Team Scrapy

CUSP-AlumniHackathon2017
Connor Chen,
Dongjie Fan,
Christian Rosado,
Anastasia Shegay

Objective & Deliverables

- To automate the process of collecting and updating contract records from the Office of the State Comptroller website
- Deliverable is a web-scraping tool/script that can be run automatically

Data



Home > NYS Contract Search > Contract Search Results



Printer Friendly (PDF)

Download to an Excel Spreadsheet



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 - Next (25) - Last

Vendor Name △	Department/Facility	Contract Number	Current Contract Amount	Spending to Date	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Contract Description	Contract Type	Original Contract Approved/Filed Date
1 A LIFESAFER INC	Division of Criminal Justice Services	C002136	\$816,450.00	\$0.00	12/21/2010	10/14/2013	IGNITION INTERLOCK QUALIFIED MANUFACTURERS PROGRAM	Equipment	08/28/2013
1 A LIFESAFER INC	Division of Criminal Justice Services	C002132	\$10,108,800.00	\$0.00	08/15/2013	07/22/2016	IGNITION INTERLOCK QUALIFIED MANUFACTURER	Equipment	10/04/2013
1 ACCORD SERVICES INC	SUNY at Buffalo	<u>T000591</u>	\$114,000.00	\$113,999.80	04/01/2015	03/31/2016	CUSTODIAL SERVICE FOR GATEWAY	Contracts Not Subject to OSC Pre-Audit	05/05/2015

Solution I - Web Scraping

Advantages:

- Easily written and implementable code using Beautiful Soup Python package
- Allows downloading data in variety of formats: DataFrame, csv, text, etc.

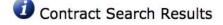
Disadvantages:

- Not scalable: took a couple of minutes to scrape dozen of pages, not scalable to 2500+ pages
- Not easy way to update records

Solution II - Download entire dataset



Home > NYS Contract Search > Contract Search Results





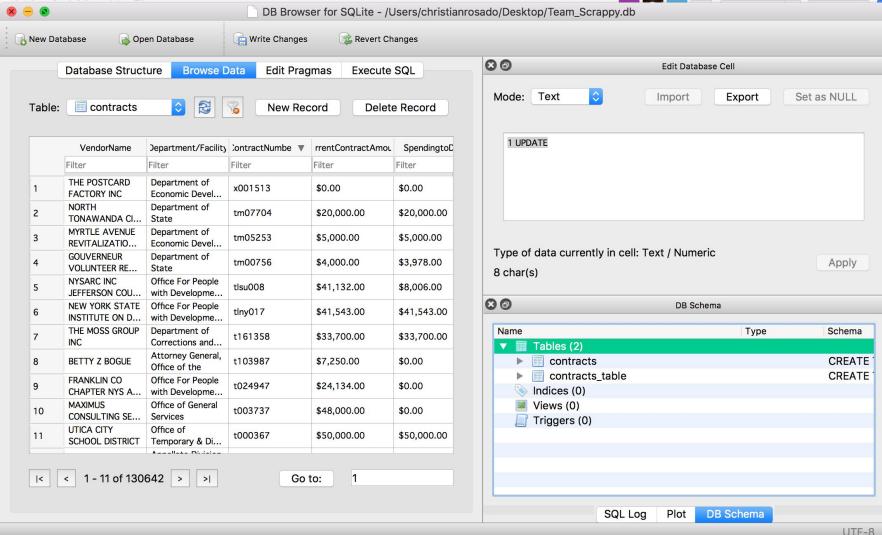
130640 Contracts Found - Displaying page 1 of 2613

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 - Next (25) - Last

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Solution III - DB Browser for SQLite

- DB Browser for SQLite is a high quality, visual, open source tool to create, design, and edit database files compatible with SQLite.
- It is for users and developers wanting to create databases, search, and edit data. It uses a familiar spreadsheet-like interface, and you don't need to learn complicated SQL commands.
 - Create and compact database files
 - Create, define, modify and delete tables
 - Update existing tables/records
 - Query via SQL



Connect to Database Using Python

```
import sqlite3
conn=sqlite3.connect('xx.db')
print "Database created and opened successfully"
```

Import CSV files as Tables into Database

```
import csv, sqlite3
con = sqlite3.connect(":memory:")
cur = con.cursor()
cur.execute("CREATE TABLE t (col1, col2);") # use your column names here
with open('data.csv','rb') as fin: # `with` statement available in 2.5+
    # csv.DictReader uses first line in file for column headings by default
    dr = csv.DictReader(fin) # comma is default delimiter
    to db = [(i['col1'], i['col2']) \text{ for } i \text{ in } dr]
cur.executemany("INSERT INTO t (col1, col2) VALUES (?, ?);", to_db)
con.commit()
con.close()
```

Update Existing Records/Append New

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE temp_update_table (meta_key, meta_value)

LOAD DATA INFILE 'your_csv_pathname'
INTO TABLE temp_update_table FIELDS TERMINATED BY ';' (meta_key, meta_value);

UPDATE "table"
INNER JOIN temp_update_table on temp_update_table.meta_key = "table".meta_key
SET "table".meta_value = temp_update_table.meta_value;

DROP TEMPORARY TABLE temp_update_table;
```