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ETL Project

We found 3 data sources that we thought would be interesting to look into which were Forbes’ 2021 Billionaires list, Country Populations, and Country GDP’s. We chose these links with the idea that for a project of larger scope than only ETL, we would have looked at demographics of countries and what kind of impact that had on their quantity of billionaires. And conversely if quantity of billionaires might seem to affect their country. That was the “Extract” portion of our ETL process.

Moving onto how we transformed the data, we dropped columns that were irrelevant to the insights we would try and analyze like: Status (Marital), Age, Self Made, Citizenship, and a curious column called Geometry that neither of us could figure out the purpose of. From the GDP.csv we dropped all years before 2019, and from the Country.csv we dropped things like yearly change, fert.rate (fertility rate), and urban population.

Loading the data was where we probably had most of our headaches. While initial extraction and cleaning made the previous csv’s seem quite compatible, it is in this loading stage where we realized that certain country’s GDP data was not available in our GDP.csv, and the education column needed 500 characters to be loaded into an SQL database. However, once we were able to load everything we ended up needing to return to the “Transform” section of ETL.

Transform 2 Electric Bugaloo, led us down a few different difficult rabbit holes to get out of. Instead of manually searching up our missing country’s GDP’s we felt that a more elegant solution would be to scrape Wikipedia for GDP on the countries we needed, and while we were at it may as well scrape information from Wikipedia on our billionaires that may seem useful. Eventually we needed to abandon this approach due to Wikipedia’s ambiguity, wherein if multiple pages have the same name, the URL of the page changes slightly. Due to not having a way to easily update the url’s to exactly what we needed we changed tactics.

We now began to use google search, in order to find the top link for a given country/billionaire. And while this brute force method technically works, it would take hours to complete.

In the end in order to be able to submit the project in a timely manner we decided to scrap the idea of scraping for billionaire info from Wikipedia and only find general GDP data from google for the countries missing GDP.

Once we appended the newly scraped data we were able to return to the “Load” section of our project, and this time there were no errors.