

# cis1100

Scraping

Python  
Fall 2024  
University of Pennsylvania

# Disclaimer

This is a module that deals with advanced topics in a cursory manner. Adjust your expectations correspondingly.

- Perfect understanding? ✗
- Neat & practical techniques? ✓



# Scraping

**Web Scraping** is the process of:

1. traversing the internet to find web pages that contain interesting information
2. extracting that information from each web page
3. storing the extracted information in a useful format

# A Scraper's Guide to the Internet

The **internet** is a set of interconnected data servers (other computers).

To browse the internet, you ask your computer to connect to another computer—this is called a **request**.

Requests are answered with **responses** that contain:

- the data you asked for, or
- an explanation for why you're not getting the data you asked for

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HTML

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# A Scraper's Guide to Responses

The response's "data that you asked for" can come in any shape.

But for a typical user, it comes in the form of **HTML** for a web page.

**HTML**, or *hypertext markup language*, is a system of arranging the contents of a website. It can include:

- text!
- tables!
- links!
- images!
- groups!
- code!

# The Very Very Basics of HTML

HTML is a language based on **tags**, which convey instructions about how the information inside of them should be handles & displayed.

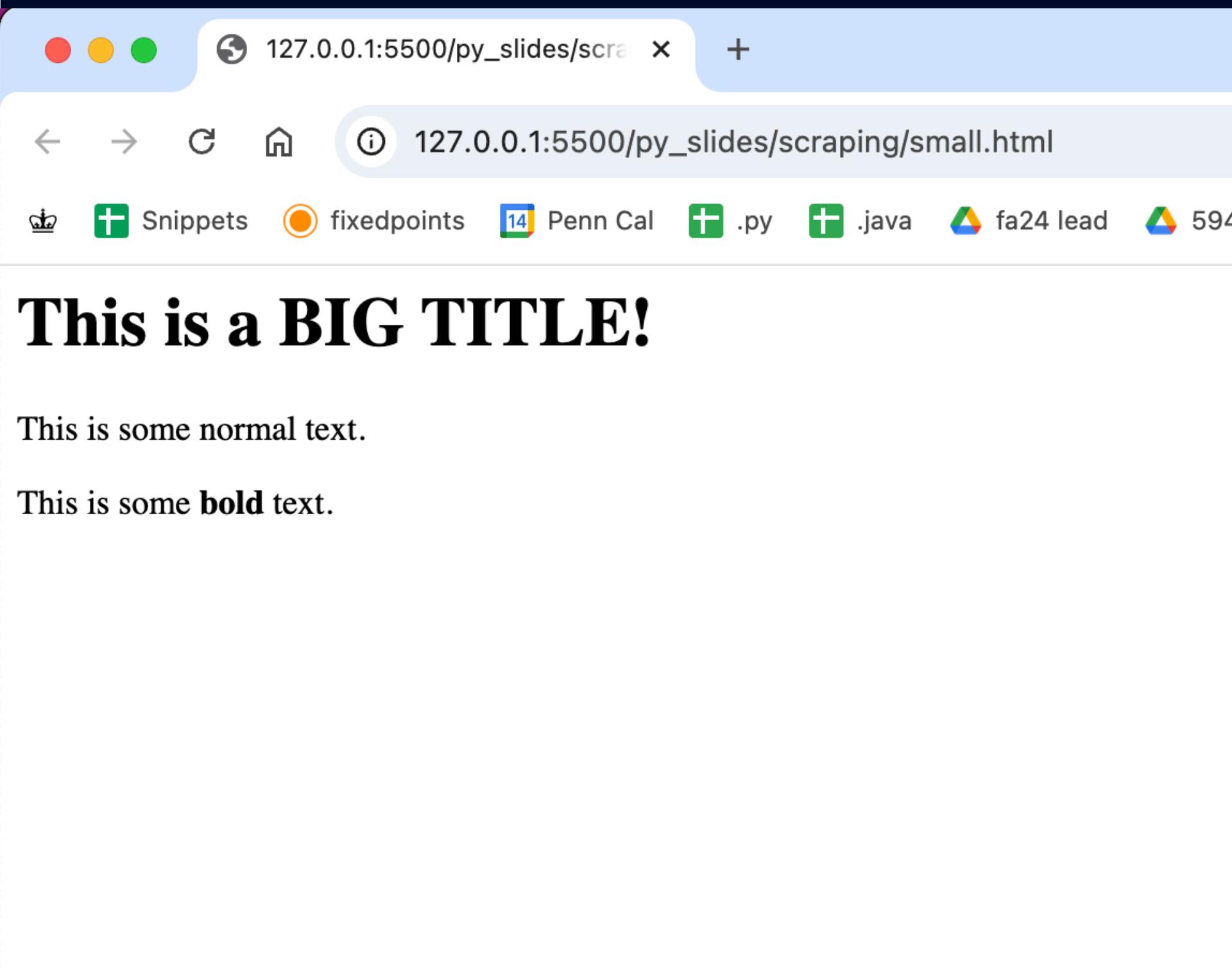
- Tags contain data, including text and other tags
- Tags that contain data are *opened and closed*
- Tags can have **attributes**, which are key-value pairs that describe some feature of this tag

```
<h1>This is a BIG TITLE!</h1>
```

```
<p>This is some normal text.</p>
```

```
<p>This is some <strong>bold</strong> text.</p>
```

