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IS 620 Assignment 4

I would like to explore campaign finance data for the 2016 Presidential and Congressional elections. The Federal Election Commission posts csv files of all contributions to candidates and publishes these disclosures quarterly. The csv files can be downloaded directly from their website:

<http://www.fec.gov/disclosure/pnational.do>.

The data is fairly well organized and clean. The records for all 2016 Presidential candidates includes over 127,000 records and includes quantitative variables (amount of donation) as well as identifying (contributor, employer, company) and categorical variables (candidate, city & state). It may prove easier to pull this data through the NYT API, as there are a number of rich datasets for each filing and candidate:

[http://developer.nytimes.com/docs/campaign\\_finance\\_api](http://developer.nytimes.com/docs/campaign_finance_api)

I believe that the network data in these datasets can be valuable in identifying individuals, companies, or even cities and states that constitute the power behind the individual candidates. My hypothesis is that there are certain companies (or industries, if the companies can be grouped) that provide financial support to both Republicans and Democrats and those that give exclusively to one candidate. For the former, I suspect there are some corporations who gives donation to centrists in both parties, and for the latter, I suspect there will be some dispersion that may indicate grass roots support.