Free Trial

Weekly Challenge

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IDEAS WANTED
We're actively looking for ideas on how to improve Weekly Challenges and would love to hear what you think!
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‹ Weekly Challenge

Challenge #101: The Search for Powder

ChristineB
Alteryx Alumni (Retired)

After a few good snowstorms here in Colorado, snow aficionados have an important question on their minds: where's the freshest powder on the slopes? Well, at least that's the question on @ChristineB's mind! This week, we're using Alteryx to figure out the best place to ski (or snowboard, if you're into that sort of thing) in Colorado.

The National Water and Climate Center manages a network of sensors, SNOTEL, that collect data all about snow. The SNOTEL sensors collect historical data (condensed into daily data) on variables such as temperature, snow water equivalent values, and precipitation increments. We'll use the variable Precipitation Increment (in) as our measurement of recent snowfall. Using the past seven days worth of data, in conjunction with the shapefiles for Colorado's ski resorts, we'll identify the sensor that has recorded the highest amount of precipitation accumulation and the closest ski resort to that sensor.

Download the SNOTEL data from each sensor in Colorado using the following link: https://wcc.sc.egov.usda.gov/reportGenerator/view_csv/customSingleStationReport/daily/303:CO:SNTL%7C.... Each sensor's data must be downloaded separately. A list of the sensors site number (i.e., 303 in the above link, which is provided in the Input URL for Data from SNOTEL) is provided in the input SNOTEL Sensor Sites. To access the SNOTEL site for each sensor download, see this site: https://wcc.sc.egov.usda.gov/nwcc/tabget?state=CO. That will give you an idea as to how the data is accessed through the SNOTEL platform.

NOTE: Because data is dynamic, the final solution will change depending on when the data is downloaded. This solution is correct as of 1/23/18.

🔗 **challenge_101_start_file_jan23.yxmd**   ⤓

🔗 **challenge_101_solution.yxzp**   ⤓

| Data Analysis | Interface | Intermediate | Join | Macros | Parse | Preparation | Spatial | Spatial Analysis | Transform |

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ⒶⒸⒺ patrick_digan
17 - Castor

I've got my snowboard ready!

▷ Spoiler

🔗 **challenge_101_start_file_jan23.yxmd**   ⤓

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NicoleJohnson
15 - Aurora

Break out the hot cocoa - I'm on my way to...

▷ Spoiler

See you on the slopes! And by see you on the slopes I mean see you in the lodge. I am a *terrible* snowboarder... and my snowboarding puts my skiing to shame. :)

Cheers,
NJ

📎 **challenge_101_NicoleJohnson.yxmd**   ⬇

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ggruccio
ACE Emeritus

Hitting the slopes sounds fun - but I think I would be falling down quite a bit!

Great exercise! The value for today shows as NULL so I went back 8 days to get a full 7 days of data.

📎 **challenge_101_gg_finish.yxmd**   ⬇

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David-Carnes
11 - Bolide

One of the (many) nice things about Alteryx is it's ability to get the same solution whilst using different tools. I've been using RegEx a lot lately, so I reached for that tool to build my URLs. The previous three submissions came at if from a **way** simpler direction. Anyway, as of 1PM EST, 24 January 2018, **Wolf Creek** is were you want to be.

▷ Spoiler

📎 **David-Carnes_101.yxmd**   ⬇

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David-Carnes
11 - Bolide

Forgot to mention, in the event of a tie, the one with the lower average temperature wins.

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robbertbrouwers
6 - Meteoroid

Nice challenge, thanks!

▷ Spoiler

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Ilías
7 - Meteor

Ski Snowboat area, here I come!

📎 **Challenge 101 ili.yxmd** ⤓

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Ⓐ Ⓒ Ⓔ PhilipMannering
15 - Aurora

At the time Steamboat Ski Area had 2.3 inches of snow in the last seven days...

📎 **challenge_101 - The Search for Powder.yxmd** ⤓

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