

1. A system to verify validity of a business license could involve the use of a built-in checker as a rental initially posts a listing on Airbnb. As a renter is posting a listing, there could be a required field to input a valid business license, with examples of properly formatted ones to avoid typos. The field could have a checker, similar to those used when you create passwords or input dates, that only permits a user to continue with their listing if the inputted license meets the formatting criteria. An opposing argument I might get would be the difficulty of implementing exceptions for pending and exempt licenses. Another argument could be that even if I found a way to implement exceptions, it's hard to keep up with the renter about the status of their business license if/when they make it past that checkpoint.
2. Using our data and the data from the article, we could ask the question "What is the relationship between % of households facing housing insecurity and invalid rental licenses within each state?" Considering that invalidly registered listings are contributing to the housing crisis, getting an idea of how many invalid listings exist could provide some insight into how impactful they are amongst other states and how common they are in other states.
3. One important factor to consider when discussing the legality of web scraping is the context in which someone is web scraping. In cases where someone is using web scraping to expose unethical/illegal behavior of a company or to prove that a corporation is using discriminatory practices, web scraping should be seen as a tool rather than a weapon. When used in the appropriate context, it can be a big help in enabling people in verifying the information, ethics, and practices of the companies and organizations they consume.
4. One guideline we should consider is for what purpose we are using the data. If the data is being used in activism or something synonymous, that would be a more appropriate purpose than using it for malicious purposes or personal gain, for example. Another guideline we should consider is where the data is coming from. If it is coming from an obviously private organization, individual, or group, I think that standard privacy rules come first, and web scraping is unethical. On the other hand, if the data is coming from a public organization, individual or group, perhaps something like a government site, I think transparency and accountability is important to verify. Therefore, that would be an acceptable use of web scraping.