

Financial Web Robots (BOTs) for Investment Opportunities and Surveillance

Problem Statement

As investment information becomes more widely distributed via web technology and investors seek out advantage in information to provide better performance, web robots or BOTs are becoming increasingly useful as an information gathering tool.

Capabilities Offered

- Financial Web Robots (BOTs) , i.e. web crawlers.
- Information Format Analyzers
- Conversion to Data from multiple formats (PDF, text, xls, etc.)

Crawlers (also known as web robots or BOTs)

Crawlers have been in place for many years. Crawlers have been used to gather specific types of information from Web pages, Such as harvesting e-mail addresses. Shopping BOTs look for the Lowest prices for goods in question.

Financial Web BOT's are programs or automated scripts which Browse the World Wide Web in a methodical, automated manner to look for financial information. This information is provided in some structured approach by the information provider (usually through the hierarchy and links of the provider's side). The BOT automates the capture of this financial information which is usually periodic in nature and provided on a quarterly, monthly or weekly basis.

A well structured Financial Web Robot has the following features, at a minimum:

- ◆ Handles both password and non password protected sites
- ◆ Logs its crawl path so that information embedded in the path to information is captured as well
- ◆ Can scan for information on a user defined cycle so that it is available as soon as posted by the provider
- ◆ Handles provider web site time outs
- ◆ Is parameter driven, so that the searching and storing of information is based on the parameters provided

Information Format Analyzers

Information format analyzers automatically detect, document and parse information. Providers of information post data in different formats with inconsistent data sets. Information format analyzers give a leg up on understanding and digesting this varied source information. Output/Results include:

- Potential Database Field Names
- Field Types and Sizes
- High and Low Values

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