrary > CloudStorage > Dropbox > Soma > Curriculum > xxxx-misc-student-help > katrina-tiktok-scraping > api > explore > item_list
"data": {
"itemList": [
{
"video": {
"bitrateInfo": [
"UrlKey": "v12044gd0000ct55h2nog65tssmjsulg_bytevc1_720p_
"UrlList": [
"https://v16-webapp-prime.us.tiktok.com/video/tos/useas
"https://v19-webapp-prime.us.tiktok.com/video/tos/useas
"https://www.tiktok.com/aweme/v1/play/?faid=1988&file_
],
"Width": 720
},
"QualityType": 14
},
{
"Bitrate": 728977,
"CodecType": "h265_hvc1",
"GearName": "adapt_540_1",
"MVMAF": "\"{\\\"v2.0\\\": {\\\"ori\\\": {\\\"v1080\\\
"PlayAddr": {
"DataSize": 5494665,
"FileCs": "c:0-51378-e74e",
"FileHash": "d80c201e50f28ed0ad69433266dc85cc",
"Height": 1024,
"Uri": "v12044gd0000ct55h2nog65tssmjsulg",
"UrlKey": "v12044gd0000ct55h2nog65tssmjsulg_bytev
"UrlList": [
"https://v16-webapp-prime.us.tiktok.com/video/
"https://v19-webapp-prime.us.tiktok.com/video/
"https://www.tiktok.com/aweme/v1/play/?faid=19

the problem: they change (and we're lazy!)

/products/list.json

```
{
  "products": [
    {
      "id": "product-1",
      "title": "Oak Wood Stain",
      "description": "A rich, warm oak stain that enhances the natural grain.",
      "price": "$19.99"
    },
    {
      "id": "product-2",
      "title": "Walnut Wood Stain",
      "description": "A deep, luxurious walnut stain for a classic finish.",
      "price": "$29.99"
    },
    {
      "id": "product-3",
      "title": "Mahogany Wood Stain",
      "description": "A rich mahogany stain that brings out vibrant reddish tones.",
      "price": "$39.99"
    }
  ]
}
```

/api/v2/products

```
{
  "products": [
    {
      "data_id": "oak-stain",
      "name": "Oak Wood Stain",
      "details": "A rich, warm oak stain that enhances the natural grain.",
      "price": 19.99,
      "currency": "USD"
    },
    {
      "data_id": "walnut-stain",
      "name": "Walnut Wood Stain",
      "details": "A deep, luxurious walnut stain for a classic finish.",
      "price": 29.99,
      "currency": "USD"
    },
    {
      "data_id": "mahogany-stain",
      "name": "Mahogany Wood Stain",
      "details": "A rich mahogany stain that brings out vibrant reddish tones.",
      "price": 39.99,
      "currency": "USD"
    }
  ]
}
```

tiers of problem-solving

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- ~~Writing a scraper~~
- ~~Undocumented APIs~~
- ~~Intercepting browser requests~~
- Pack-ratting with HAR and WARC/WACZ files


solution: recording with HAR
Explore - Find your favour
188.8K
524.1K
The new iphone???? The chargers hello????
alyssa_albold
slaygirlgagaboots2
"Nice catch cheer" 99.9% accuracy
how is that overgrown?
1.2M
310.2K
mmmjoemele
thelawntools
Install TikTok
No throttling
Disable cache
Filter
Invert
More filters
All
Fetch/XHR
Manifest
WS
5,000 ms
Name
list
owBYIFG
multi/?
list/?V
oAhAYvrZE2RV6wVvB8iYK6IL7EFNiBZAUkGgB...
164 / 492 requests
14.3 MB / 34.9 MB transferred
Elements
Network
Preserve log
Disable cache
95
22
Export HAR (sanitized)...
Doc
CSS
JS
Font
Img
10.000 ms
20.000 ms

