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Project 2 Reflection

Questions:

- a.** One very effective way of showing users that an Airbnb is properly validated, would be to allow users to see the documents proving the Airbnb's business license is valid. To do so, there should be some sort of system that allows you to have access to the business name, tax number, business address, license number, and business activity. Once you have access to all this information, you would be able to verify one's business license. This system is similar to this project because we were able to take data from part of a website and then utilize that public information in our desired way. While this seems logical and would ensure to users that the short term rental they are staying at is safe and successfully validated, there are many cons to this idea. For example, businesses and short term rental owners may be uncomfortable with the fact that third party companies will have access to their personal information. Another complaint that would make people against adopting this system would be that it is too time-consuming. Many people may say that users will lose interest in figuring out whether the short term rental's business license is valid or not because it requires a lot of information and time.
- b.** One question I could explore would be, does the cost of housing (specifically Airbnbs) relate positively or negatively to the average income for Americans in the United States? Another question this data could help me explore could be, how does the level of safety for housing locations relate to housing cost? The answer to these questions could tell potential buyers and renters that there is a lack of or substantial amount of housing

security. As a data scientist working with a housing activist organization to fight against housing security, if the answers to these questions reflect poorly against housing security it would help our organization build a case.

- c. I think one important factor to consider is constitutional rights, specifically the First Amendment right to free speech. If you are discussing the legality of web scraping in relation to terms of service violations, people's rights still need to remain protected. Preventing someone from violating the terms of service in order to access data or share information should not violate their individual rights. It is also important to consider what is categorized as an infringement on personal property and whether or not a computer system is considered public or personal. This is important because the legality of web scraping and data accessing can differ based on whether the system is considered to be personal property.
- d. This situation reminds me of the Microsoft versus Google situation. There is a really fine line between deciding what is too much information versus what is the appropriate amount of information. Some guidelines should be enforced to help reduce this uncomfortableness. For example, we need to make sure that we are looking at the impact levels of all the information that is being processed. One guideline that we should consider is what would be the adverse effect on the individual or business? If the answer to that question is, catastrophic effects then that should tell us we should not be putting this information out to the public. Another guideline that we should consider is whether the information is a breach of privacy or a contract/regulation. If the data that we are

currently assessing breaches any sort of agreements that could result in legal issues, then that should determine that we should not be using this data publicly.