

ScreenScraping Elections?

Predicting?

Parsing and programmatically examining public data sources for election-related information, and other election-based data inquiries

a discussion facilitated by Jerry W. <JerryWOne@gmail.com>

Notational comments & reformatting by Gary Krueger <mail3@howdyplex.com>.

A Simple Example:

Elections:

- Virginia.gov
today's fill Arlington County Board Seat
Vacancy by recently deceased member
- Before November 2020
Presidential

About Me

Jerry W.
JerryWOne@gmail.com
was on DC.PM.org
since about AGU time

DCPM attending mostly for 10+ years

was waiting for Perl6
and got side tracked into other things
hobbyist was in tech,
now disabled...

TPC in Alexandria, VA
USPTO

DCBPW
attending since the beginning
may have been created

partially from my
complaining/whining about trying to
bicycle to Pittsburg Perl WorkShop,
(C&O Canal then GAP
but never did GAP)
year after year TPC
required travel,
Brock, Zak and others
Chas, GeneHack, etc

TPC Asheville, NC
was close...

fmr Fed,
research organizations,
civilian
for military,
low grade,
not finished College,
internship
then left for private
then disabled

ScreenScraping?

What Sources?

Elections

State

- Vote.Elections.Virginia.Gov
candidate lists
sample ballot

3 candidates
write in

- League of Women Voters
had a guide to voting
relatively non partisan,
- NewsPapers?
WashingtonPost.com
limits number of reads,
print out and save
parsing PDF?
worth the effort?

manually copy and paste in?
but then what to do with the information

Parties

- Democrat
- Green
- Independant
- Republican

Historical

- Whigs,
- Tory,
- etc

Media

generally liberal

- Video Streams
- YouTube
- CNN Cable NetWork News
 - transcripts?
- Fox News
 - more conservative?
- Think Tanks
- Debates
- Endorsements

OverNight

check voting location

but voter system down?

- enter middle name and a different error
- says email elections@
- so did
- and wanted more info,
- street name for voting location
- but gave out little
- contact registrar...

So woke up today and didn't know what to do,
have to vote, as democracy depends upon it,

looking at candidates

- Tak
- fmr CIA
- another

ArlingtonDemocrats.org?

- voting guide
- step through the process
- register to vote

Today's Polls close about now 7pm

went 6am this morning
only one at my voting site,
didn't even look open
no cars to speak of 3 stationary
no people outside

- mail in voting
- low turn out?

Screen Scrape text

- tables
- general forms

Election Date
jurisdiction(s) precincts (usually schools, etc)
name
party
name2
party2
name3
party3
writeIns
reporting
counts in?
percentages of total voters

Dewey Wins!
concession
acceptance speeches

Chads
fighting close races
historically
Bush Florida

Nixon?

others?

not a history major,
not even really political

just cheat sheet type stuff

any code?

- wget
- perl modules?
- required packages

internet connection

robots.txt?

ignore?

only hit once

backup answers

and parse later?

collecting information

something leads to something else

see references

track them all down?

how many?

combinatorial explosion?

Media Outlets

BroadCast?

used to be ABC, CBS, NBC

add CNN

now with internet

anybody with

Blog

WordPage

a YouTube Channel

school?

parents?

neighbors?

advisors?

coworkers?

where to learn of this stuff

if not at the office water cooler?

sports?

endorsements?

product placement?

used to be a college roommate?

went to same school?

read his/her book?

Elizabeth Warren?

econ

Watch the Debates?

Primaries?

narrows down the race

does that predict what they will do once elected?

like marriage?

already committed?

Dems:

Bernie Sanders?

Elizabeth Warren?

Republicans:

—

looking for running mates?

whom?

Rice?

Obama, Michelle?

said she wasn't running/ interested

in politics...

term limits
FDR 3rd term
dies in office
world war
New Deal