LCBO Sale of Data Programme

Technical Note

Automating File Downloads

March 1 2019

With the 2019 refresh of the Sale of Data website, a simple data download API has been made available. Using this API, it is possible to easily automate data downloads by substituting package and file names into the following URL template:

https://sod.lcbo.com/api/download/<option-name>/<file-name>

For example, the week 10 Option 1b zip file for agent 12345 is available (only to agent 12345 of course) at the following URL:

https://sod.lcbo.com/api/download/Option%201/w12345101b.zip

The API uses basic authentication with the username and password being the same as the one used to login to the web site. Most modern programming frameworks and data manipulation tools can be used to do this and an example written in Python follows:

```
#!/usr/bin/python

import requests

print('fetching w12345101b.zip')

r = requests.get('https://sod.lcbo.com/api/download/Option 1/w12345101b.zip',
auth=('testuser', 'testpassword'))

open('w12345101b.zip', 'w').write(r.content)

print('done')
```