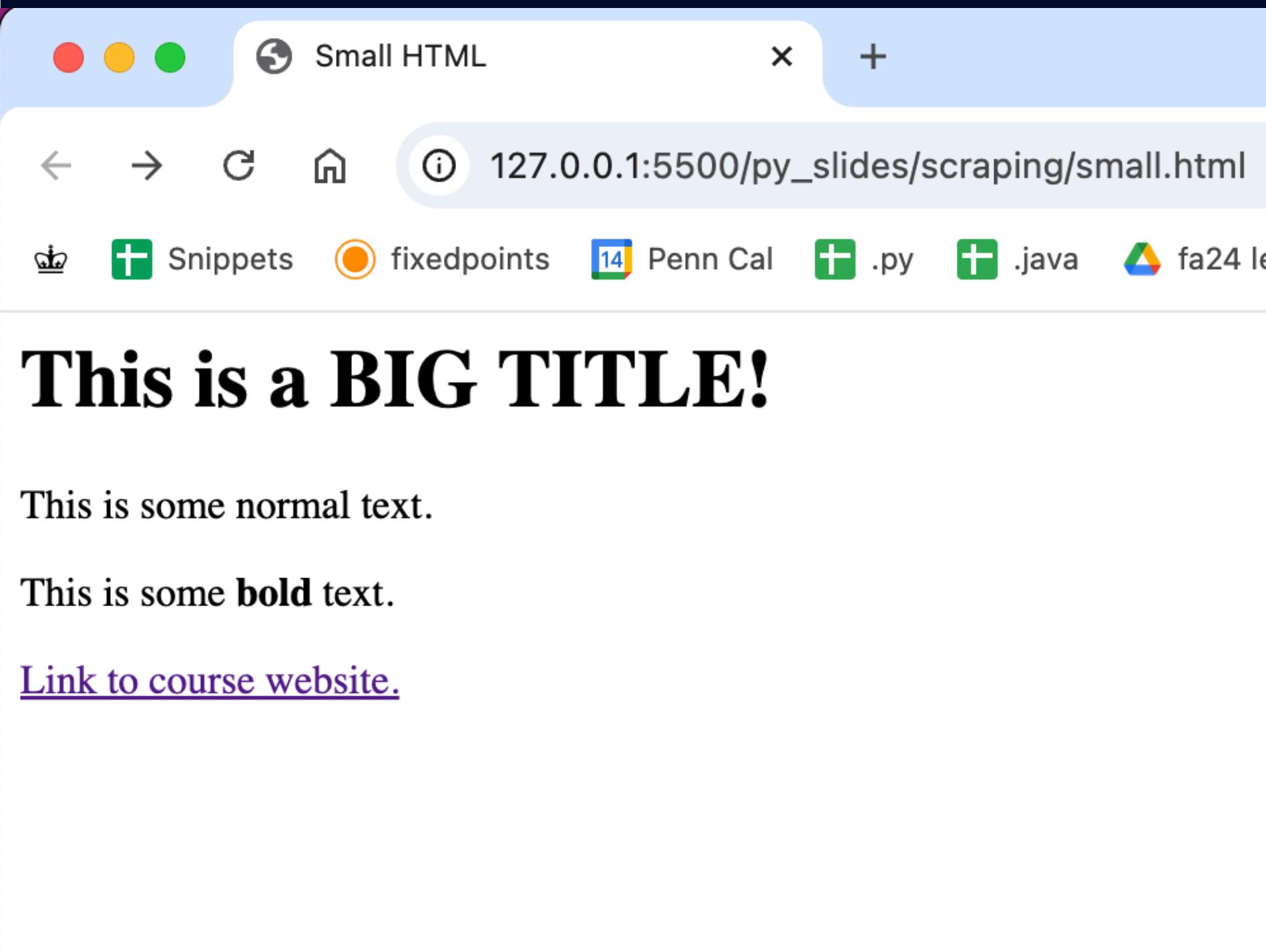
# HTML Describes a Web Page



small.html:

```
<h1>This is a BIG TITLE!</h1>
<p>This is some normal text.</p>
<p>This is some <strong>bold</strong> text.</p>
```

