Autosuggest

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How it works

- Application suggests as the user types

- Static autosuggest – Static list of words is present when form is created

- Dynamic autosuggest – Terms are retrieved from the server periodically – keystrokes or fixed time

- Also the list of terms in the server can be altered regularly for more relevant and latest suggestions

Where is it used ?

- E-mail programs – IDs in the address book
- Web browsers – Previous urls / list of urls
- Search engines – Dictionary of words/ Most popular words
- Word processors – Words in the document /dictionary
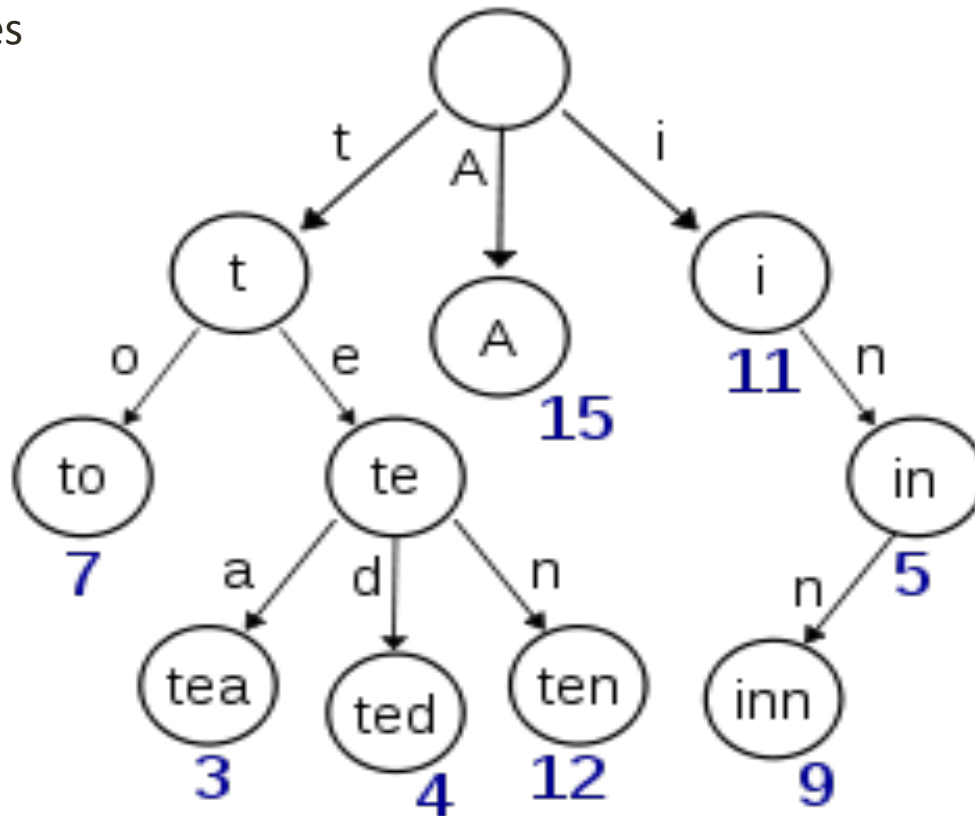- Command-line interpreters – Remembers previous commands

GoogleSuggest

- A standard input field is used. The input field needs an event handler to monitor the text it contains, so as to ensure the list always highlights whichever suggestion is matching.

- Instead of requesting a suggestion upon each keypress, Submission Throttling is usually adopted. Thus, every 100 milliseconds or so, the browser checks if anything changed since the last request. If so, the server is passed the partial query as an GET-based XMLHttpRequest Call.

- The server then uses some algorithm to produce an ordered list of suggestions.

- Back in the browser, the callback function picks up the suggestions and does some Display Morphing to show them to the user, in a format that allows them to be selected. Each entry will have an event handler, so that if clicked, the input field will be altered.

Suggestions based on…

- Actual searches / popular searches
- Location / Language
- Previous queries

- This needs constant updates to the storage of data used for suggestions

Auto complete words

Use tries

Structure can be altered to give more relevant suggestions