

A Natural Language URL-Shortener

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20140610**

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➔ *<https://www.hackerschool.com/manual#sec-history>*

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can be used to track visitors to the main site

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- <http://2.gp/zkSE>
- <http://qr.net/Bozx>
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short only if you get there first (tend to be long)

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(Talon-sharpening exercise at Hacker School recently.)

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The trick to picking always-readable short URL-paths:

use the characters for the most common Chinese words.

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compare to paired Roman letters (of either case):

$$|\{x : x \in \{\text{upper} \cap \text{lower}\}\}| = 52 \quad (52^2 = 2704)$$

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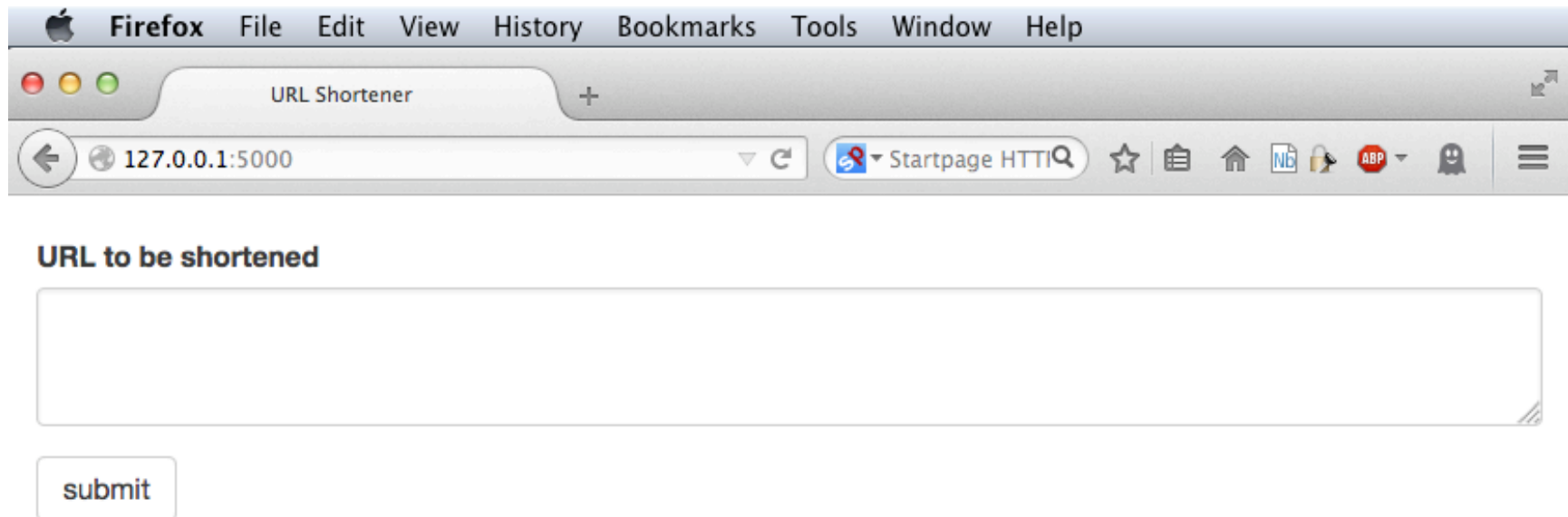
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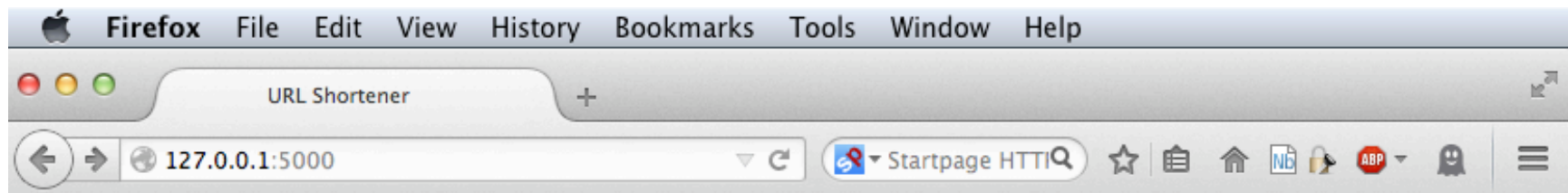
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readable?	guaranteed	probably not

Code for proof-of-concept on my public Git repository.



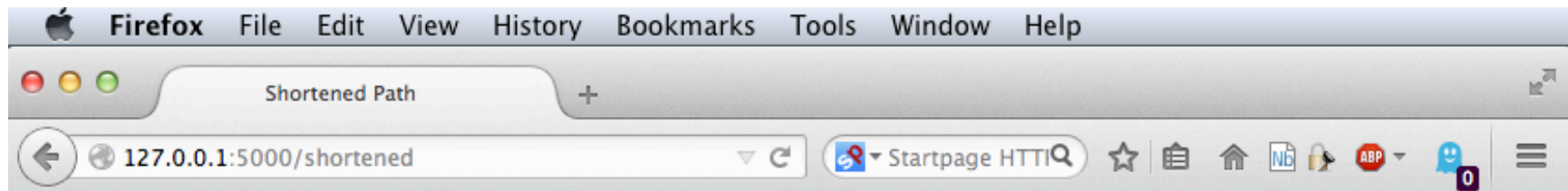
*Branner, A Natural Language URL-Shortener
Hack and Tell, 20140610. p. 31/44*



URL to be shortened

`https://www.hackerschool.com/manual#sec-history`

submit



The URL you submitted: <https://www.hackerschool.com/manual#sec-history>
has been shortened to <http://127.0.0.1:5000/EP>

First c. 2650 URLs → one character

<http://127.0.0.1:5000/É>

First c. 2650 URLs → one character

<http://127.0.0.1:5000/印>

Next c. $2650 \times 2650 = 7022500$ URLs → two characters

<http://127.0.0.1:5000/厉吉>

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Next 18,609,625,000 URLs → three characters

`http://127.0.0.1:5000/天鼻歪`

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Always readable (may not make sense, since random...)

印: 'to print'; 厉吉: 'to pass through auspiciousness';

天鼻歪: 'Heaven's nose is off-center'

Note:

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Note: many custom shorteners allow Chinese characters:

<http://bit.ly/史> (史: 'history')

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Also note: the advantage of shortening to Chinese does not mean bandwidth savings:

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Also note: the advantage of shortening to Chinese does not mean bandwidth savings:

<http://bit.ly/史> may be sent from your browser as

<http://bit.ly/%E5%8F%B2>

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