

Project 2 Questions

a. One system that they could implement is where listers would have to get clearance through a partnership between Airbnb and SFPO. Any potential lister would have to input their business license number and it would get checked through the SFPO database before they could ever list any property. This process would be automated and need both groups to participate in the idea. The obvious argument against this would be the cost of creating this new system. Both parties would likely have to pay to create this new system and they might not view it as a worthy investment. Another argument against this idea would be that both companies rely on each other for the system to work. What if one of the companies wasn't holding up their end of bargain? This is a risk both sides would have to take and might not want to.

b. After reading the article on what housing insecurity is, it is clear that there are many ways to determine what housing insecurity means. One aspect of that is whether or not houses are affordable. If an individual is spending more than 30% or 50% on housing they are deemed housing insecure. We have all the pricing information for houses and we could easily get communities average incomes. With this data we could then compare on average how many people we predict are housing insecure and what communities need the most help.

c. Like the articles said it seems very unclear as to what violates laws and what doesn't. I definitely don't fully understand what is legal when it comes to web scraping. With that being said the one thing that seems important is whether or not the page is viewable by the public or not. If someone puts a webpage out there that the entire public has access to it shouldn't matter if it gets web scraped. However, if it is subscription based page or some sort of private page then that might cross a line of what's ok and what's not.

d. The first guideline that we should consider is whether or not scraping the data would have real impact on whose data it is. If it's obvious that scraping the data for whatever purpose will potentially impact someone then that should be a huge red flag. The second thing I think everyone has to consider is what is the data being used for? If it is being used to positively help people then I think there is a lot more leeway than using it for some not so important reason. There really is no right answer but we have to use our own judgement and ask ourselves if we are acting ethically or not.