www.tiktok.com.har


{} www.tiktok.com.har
Users > soma > Downloads > {} www.tiktok.com.har > {} log > [ ] entries > {} 11 > {} request
www.tiktok.com.har
"_priority": "High",
"_resourceType": "fetch",
"cache": {},
"connection": "443",
"pageref": "page_1",
"request": {
"method": "GET",
"url": "https://www.tiktok.com/api/recommend/item_list/?WebIdLastTime=0&aid=1988&app_language=en&ap
"httpVersion": "http/2.0",
"headers": [
"name": ":authority",
"value": "www.tiktok.com"
"name": ":method",
"value": "GET"
"name": ":path",
"value": "/api/recommend/item_list/?WebIdLastTime=0&aid=1988&app_language=en&app_name=tiktok_we
"name": ":scheme",
Ln 6087, Col 21
Spaces: 2
UTF-8
LF
JSON
Go Live

```
from haralyzer import HarParser
import json
import base64
import hashlib

def make_filepath(response):
    parsed = urlparse(response.url)

    # Hash the query parameters and the response.text to make a unic
    m = hashlib.md5()
    m.update(json.dumps(entry.request.raw_entry).encode('utf-8'))
    m.update(json.dumps(entry.response.raw_entry).encode('utf-8'))
    hash = m.hexdigest()

    # the full path is based on the URL
    path = Path(parsed.netloc).joinpath(parsed.p
    if len(path.name) > 200:
        path = path.with_name(path.name[-50:])
    path = path.with_suffix(f".{hash}.jsor")

    return path

def decode_response(response):
    if response.textEncoding == 'base64':
        content = base64.b64decode(response.text).decode('utf-8')
    else:
        content = response.text

    if isinstance(content, str):
        try:
            # If it's a JSON string, parse it to an object