# HTML Describes a Web Page



small.html:

```
<h1>This is a BIG TITLE!</h1>
<p>This is some normal text.</p>
<p>This is some <strong>bold</strong> text.</p>
<a href="https://cis1100.com">Link to course website.</a>
```

# HTML Describes a Web Page

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Small HTML". The address bar displays the URL "127.0.0.1:5500/py\_slides/scraping/small.html". Below the address bar, there are several navigation icons and a toolbar with links to "Snippets", "fixedpoints", "Penn Cal", ".py", ".java", and "fa24 lead". The main content area of the browser shows the following HTML code:

```
<h1>This is a BIG TITLE!</h1>
<p>This is some normal text.</p>
<p>This is some <strong>bold</strong> text.</p>
<a href="https://cis1100.com">Link to course website.</a>
<br />

```

Below the browser window, there is a small image of two giant pandas.

small.html:

```
<h1>This is a BIG TITLE!</h1>
<p>This is some normal text.</p>
<p>This is some <strong>bold</strong> text.</p>
<a href="https://cis1100.com">Link to course website.</a>
<br />

```

# Basic HTML Tag Summary

Tag Name	Purpose	Attributes
h1	Big header for titles	
h2, h3, h4	Slightly smaller headers for subtitles	
p	Basic paragraph text	
a	Links	<code>href="link-to-thing.com"</code>
br	Line Break	
img	Image	<code>src="picture.png"</code> , optional things like <code>width</code> or <code>height</code>

# Classes: Categories for Tags

HTML tags can belong to categories called **classes**.

- Classes are usually used for styling purposes
- Help differentiate between tags of the same type that have different meanings on a page
- classes are just attributes:

```
<p class="fancy">This is fancy text...</p>
<p class="normal">This is normal text...</p>
```

# Other Structural Tags

- `div` tags
  - don't have any visible structure of their own by default
  - represent a "section" of the page
  - used to apply organization or style rules to all other tags they contain
- `table` tags represent tables
  - tables consist of rows
    - rows are represented using `tr` tags
    - rows consist of cells
      - header cells are represented with `th` tags
      - data cells are represented with `td` tags

# Basics of a Table

A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows the URL `127.0.0.1:5500/py_slides/scraping/table.html`. Below the address bar is a navigation bar with icons for back, forward, home, and search. The main content area displays a table with two rows:

