



# Data Collecting - Web scraping from public websites

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Version 2018 Aug 09

#### **Data Collecting**



- Web scraping from public websites
  - How to collect data from websites
  - 10K reports from SEC.gov
  - EU Open Data
  - Open data Swiss
- Collecting data using API
  - Tweeter
  - Facebook

- Database in IMD library
  - Bloomberg
  - Thomson One
  - Datastream
  - Factiva: news media
- loT (Internet of Things)
  - Smart building
  - Wearable devices
  - Web traffic

### **Data collecting approaches**

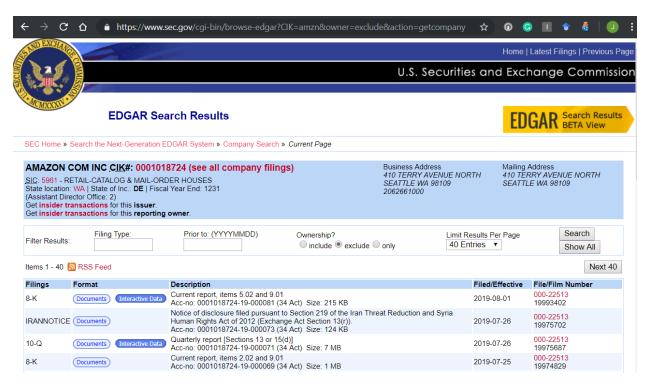


- Level 1. Manual collection
- Level 2. Using a code to download multiple files
- Level 3. Using API (Application Programming Interface)
- Level 4. Using a code for Web scraping

### Level 1: manual collection ex. Company filings from SEC.gov



- https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html
- Mouse right-click and download individual files



- Easy to do; can check what we get immediately
- Boring and timeconsuming
- We used to hire interns to do so

### Level 2: Using a code to download multiple files ex. Company filings from SEC.gov



```
Define a function for downloading
import requests
                                                     Use the same file name obtained from url
def download (url):
  path = url.split("/")[-1]
                                                      Get the file indicated by the url
  r = requests.get(url)
  open(path, 'wb').write(r.content)
                                                      Write the content of the file indicated by
                                                     the url as the name defined in path
urls =
['https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/320193/0000
320193-19-000026.txt'.
'https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/320193/00011
                                                     Set url addresses (ex. from SEC.gov)
93125-19-004664.txt'l
for url in urls:
                                                      Call the download function repeatedly
  download (url)
```

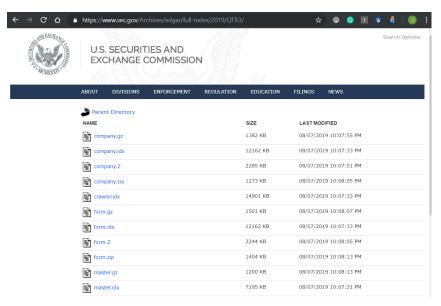
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### Level 2: Using a code to download multiple files ex. Company filings from SEC.gov



SEC.gov explains how to access files from their server: https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/accessing-edgar-data.htm

For example, we can use the file locations written in the master index provided by SEC.gov: https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/full-index/2019/QTR1/master.idx



### **Level 3. Using API (Application Programming Interface)**



- API is a standardized way for external users to collect data from a website's database
- Some websites like wikipedia provide API to encourages developing a third-party software providing additional services based on the company's product
- Also, this can avoid the abuse of data access using a risky method to the server

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# Level 3. Using API (Application Programming Interface) ex. R code for collecting table information from Wikipedia



```
library(httr)
library(rvest)
library(xml2)
get infobox <- function(title){
 base url <- "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/api.php"
 query_params <- list(action = "parse",
              page = title,
              format = "xml")
 resp <- GET(url = base_url, query = query_params)
 resp_xml <- content(resp)
 page html <- read html(xml text(resp xml))
 infobox element <- html node(x = page html, css =".infobox")
 page name <- html node(x = infobox element, css = ".fn")
 page_title <- html_text(page_name)</pre>
 wiki table <- html table(infobox element)
 colnames(wiki table) <- c("key", "value")
 cleaned_table <- subset(wiki_table, !wiki_table$key == ""
 name df <- data.frame(key = "Full name", value = page title)
 wiki table <- rbind(name df, cleaned table)
 wiki table
get infobox(title = "International Institute for Management Development"
```

Call some packages

Define a function get\_infobox

We will use wikipedia api

Send query parameters and receive data

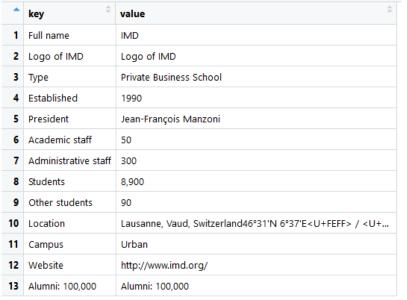
Rearrange the data into a table form

Call the function for "IMD"

# Level 3. Using API (Application Programming Interface) ex. R code for collecting table information from Wikipedia



#### Output





### Level 4. Using a code for Web scraping



Even though there is no API provided, it is possible to extract texts from any websites using R and Python.

[to be updated]

### **References and IMD Champions**



#### 10K and proxy statements from SEC.gov and context analysis

- Abraham Lu at IMD Global Board Center (abraham.lu@imd.org)

#### Webscribing codes

https://www.datacamp.com/courses/working-with-web-data-in-r

### Public data sources (examples, to be updated)



- Data from public websites
  - SEC.gov
  - EU Open Data
  - Open data Swiss
  - London Data Store
  - Wikipedia

- Data from commercial websites
  - Tweeter
  - Amazon