            content = json.loads(content)
        except json.JSONDecodeError:
            pass  # Keep as string if not valid JSON
    return content
```

```
filename = "www.instagram.com.har"
output_folder = Path("output").joinpath(filename)

har = HarParser.from_file(filename)

for page in har.pages:
    entries = page.filter_entries(status_code='200', content_type='application/json
    for entry in entries:
        content = decode_response(response)

        # Find out where it should go
        filepath = make_filepath(response)
        output_folder.joinpath(filepath)
```

```
import jmespath
import pandas as pd

result = jmespath.search("sectional_items[*].layout_content.fill_items[]", content)
len(result)
```

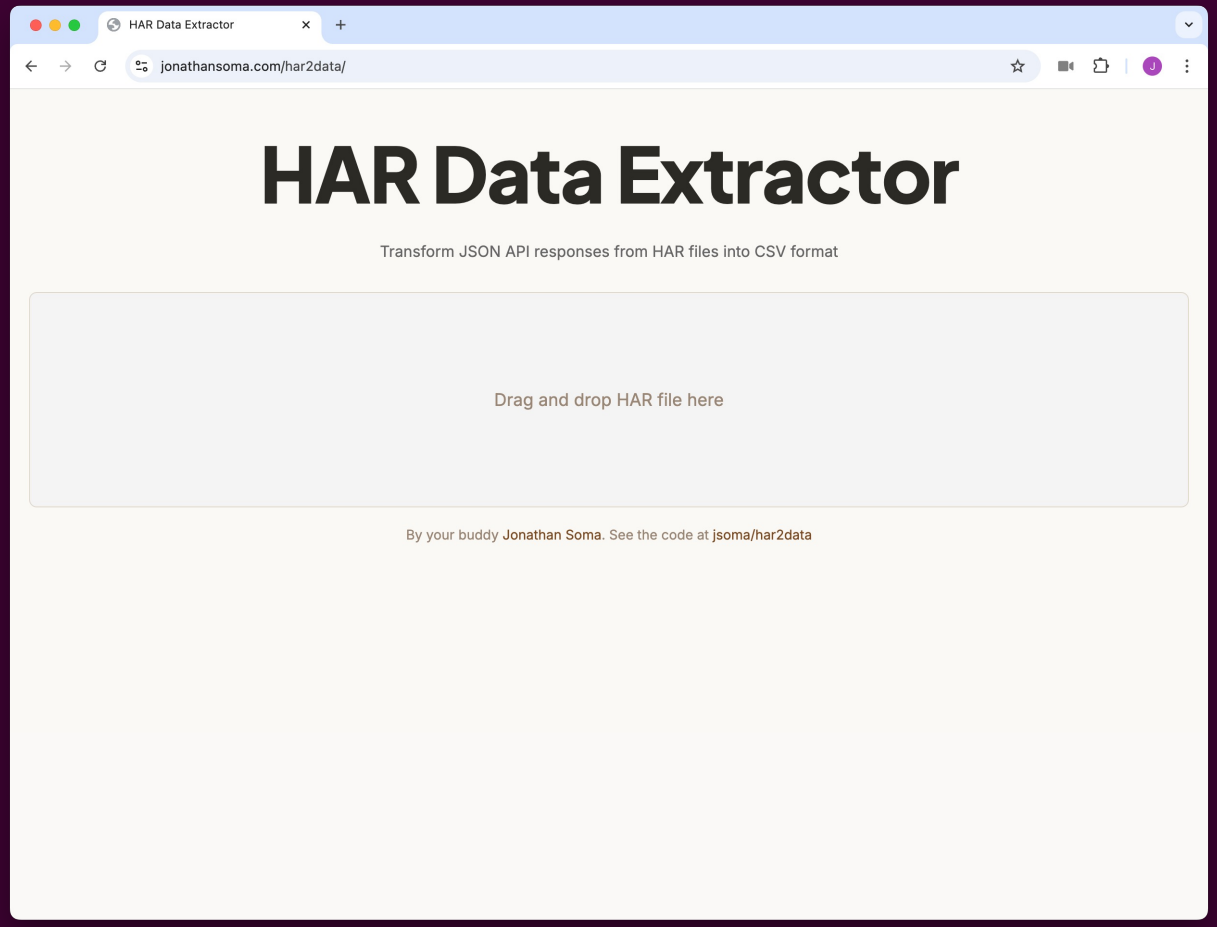
```
pd.options.display.max_columns = None
df = pd.json_normalize(result)
df
```

```
entries = page.filter_entries(status_code='200', content_type='application/
for entry in entries:
    try:
        content = decode_response(entry.response)
        if content is None:
            continue

        filepath = make_filepath(entry.response, guess_extension=False)
        path = output_folder.joinpath(filepath)

        # Save based on content type
        path.parent.mkdir(parents=True, exist_ok=True)
        if isinstance(content, (dict, list)):
            path.write_text(json.dumps(content, indent=2))
        elif isinstance(content, str):
            path.write_text(content)
        elif isinstance(content, bytes):
            path.write_bytes(content)

        print(f"Writing {path}")
    except Exception as e:
```