Name	Age
Alice	25
Bob	30

```
<table>
  <tr>
    <th>Name</th>
    <th>Age</th>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Alice</td>
    <td>25</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Bob</td>
    <td>30</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

# cis1100

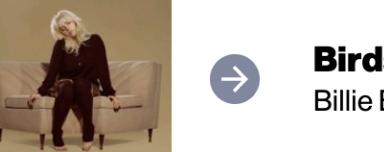
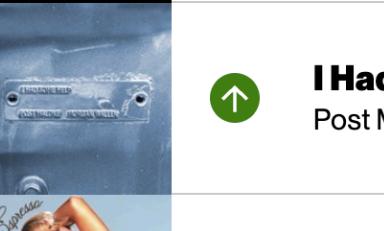
HTML to Data

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# Credit to Jonathan Soma

Adapted from [his excellent guide on scraping with Python](#).

# Scraping Popular Songs

Billboard Hot 100™		WEEK OF OCTOBER 19, 2024				
THIS WEEK		AWARD	LAST WEEK	PEAK POS.	WKS ON CHART	
1		→ <b>A Bar Song (Tipsy)</b> Shaboozey	+	1	1	26
2		→ <b>Birds Of A Feather</b> Billie Eilish	+	2	2	21
3		↑ <b>I Had Some Help</b> Post Malone Feat. Morgan Wallen	+	4	1	22

Suppose you want to keep track of the most popular songs week after week. You can find this information out from [billboard.com](http://billboard.com).

# Scoping Out the Data

Before we can get the data off the page, we need to understand our problem.

We want to build a structured dataset, but **what data are we trying to get?**

1. Inspect the page to figure out what one entry in your dataset would look like.
2. Use the browser's web inspector to find what the HTML looks like for each entry.
3. Find the common tags/classes used for each entry and write this down.

# Find Your Entries

If we want to track weekly performance of songs on the Billboard Hot 100™, then we would want at least the title, artist(s), & current position

8	 An album cover featuring a white chair on a red background with the title "Lose Control" in yellow.	→	<b>Lose Control</b> Teddy Swims	+	8	1	61
---	--	---	------------------------------------	---	---	---	----

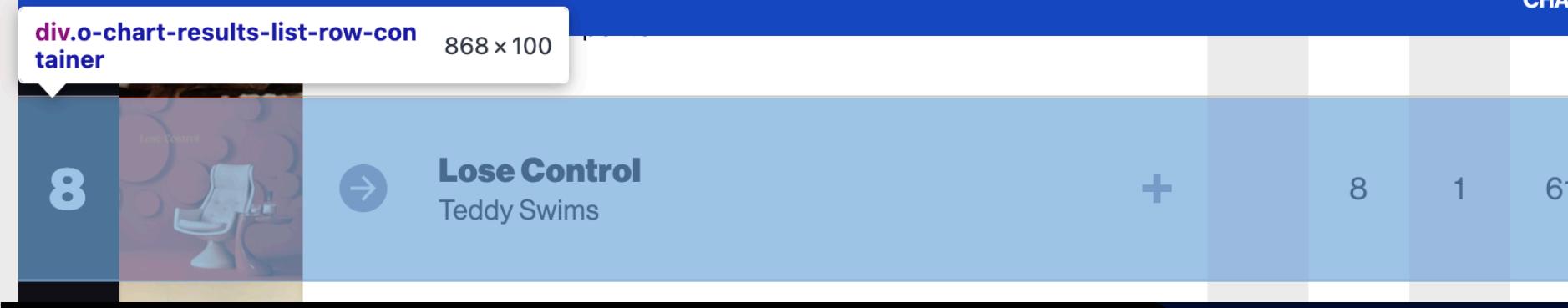
Each row of the website's table seems to have all this information and more.

# Identify the Encapsulating HTML

THIS WEEK	RANK	SONG	ARTIST	AWARD	LAST WEEK	PEAK POS.	WKS ON CHART
	8	Lose Control	Teddy Swims	+ ↗	8	1	61
	9	Please Please Please	Sabrina Carpenter	+ ↑	10	1	18
	10	Beautiful Things	Benson Boone	+ ↑	12	2	38
	11	Not Like Us	Kendrick Lamar	+ ↗	11	1	23
	12	Timeless	The Weeknd & Playboi Carti	+ ↓	3	3	2
	13	Too Sweet	Hozier	+ ↗	13	1	29

Use your favorite browser's **inspector** to look at the HTML underlying the page.

- Right click --> inspect element
- pressing F12 usually works too



Elements    Console >    70 302 1    ⚙ : X

```
▶ <div class="o-chart-results-list-row-container">
  ...
</div>
▼ <div class="o-chart-results-list-row-container">
  ...
  <ul class="o-chart-results-list-row__list" ...>
```

# Find the Common Tag

Looks like each table row is stored in a `div` with the class `o-chart-results-list-row-container`

- Even more specifically, that `div` stores a `ul` with the class `o-chart-results-list-row`
- Either will work—just want a tag that contains all of the important information for each entry in your data set. You can narrow down with Python later.

# Demo!

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BeautifulSoup

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# Parsing through HTML

Now that we know how to identify our entities of interest in the HTML, how do we write code that pulls it out of the HTML for us?

The answer: **BeautifulSoup**

# BeautifulSoup

- Python library used to parse, traverse, and search HTML
- Load the HTML into a Python object, then use methods & attributes to find tags and their matching data.

Beautiful Soup, so rich and green,  
Waiting in a hot tureen!  
Who for such dainties would not stoop?  
Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!  
Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!

# Parsing HTML

*This example assumes that you have downloaded  
webpage somehow into a file called `index.html`.*

```
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
html_file = open('index.html', 'r')
html_doc = html_file.read()
soup = BeautifulSoup(html_doc, 'html.parser')
```

# Example: Getting Info from a Tag

*Copied from official documentation.*

index.html:

```
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
```

---

```
soup.title ➔ "<title>The Dormouse's story</title>"
```

# Example: Getting Info from a Tag

.name gives the type of tag you have

index.html:

```
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
```

soup.title.name ➔ "title"

# Example: Getting Info from a Tag

`.string` gives the text inside of the tag you have

`index.html:`

```
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
```

`soup.title.string` ➔ "The Dormouse's story"

# Example: Traversing through HTML

.parent refers to the tag this one is contained inside of

index.html:

