

6. Questions:

- a. AirBnB could team up with local and state governments to access public information that is available to confirm the legitimacy of a tenant. With a system in place, AirBnB could do a fast “background check” that can confirm if the individual is who they say they are, and also make sure that individual doesn’t have a shoddy history when it comes to rentals. Business licenses should be registered with a government entity, so it wouldn’t be that complicated to cross-check for legitimacy. One reason my organization would be against adopting this system is because it could be invasive to an organization or individual’s privacy; just because someone (or some organization) is renting an AirBnB, that does not automatically give AirBnB the right to investigate the customer. Another form of pushback that my organization has argued is that this is bad for business. If people or companies were to find out that AirBnB investigates and checks into all potential tenants, that may compel them to use a different company entirely, which would lead to lost revenue.
- b. One research question I’d hope to answer or explore using this data would be how can we locate available housing for those without shelter? There could be a priority list baked into this - some people have to stay in their immediate area due to family, school, and their jobs/careers while some people are on their own and need a place to live (of course there are many nuances that exist between these two realities). Data could be scraped to find out where there is available or excess housing compared to where housing is in high-demand or even unavailable. Some people could be relocated a town or two over to an area that has affordable housing, low-income housing, or even a shelter of sorts. Web-scraping could bring together information that can be used to make data-charts, info-graphics, and all sorts of tangible resources for those that are dealing with housing insecurity, a massive issue in our country.
- c. One factor that is important when considering the legality and the efficacy of web scraping is what kind of content are you scraping? Is the information confidential or does it relate to the personal information of clients? That is not something that should be legal. However there is a plethora of public data online that often remains unused when certain groups of people (i.e. researchers, students, etc.) could utilize said information for scientific and social advancement. If you want to avoid legal issues, only scrape data that has to do with information that is available to the public.
- d. There are many guidelines that should be followed when doing an act such as web-scraping. Two more guidelines I would suggest would be to:
 1. Make sure the website you are scraping doesn’t have a public API or some avenue to gain the same information with permission. You shouldn’t be scraping a webpage that has set policies on this process.
 2. Scrape public information for just reasons, not for personal gain or to expose information that was meant to remain private.

In many cases web-scraping is done for research purposes or for harmless projects. Regardless of those intentions, it is important to not cross boundaries that should be respected such as an individual's privacy, a companies' policy, or just simply taking data that you are not obligated to. In short, do not participate in web-scraping if you haven't put a considerate amount of thought into the task.