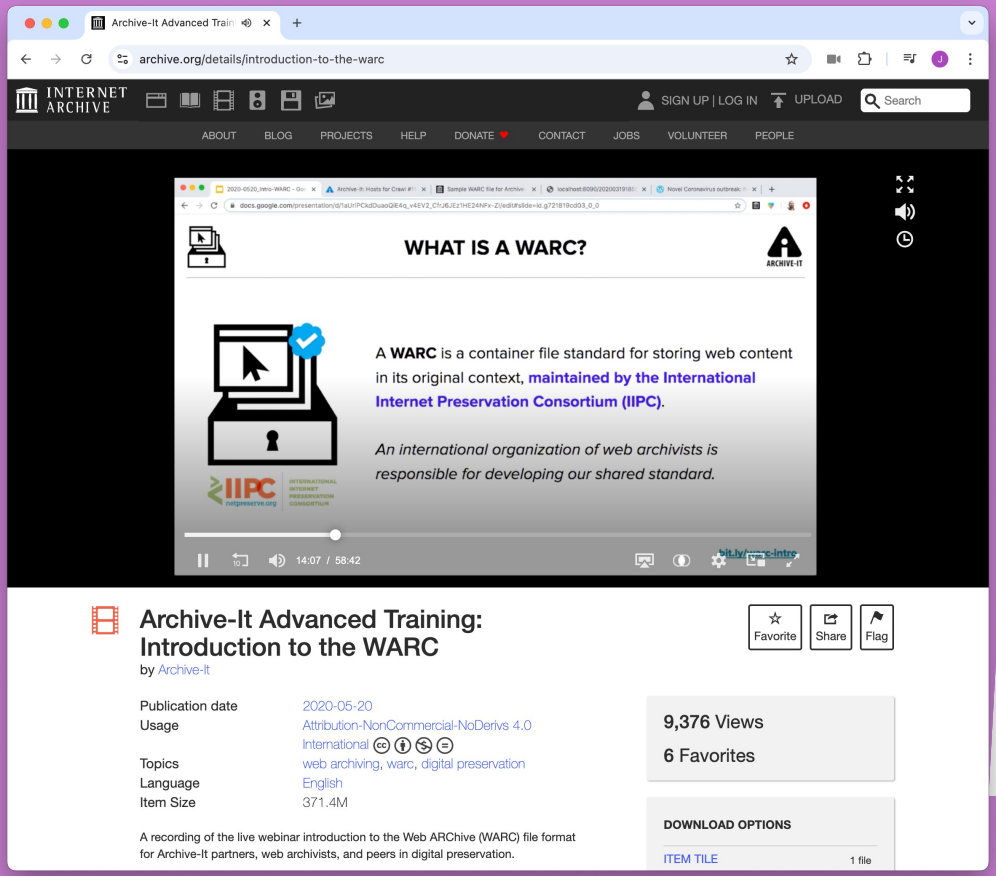

HAR Data Extractor
jonathansoma.com/har2data/
HAR Data Extractor
Transform JSON API responses from HAR files into CSV format
Drag and drop HAR file here
By your buddy Jonathan Soma. See the code at jsoma/har2data

