

CS506 - Bad Landlords - Team 4

Deliverable 0

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- What is the project focus/overall goal?
 - The focus of the project is on increasing accessibility and transparency for urban planning, zoning, and development in Boston. It will determine any “bad landlords” in the area through systems that track property violations performed by landlords and a matrix to calculate if a landlord is bad. The overall goal is figuring out what the threshold is for a landlord to be a bad landlord.
- Why is this project important?
 - Identifying bad landlords is important in preventing discrimination and harassment to tenants of Boston.
 - Students, who are a large subset of Boston’s population, are susceptible to mistreatment and exploitation from landlords.
 - Keeping track of which landlords are mistreating others can help both people who already live in Boston as well as any who are looking to move there.
- What type of data will you collect or be analyzing?
 - The main data source will be the complaints and, possibly, lawsuits against the landlords especially when they include details on the kind of potential violations perpetrated by the landlords.
This kind of data will be by its nature non-structured and it will require some treatments before processing them with data science tools.
- What are potential limitations of the project?
 - A potential limitation of the project is the data not being totally complete. If only certain kinds of violations are recorded, that could potentially bias the data. Also, some of the data might involve private information (like names of people which are not made public), which may make it difficult to process the data.
- What are your next steps? Divide tasks amongst the team
 - Set up initial team meeting with PM
 - Select a time for weekly team meetings (when2meet)
 - Pick a dataset(s) from the options provided
 - Review the original “2022 Worst Landlord Watchlist” website
 - Review the most common types of violations from the fall project
 - Add tasks to trello and assign team members