**[Justin Parker](https://app.slack.com/team/U02H3JAQ692" \t "_blank)**  [8:09 PM](https://ricevirtdatap-nc12469.slack.com/archives/C02HKNKUG48/p1647364174819419)

**@channel** - A few things about your group channels:

* **Your groups are private.**
  + This is primarily to prevent notification spam across the groups.
  + Feel free to share plenty of code snippets and resource links.
  + You can also share API keys there.
    - In addition to keeping them out of the wild, it will help us (the instructional staff) expedite code execution we may need to assist you during the project.
    - (<-- The exception to this rule is AWS .pem keys or private keys)

While we do expect groups to do their own work, you are still free to post general questions/issues in the class channels or in DMs. **We are in there too.**

The instructional staff is in the channel to help with issues and to keep an eye out for general things like excessive scope creep, problematic data sets, and anything else that may just waste your time.  Aside from that, we will stay out of your way and assist only (generally) when asked a specific question.

We are there as support, but we don’t want to unnecessarily influence the coding or design decisions you make for your projects.  We also don’t want to impose our (often quite strongly held) opinions on tools or methods you choose to use in your projects. But, again, we are there to help, so please do ask us questions as often as you like.  You may find that our inclination is to provide resources or documentation in place of code as solutions to more general questions, whereas we will often respond to code with code.  In addition to simply mirroring specificity, we want you to try things, experiment, and expect things to fail (maybe more than you’re used to) while working on your project. **It is not a data dump.**

* **We do encourage you to share code *snippets* and possibly *a row or two* from a data set,** but, please (please please please) do not upload your raw data, in full or in large part, to the channel.
* Slack will actively prevent you from doing this in most cases, but even if they do allow it, it’s better to **share the link** to the data, or **get it into a database** you all share instead.
* This is also a good rule for your repositories.
* Add raw data files to your .gitignore prior to pushing and pop the download link/api url (minus the key) into the readme or in your slack channel. (edited)