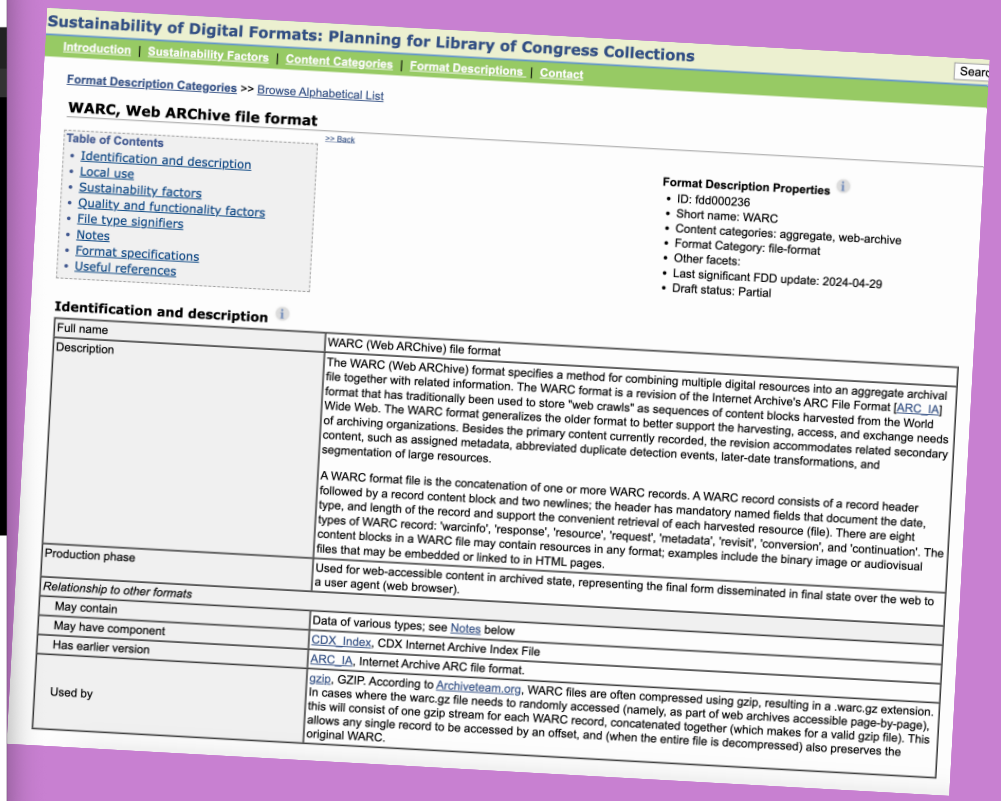
the problem

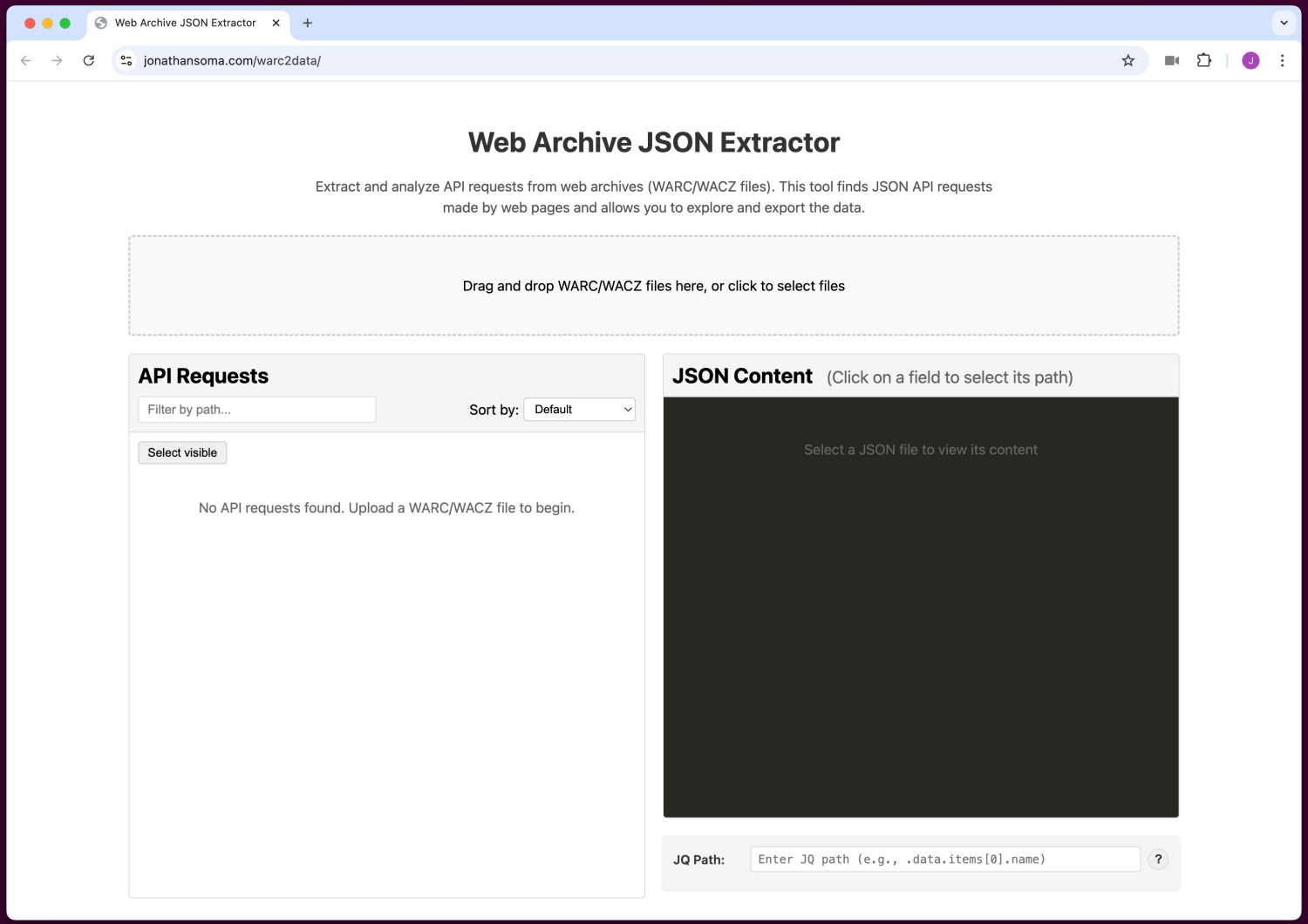
- Giant files!!!
- Chunking!!!
- Base64 encoding!!!
- Other things I probably don’t even know about yet!!!
- (But they do also sometimes work, too, it just depends)

