

Downloading Tweets by a List of Users

This post is a brief, temporary attempt at pointing people in the right direction for a common task: downloading tweets sent by a number of different Twitter users. It is directed at those who are new to Python and/or downloading data from the Twitter API.

OK, so I am assuming you have made it through (or intend to) the following tutorials, which should help you get set up and working with Python:

- [Which version of Python to download](#)
- [Running your first code](#)
- [Four ways to run your code](#)

Another detailed tutorial I have created, [Usint Python to Grab Twitter User Data](#), is intended to serve as an introduction to how to access the Twitter API and then read the JSON data that is returned. This gets you the account-level data for a Twitter user (such as when the account was created), but not the actual tweets. That is a more difficult process, but not a huge leap once you've made it through all of the above steps.

I have yet to upload a tutorial showing how to use my code to download tweets by a list of Twitter users, but fortunately my PhD student Wayne Xu has. [This tutorial](#) helps fill in the blanks. It will help walk you through the steps of getting a Twitter developer account (so you can access the API), of which database to use (SQLite), and then how to access and store data from the Twitter user_timeline API, which allows you to download up to the last 3,200 tweets sent by each Twitter user.

I hope this helps. Happy coding!