

CS Project Overview – LinkedIn Scraper Tool

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Ethical Use of Web Scraping Technologies

This document affirms that the provided code operates within legal and ethical boundaries by accessing only publicly available information, relying on licensed third-party services under their published Terms of Service, and using open-source tools under permissive licenses. It also commits to responsible scraping practices that respect website policies and applicable U.S. laws.

All data collected by this code comes exclusively from publicly accessible web pages and does not involve unauthorized access to private or restricted resources (“Is Web Scraping Legal?”). U.S. courts have held that scraping publicly available information does not, by itself, violate the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act or breach contracts when done without evading technical measures (Lowe and Slack).

The code uses SerpAPI under its published Terms of Service, which explicitly cover lawful scraping and parsing of search results, with SerpAPI assuming liability for compliance unless the user’s request is otherwise illegal (“Legal Documents”). Queries to search engines are made via official APIs or through Selenium’s browser automation without bypassing paywalls or login requirements, thereby adhering to the respective platforms’ policies (Loeb).

Selenium WebDriver and associated libraries are used under the Apache 2.0 open-source license, which grants free use, modification, and distribution rights, provided copyright notices are preserved (“Copyright and Attributions”). All other dependencies (Python standard library, pandas, requests, models) are licensed under permissive agreements (MIT, BSD, Apache) that explicitly allow commercial and research use.

The code respects website robots.txt directives and includes reasonable delays and retry limits to avoid overloading target servers (“Is Web Scraping Legal?”). It does not circumvent authentication, access controls, or paywalls, and it refrains from harvesting personal data beyond what is publicly displayed on professional profiles.

Works Cited

1. DataDome. "Is Web Scraping Legal? A 2024 Guide." *DataDome*, 10 June 2024, <https://datadome.co/guides/scraping/is-it-legal/>.
2. Hill, Jordan. "Web Scraping, Website Terms and the CFAA: hiQ's Preliminary Injunction Affirmed Again." *White & Case*, April 2022, <https://www.whitecase.com/insight-our-thinking/web-scraping-website-terms-and-cfaa-hiqs-preliminary-injunction-affirmed-again>.
3. Lowe, Emily R., and Katrina Slack. "Data Scraping Deemed Legal in Certain Circumstances." *Morgan Lewis*, 27 Apr. 2022, <https://www.morganlewis.com/blogs/sourcingatmorganlewis/2022/04/data-scraping-deemed-legal-in-certain-circumstances>.
4. "Legal Documents." *SerpApi*, 2025, <https://serpapi.com/legal>.
5. "Copyright and Attributions – Selenium." *SeleniumHQ*, 2024, <https://www.selenium.dev/documentation/about/copyright/>.