solution: saving WARC files

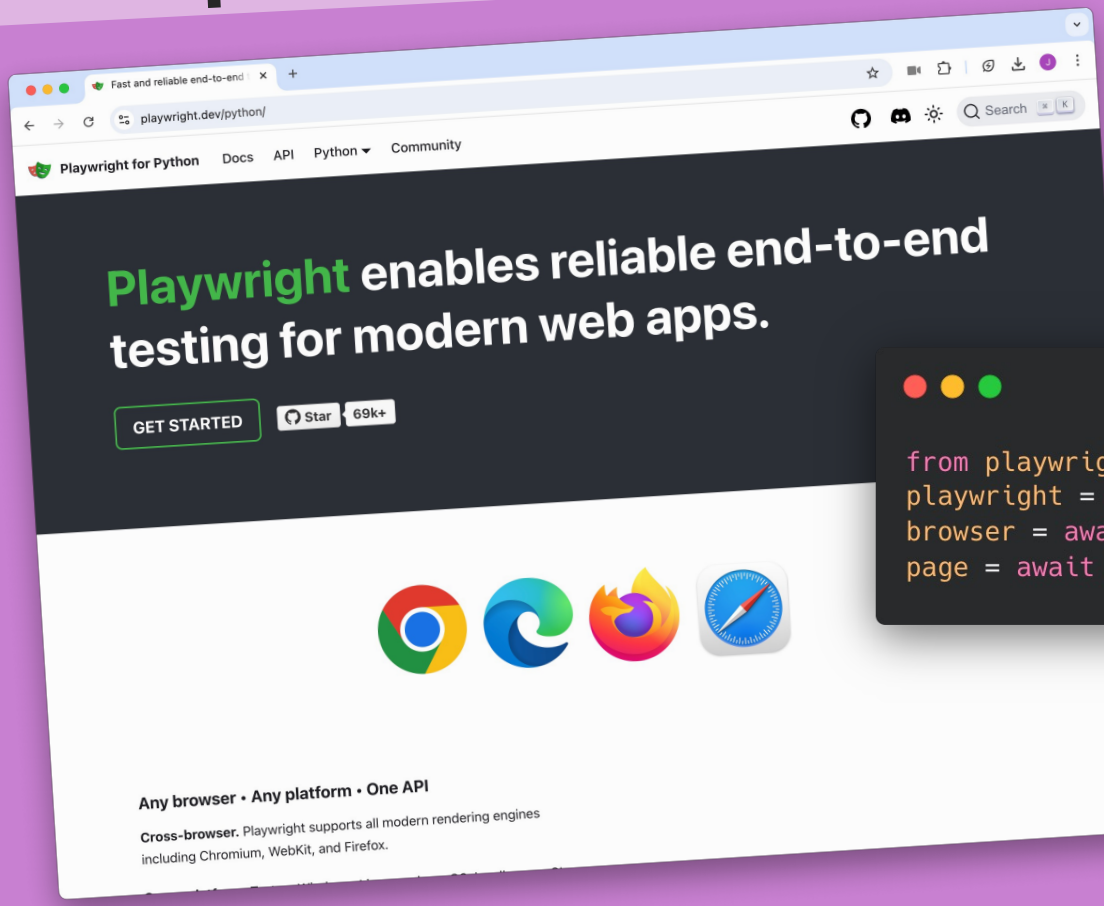
ty jeremy merrill






Web Archive JSON Extractor
jonathansoma.com/warc2data/
Web Archive JSON Extractor
Extract and analyze API requests from web archives (WARC/WACZ files). This tool finds JSON API requests made by web pages and allows you to explore and export the data.
Drag and drop WARC/WACZ files here, or click to select files
API Requests
Filter by path...
Sort by:
Default
Select visible
No API requests found. Upload a WARC/WACZ file to begin.
JSON Content
(Click on a field to select its path)
Select a JSON file to view its content
JQ Path:
Enter JQ path (e.g., .data.items[0].name)
?

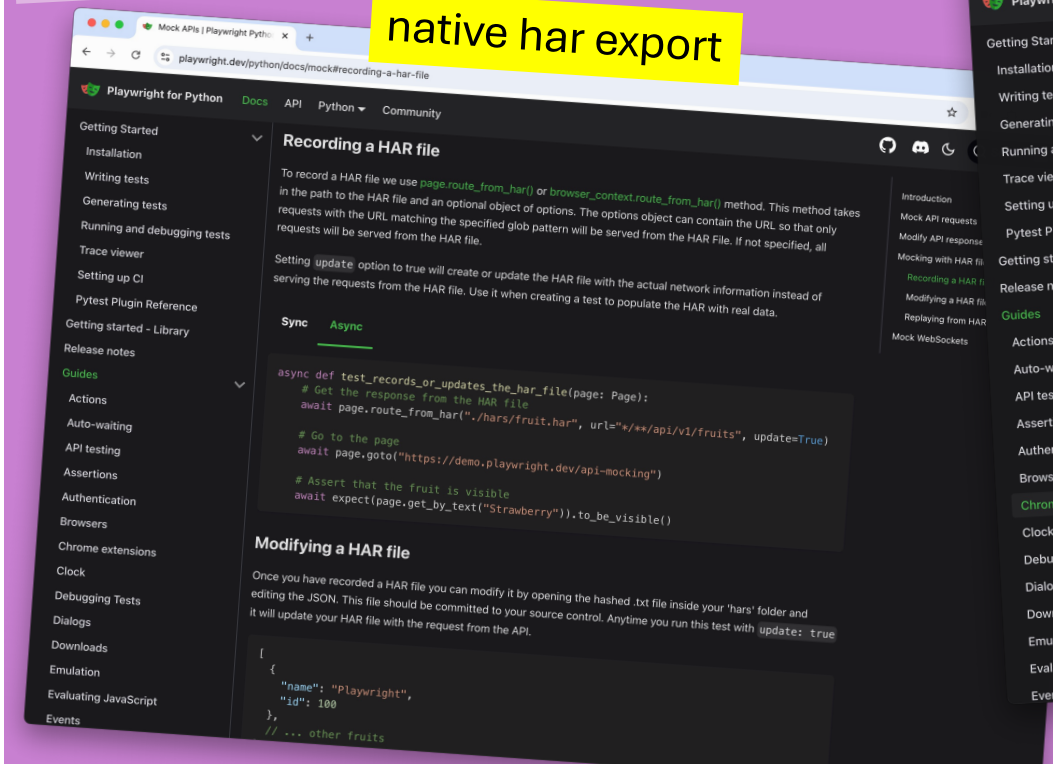
the problem: automation..?