```
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
```

soup.title.parent.name ➔ "head"

# Example: Traversing through HTML

`.tag_name` always gives the *first matching tag*.

`index.html:`

```
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
```

`soup.p.string ➔ "The Dormouse's story"`

# Example: Reading Tag Attributes

Tags can be treated like dictionaries where the attribute names are the keys.

index.html:

```
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
```

soup.p["class"] ➔ "title"

# Example: Getting All Matching Tags

`.find_all("tag_name")` finds all tags with a matching name.

`index.html:`

```
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
```

```
soup.find_all('a') ➔
['<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>',
 '<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>',
 '<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>']
```

# Example: Getting All Matching Tags

```
.find_all("tag_name", class_="c_name")
```

finds all tags with a matching name and class.

index.html:

```
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
```

```
soup.find_all('p', class_='title') ➔
['<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>']
```

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Sifting Through Soup

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# Returning to Popular Music...

Prerequisites:

- Found the tag name & class that contains one "future row" of our dataset
  - `ul` with the class `o-chart-results-list-row`
- Saved the HTML of the webpage to a file (manually in browser, or by `requests`)

# Starting out

```
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup

html_file = open('index.html', 'r')
html_doc = html_file.read()
soup = BeautifulSoup(html_doc, 'html.parser')

rows = soup.find_all('ul', class_='o-chart-results-list-row')
print(len(rows))
```



100



# Starting out

```
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup

html_file = open('index.html', 'r')
html_doc = html_file.read()
soup = BeautifulSoup(html_doc, 'html.parser')

rows = soup.find_all('ul', class_='o-chart-results-list-row')
print(rows[0])
```



...

# Uhh....

```
cul class="o-chart-results-list__row // lrv-a-unstyle-list lrv-u-flex u-height-200 u-height-100@mobile-max u-height-100@tablet-only lrv-u-background-color-white a-chart-has-chart-detail" data-ajax="" data-detail-target="1">
- 1

```

# If we squint...

