A Data Scraper's Toolbox

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Credits: Toolbox icons created by Ralf Schmitzer from the Noun Project

“process of automatically collecting information from the Web”

~ Wikipedia on “Web Scraping”

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- Manual copy-paste
- Text grepping / RegEx
- HTML parsing (CSS, XPATH…)
- Web Scraping Software

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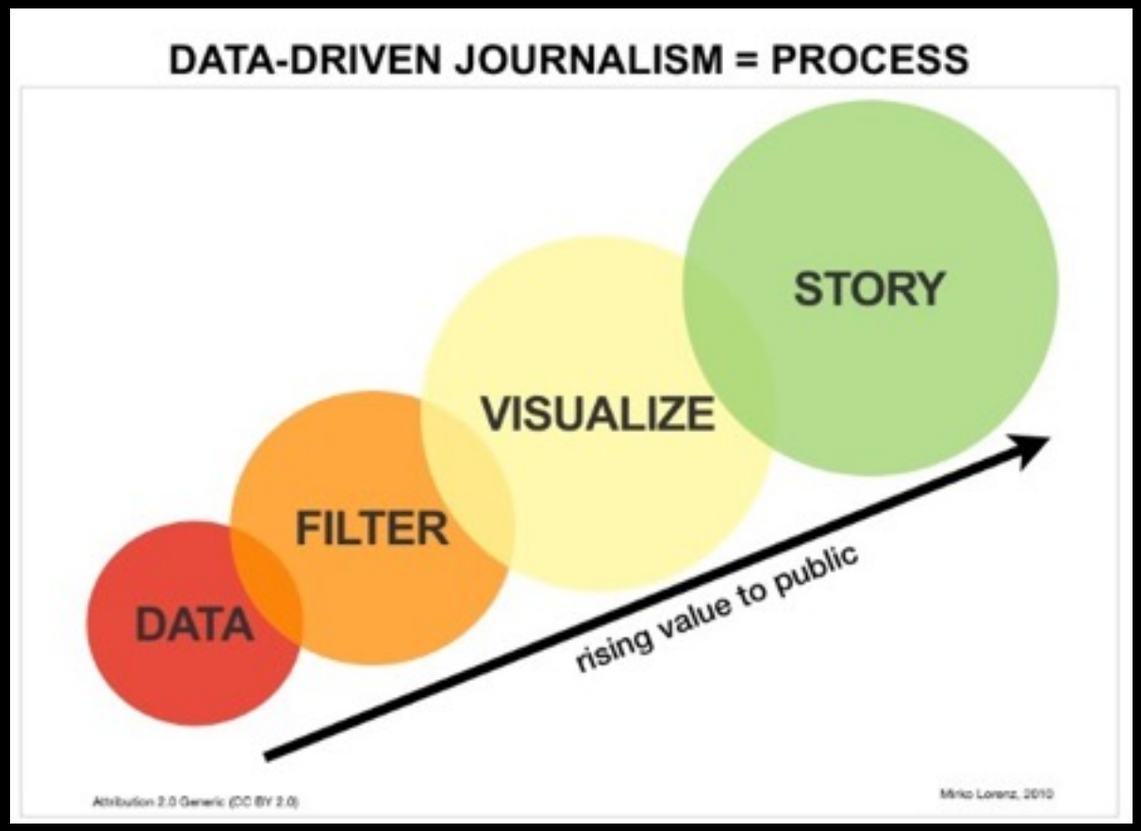
Despite its fame, scraping is a highly creative process. It requires…

- Problem solving
- Lateral thinking
- Planning for efficiency
- Prediction and planning for possible outcomes and uses
- Methodological choices affect the whole outcome



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There cannot be a course on web scraping teaching you ‘solutions’

We can dive into the fine art of scraping by learning tools and techniques. Then each **individual** personality can adapt, mix and mash this knowledge according to each **individual** problem

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Copy-Paste

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Data Import in Google Sheets

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Chrome's *Scrape-Similar*

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X-Path Parsing in Google Sheets

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SearchLink

"SearchLink is a System Service for OS X which handles searching multiple sources and automatically generating Markdown links for text"

http://brettterpstra.com/projects/searchlink/

APIs

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Scripts

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Scraping Software

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“Hidden Secrets”

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is scraping legal?

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is scraping ethical?

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Consider…

- Brute force attacks and DoS (prefer APIs, when available)
- Your use of the data (copyright, privacy…)

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