Setting up GitHub Secrets for BuildingTransparency.org API

The GitHub Action workflow has been updated to use email and password authentication to generate tokens on demand. This approach is more reliable than using a static token that expires every 72 hours.

Step 1: Create a BuildingTransparency.org Account

If you don't already have one, create an account at BuildingTransparency.org. Make note of your email address and password.

Step 2: Add Repository Secrets

1. Navigate to your GitHub repository.

2. Click on the "Settings" tab.

3. In the left sidebar, click on "Secrets and variables" and then "Actions".

4. Click on the "New repository secret" button.

5. Add the following two secrets:
   - **Secret Name**: `BT_EMAIL`
     - Value: Your BuildingTransparency.org account email address
   - **Secret Name**: `BT_PASSWORD`
     - Value: Your BuildingTransparency.org account password

Step 3: Test the Workflow

1. Go to the "Actions" tab in your repository.

2. Find the "Update Data" workflow.

3. Click on "Run workflow" and select "Run workflow" from the dropdown.

4. Once the workflow completes, check the logs to ensure that:
   - The script successfully authenticated with BuildingTransparency.org
   - The data was retrieved and processed correctly
   - Any changes were committed to the repository

Security Considerations

- GitHub securely encrypts your secrets and only provides them as environment variables to your workflow during runtime.
- Only people with admin access to the repository can add, update, or read secrets.

- It's recommended to use an account specifically for this automated process rather than your personal account.

- Consider periodically updating the password for this account as an additional security measure.

Troubleshooting

If the workflow fails, check the following:

1. Verify that the secrets are correctly set up in the repository settings.

2. Check the workflow logs for any authentication errors.

3. Ensure your BuildingTransparency.org account credentials are valid.

4. If the API endpoints have changed, update the script accordingly.

Maintaining the Workflow

- The workflow is scheduled to run every night at 10 PM UTC.

- You can also manually trigger the workflow from the Actions tab.

- The script is designed to handle rate limiting and retry logic.

- Only modified files will be committed to the repository.