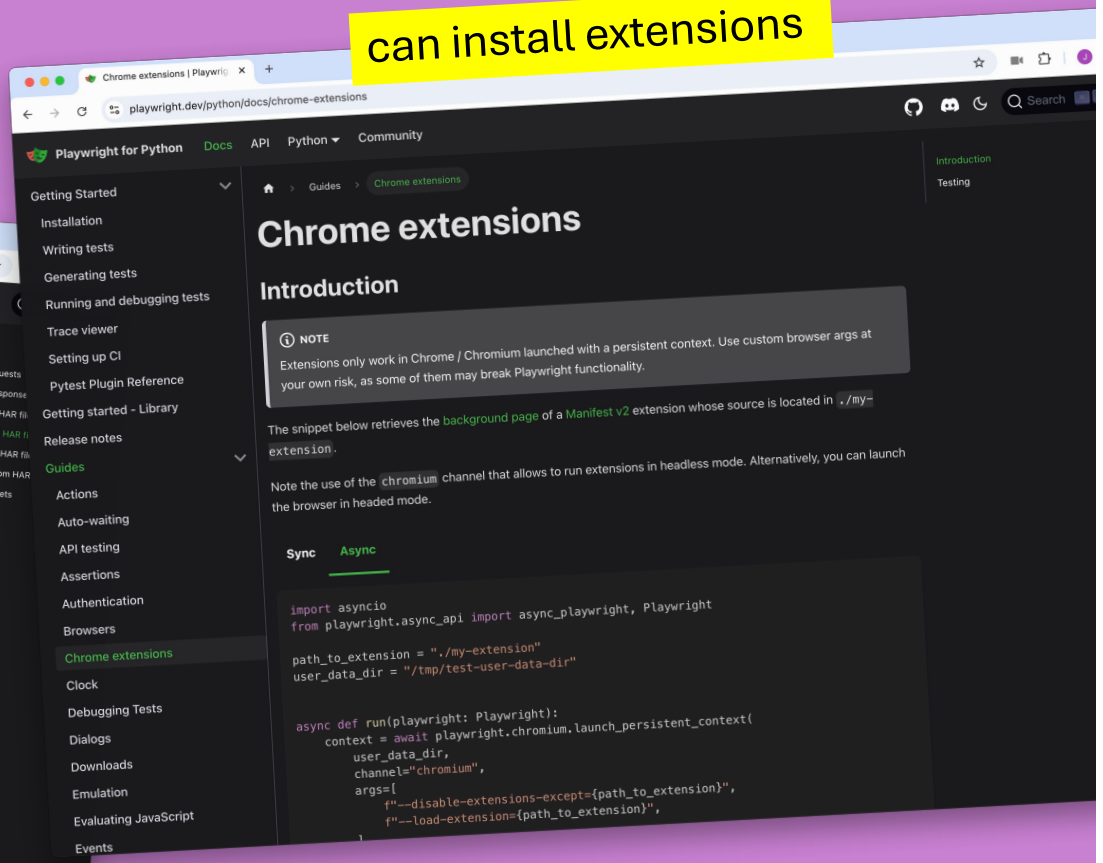

```python
from playwright.async_api import async_playwright
playwright = await async_playwright().start()
browser = await playwright.chromium.launch(headless=False)
page = await browser.new_page()
```

just kidding! Automate with Playwright!

native har export



can install extensions



https://bit.ly/nicar-passive

Passive Scraping for social media

(and everything else)

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