```
<h3 . . .>  
A Bar Song (Tipsy)  
</h3>
```

and

```
<span . . .>  
Shaboozey  
</span>
```

OK! That's a song name and an artist.

Back to the inspector for more.

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Finding the Columns (DEMO)

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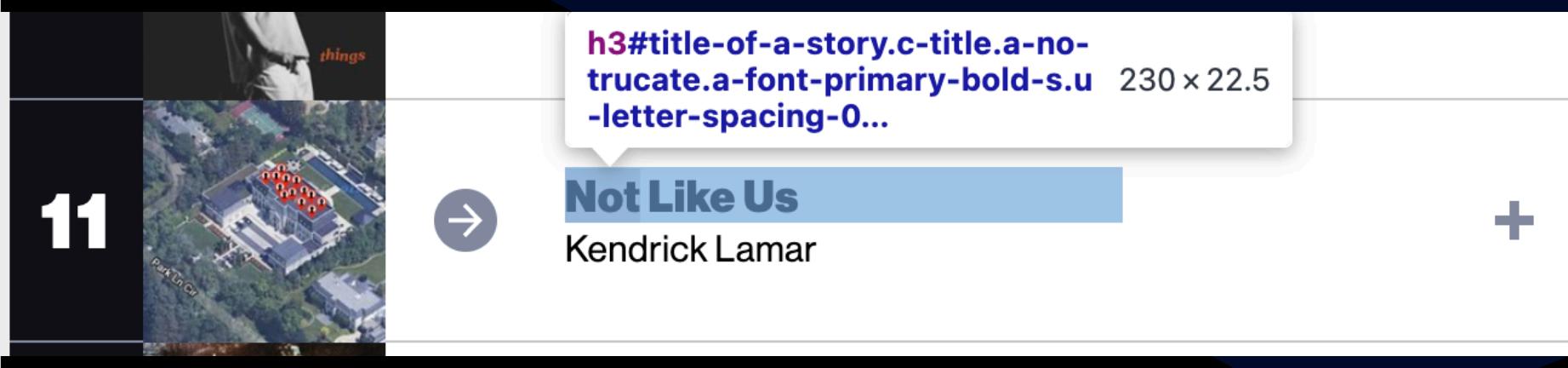
# cis1100

Finding the Columns

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# Finding the Columns in the Row

Looks like the title is found inside of an `h3` tag with the `id` of "title-of-a-story"

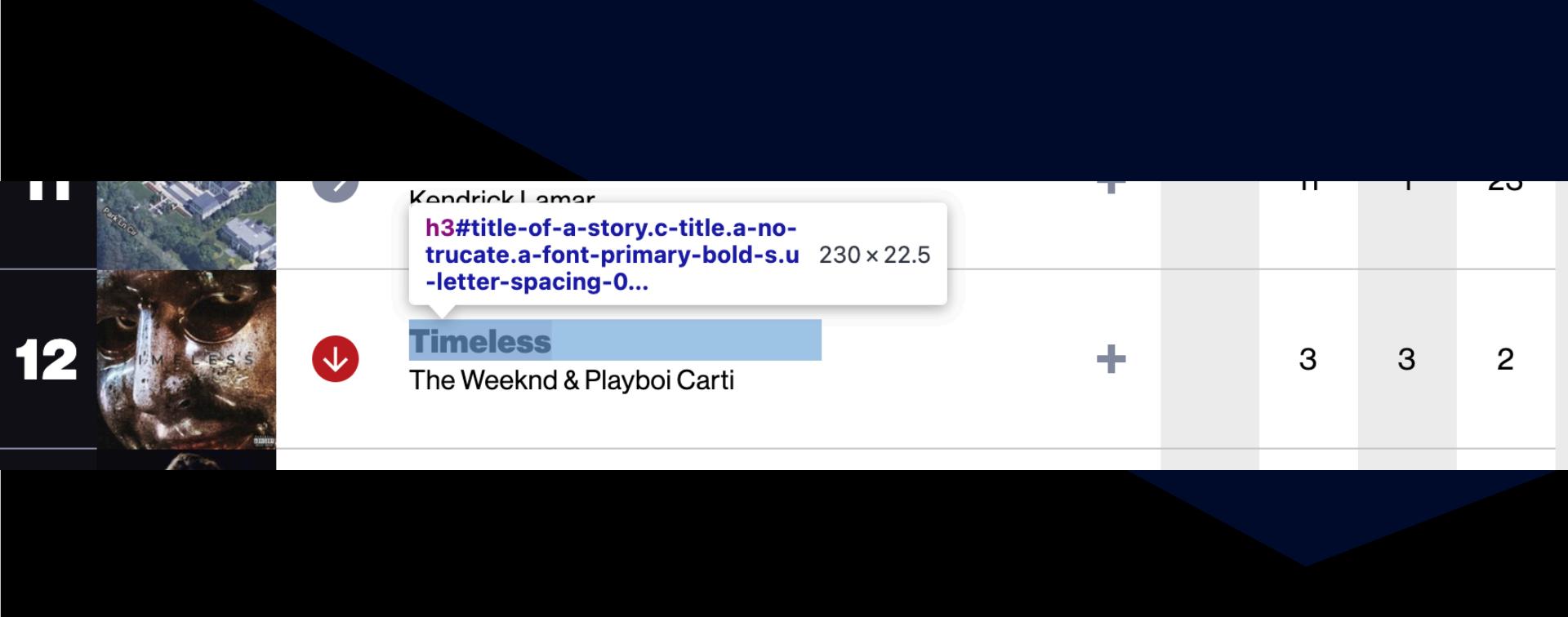


+

```
<h3 id="title-of-a-story" class="c-title  
a-no-truncate a-font-primary-bold-s u-let  
ter-spacing-0021 lrv-u-font-size-18@tabl  
et lrv-u-font-size-16 u-line-height-125  
u-line-height-normal@mobile-max a-trunca  
te-ellipsis u-max-width-330 u-max-width-  
230@tablet-only"> Not Like Us  
</h3> == $0
```

# Finding the Columns in the Row

Confirmed!



```
<h3 id="title-of-a-story" class="c-title a-no-truncate a-font-primary-bold-s u-letter-spacing-0021 lrv-u-font-size-18@tablet lrv-u-font-size-16 u-line-height-125 u-line-height-normal@mobile-max a-truncate-ellipsis u-max-width-330 u-max-width-230@tablet-only"> Timeless </h3> == $0
```

# Finding the Columns in the Row

The artist name is a little harder. Nothing immediately jumps out as a unique identifying class name.

