

Building a Twitter Bot with Python

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Instructions found at <https://dototot.com/how-to-write-a-twitter-bot-with-python-and-tweepy/>

First create a twitter account if you do not have one already. You'll need to add your mobile number to your account to use in the verification process. Don't worry, you can remove it later if you don't want your mobile number associated with the bot account.

Go to apps.twitter.com and log in with your twitter account.

Select **Create New App** and fill in the details of your application on the next page.

* NOTE * The website box can be something made up if you don't have your own, and the Callback URL box can be left blank.

Once your app has been created, click on the Keys and Access Tokens tab, then click on **Create my access token**. This will generate the tokens necessary for the app to have access to your account.

In the permissions tab make sure that your app has read and write access.

Copy and paste the following code into a new python file, *tweet.py*, replacing the key and secret information with your app's key and secret information.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
# -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
import tweepy, time, sys
argfile = str(sys.argv[1])
#enter the corresponding information from your Twitter application:
CONSUMER_KEY = '1234abcd...'#keep the quotes, replace this with your
consumer key
CONSUMER_SECRET = '1234abcd...'#keep the quotes, replace this with
your consumer secret key
ACCESS_KEY = '1234abcd...'#keep the quotes, replace this with your
access token
ACCESS_SECRET = '1234abcd...'#keep the quotes, replace this with your
access token secret
auth = tweepy.OAuthHandler(CONSUMER_KEY, CONSUMER_SECRET)
auth.set_access_token(ACCESS_KEY, ACCESS_SECRET)
api = tweepy.API(auth)
filename=open(argfile,'r')
f=filename.readlines()
filename.close()
for line in f:
    api.update_status(line)
    time.sleep(900)#Tweet every 15 minutes
```

Next we are going to install tweepy, a python library that will access the Twitter API.

In the command line, type:

```
pip install tweepy
```

If pip is not installed type:

```
sudo apt-get install python-pip
```

Now create a text file in the same directory as *tweet.py*, name it *tweet.txt*, and enter in a few lines you want to have your bot tweet out. Make sure there are no empty lines.

Save the file and now in the terminal type:

```
python tweet.py tweet.txt
```

That's it! If you check your twitter feed you should see whatever message you had in the first line of your *tweet.py* text file. Your bot will continue to pull tweets from this file, line by line, until the program is terminated, the pi is powered off, or the text file runs out of material to tweet. You can change the length of time between tweets as well to space them out or condense tweets that are sent out.