```
<span class="c-label a-no-truncate a-font-primary-s lrv-u-font-size-14@mobile-max u-line-height-normal@mobile-max u-letter-spacing-0021 lrv-u-display-block a-truncate-ellipsis-2line u-max-width-330 u-max-width-230@tablet-only"> Kendrick Lamar </span> == $0
```

# Finding the Columns in the Row

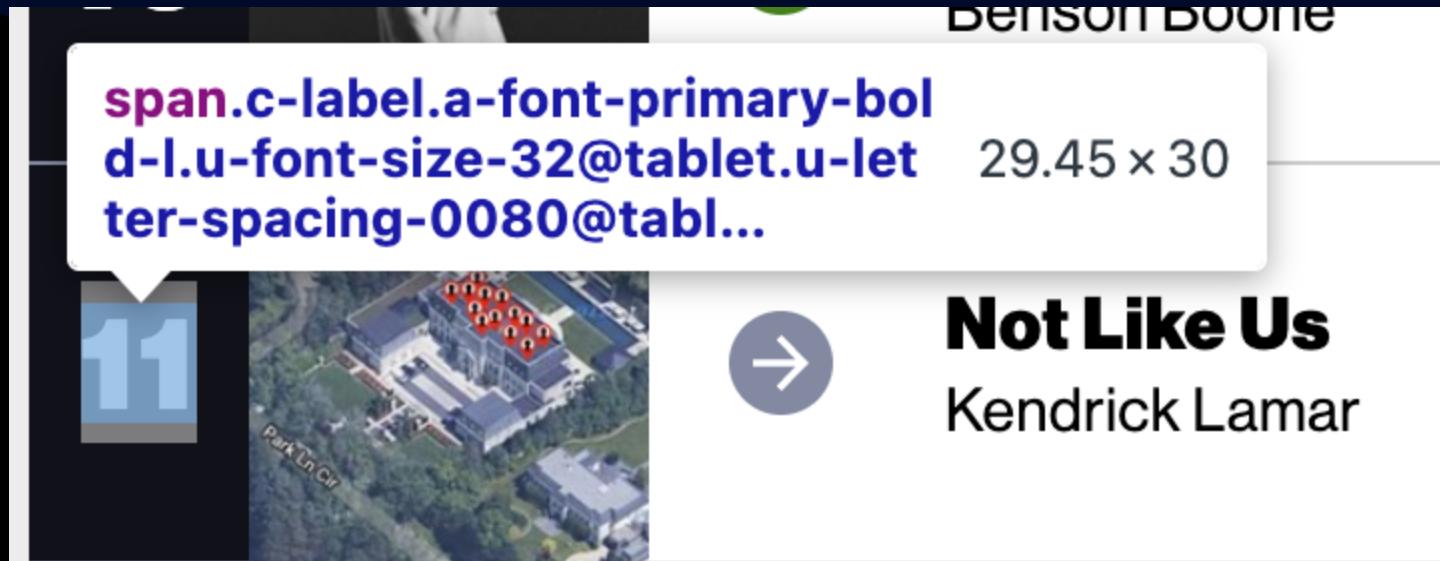
But this info does appear right next to the song name that we do know how to find!

```
<h3 id="title-of-a-story" class="c-title  
a-no-truncate a-font-primary-bold-s u-let  
ter-spacing-0021 lrv-u-font-size-18@tbl  
et lrv-u-font-size-16 u-line-height-125  
u-line-height-normal@mobile-max a-trunca  
te-ellipsis u-max-width-330 u-max-width-  
230@tablet-only"> Not Like Us </h3>  
<span class="c-label a-no-truncate a-fon  
t-primary-s lrv-u-font-size-14@mobile-ma  
x u-line-height-normal@mobile-max u-lett  
er-spacing-0021 lrv-u-display-block a-tr  
uncate-ellipsis-2line u-max-width-330 u-  
max-width-230@tablet-only"> Kendrick  
Lamar </span> == $0
```

It's the text of the next sibling of the next sibling\* of the h3 containing the artist!

# Finding the Columns in the Row

To find the chart position, we can look at the big number.



A `span` with a `c-label` class is not unique, but it does happen to be the first `span` child of the row, so we can just rely on that, conveniently.

# Printing the Information

```
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup

html_file = open('index.html', 'r')
html_doc = html_file.read()
soup = BeautifulSoup(html_doc, 'html.parser')

rows = soup.find_all('ul', class_='o-chart-results-list-row')

print(rows[0].find('span', class_='c-label').text.strip()) # position on chart
print(rows[0].find('h3', id='title-of-a-story').text.strip()) # title
print(rows[0].find(
    'h3', id='title-of-a-story').next_sibling.next_sibling.text.strip()) # artist
```



---

1  
A Bar Song (Tipsy)  
Shaboozey



# Printing the Information

```
for row in rows:  
    position = row.find('span', class_='c-label').text.strip()  
    title = row.find('h3', id='title-of-a-story').text.strip()  
    artist = row.find(  
        'h3', id='title-of-a-story').next_sibling.next_sibling.text.strip()  
    print(f'{position}: {title} - {artist}')
```



1: A Bar Song (Tipsy) - Shaboozey  
2: Birds Of A Feather - Billie Eilish  
3: I Had Some Help - Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen  
4: Espresso - Sabrina Carpenter  
5: Die With A Smile - Lady Gaga & Bruno Mars  
...

# Saving in a DataFrame / to CSV

```
dicts = []
for row in rows:
    position = row.find('span', class_='c-label').text.strip()
    title = row.find('h3', id='title-of-a-story').text.strip()
    artist = row.find(
        'h3', id='title-of-a-story').next_sibling.next_sibling.text.strip()
    dicts.append({"position": position, "title": title, "artist": artist})
pd.DataFrame(dicts).to_csv('top_100.csv', index=False)
```

```
py_slides > scraping > top_100.csv > data
1  position,title,artist
2  1,A Bar Song (Tipsy),Shaboozey
3  2,Birds Of A Feather,Billie Eilish
4  3,I Had Some Help,Post Malone Featuring Morgan Wallen
5  4,Espresso,Sabrina Carpenter
6  5,Die With A Smile,Lady Gaga & Bruno Mars
7  6,"Good Luck, Babe!",Chappell Roan
```

# cis1100

Requests

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# Taking the Human Out of the Loop

We defined the scraping process like so:

1. traversing the internet to find web pages that contain interesting information
2. extracting that information from each web page
3. storing the extracted information in a useful format

But we've only addressed the latter two points so far!

# requests

`pip install requests` to get access to a library that allows you to:

- programmatically "visit" websites
- get responses (HTML) within your program
- do all kinds of advanced stuff like *upload information to servers* or *communicate with APIs*

# The Very Very Basics

- `get("my.url.com")` queries the website at that URL and returns a `Response`
- A `Response` is a dense object that contains information about what the remote server "said"
  - response code: a number that indicates whether your request was processed properly
  - information about the data encoding
  - the text of the response, i.e. all the HTML (or JSON...)

# A Minimal Request

```
import requests

url = "https://www.cis.upenn.edu/~cis110/current/py/homework/homework.html"
r = requests.get(url)
print(r)
```



```
<Response [200]>
```



# A Minimal Request

```
import requests
```

```
url = "https://www.cis.upenn.edu/~cis110/current/py/homework/homework.html"
r = requests.get(url)
print(r.text)
```



```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1" />
    <title>
      CIS 1100 Homework
    </title>
    <link
      href="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.1.3/dist/css/bootstrap.min.css"
      rel="stylesheet"
    />
    <link
      href="/~cis110/current/assets/css/py_style.css"
      rel="stylesheet"
    />
    <link
      rel="stylesheet"
      href="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/highlight.js/11.7.0/styles/github.min.css"
    />
    <script src="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/highlight.js/11.7.0/highlight.min.js"></script>
    <script>
      MathJax = {
        tex: {
          inlineMath: [
            ['$','$'],
            ['\\(', '\\)']
          ],
        },
        svg: {
          fontCache: 'global',
        },
      }
    </script>
    <script
      type="text/javascript"
      id="MathJax-script"
      async
      src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/mathjax@3/es5/tex-svg.js"
    ></script>
  </head>
  <body>

<nav class="navbar navbar-expand-lg navbar-light bg-light">
  <div class="container">
    <a
      class="navbar-brand"
      href="/~cis110/current/py/index.html"
    >CIS 1100.py </a>
```

# A Minimal Request

```
import requests
```

```
url = "https://www.cis.upenn.edu/~cis110/current/py/homework/homework.html"
r = requests.get(url)
print(r.text)
```

r.text is just a string containing HTML, though. We know what to do with that...

CIS 1100.py   Homework ▾   Schedule   Staff   Recitations   Office Hours   SRS   Policies ▾   Exams ▾   Resources ▾   Wellness

## Homework

Homework Number	Name	Release Date	Due Date
0	<a href="#">Hello, World!</a>	August 30, 2024	September 11, 2024
1	<a href="#">Rivalry</a>	September 12, 2024	September 18, 2024
2	<a href="#">Personality Quiz</a>	September 19, 2024	September 25, 2024
3	<a href="#">Hail, Caesar!</a>	September 26, 2024	October 2, 2024
4	<a href="#">Restaurant Recommendations</a>	October 9, 2024	October 16, 2024

# A Minimal Request

```
import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup

url = "https://www.cis.upenn.edu/~cis110/current/py/homework/homework.html"
r = requests.get(url)
soup = BeautifulSoup(r.text, 'html.parser')
links = soup.table.find_all('a')
print([link.text for link in links])
```



```
['Hello, World!', 'Rivalry', 'Personality Quiz', 'Hail, Caesar!', 'Restaurant Recommendations']
```