



Technical Phone Screen Questions

Data Description

production.publications

Aa id	≡ subdomain	📅 created_at	≡ country	# author_id
1	barrys Buddies	@July 25, 2020 7:13 AM	US	3
2	sendmetomars	@July 1, 2020 1:14 AM	US	1
3	willyswonders	@July 2, 2020 4:17 PM	GB	2

The `production.publications` table keeps track of every Substack newsletter that is created. It has a reference to a user (`publications.users`) who is the primary author of the publication via `author_id`.

production.users

Aa id	≡ name	≡ email	📅 created_at	≡ country
1	Emon Tusk	emon@example.com	@June 16, 2020 1:14 PM (EDT)	US
2	Will Gates	william@microsoft.com	@June 25, 2020 10:07 AM (EDT)	US
3	Barry Gage	bg@google.com	@June 30, 2020 12:23 PM (EDT)	US
4	Geoff Beesoz	geoff@amazon.com	@July 5, 2020 5:33 AM (EDT)	US

The `production.users` table keeps track of all users that we know about at Substack. A `User` basically represents an email address, and a user can go on to subscribe to publications, author a publication, or both.

production.subscriptions

Aa id	# publication_id	# user_id	📅 created_at	📅 expires_at	☑ email_disabled	≡ type
1	2	3	@July 1, 2020 12:23 AM (EDT)	@August 1, 2020 12:23 AM (EDT)	<input type="checkbox"/>	comp
2	2	2	@July 29, 2020 11:08 AM (EDT)	@August 29, 2020 11:08 AM (EDT)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	3	2	@July 29, 2020 1:43 PM (EDT)	@July 29, 2021 1:43 PM (EDT)	<input type="checkbox"/>	gift
4	3	1	@August 2, 2020 12:21 PM (EDT)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5	2	1	@July 27, 2020 7:11 AM (EDT)	@August 3, 2022 7:11 AM (EDT)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	1	1	@July 26, 2020 9:16 PM (EDT)	@August 26, 2020 9:16 PM (EDT)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
...					<input type="checkbox"/>	

In the `production.subscriptions` table, we log both free subscribers and paid subscriptions.

- A paid subscription remains paid until the subscription expires. There are three different type of paid subscribers:

- A comped subscription means that the author gave away the subscription for free and the subscription has a `type` of `comp`
- A gifted subscription means that someone else (not the person represented in this row) bought the gift for the user represented in this row and the subscription has a `type` of `gift`
- A paying subscription is any subscription that is not a gifted or comped subscription
- A Free subscription either does not have an `expires_at` date set or was a paid subscription that has now expired. However, if a free subscription disables email from a publication, then that user is effectively unsubscribed from that publication.
- Authors are automatically subscribed to their own publication but should NOT be included in any subscription/subscriber counts.
- **Notes:**
 - Blank cells should be treated as `NULL` and not empty string or anything tricky
 - The checkboxes are represent boolean `TRUE / FALSE` values in the database (i.e., checked = `TRUE`)

events.user_subscribed

Aa id	# publication_id	# user_id	📅 timestamp
<u>1</u>	2	3	@July 1, 2020 2:07 AM
<u>2</u>	1	1	@July 26, 2020 2:10 PM
...			

In the `events.user_subscribed` table, we track an event (a row) that we fire after we finish making the API call to create a subscription.

events.user_unsubscribed

Aa id	# publication_id	# user_id	📅 timestamp	☰ unsubscribe_reason
<u>1</u>	1	1	@August 1, 2020 4:15 AM	too_expensive
<u>2</u>	1	2	@August 4, 2020 12:00 AM	
...				

In the `events.user_unsubscribed` table, we track an event (a row) that we fire after we finish making the API call to cancel or remove a subscription. You may assume that once a user unsubscribes, the user *never* resubscribes to that publication.

Assignment

For questions 1 and 2, use the `production` tables. For questions 3 and 4, use the `events` tables.

1. How many publications are created per day?
2. For each publication (by subdomain):

- a. As of **today**, how many paid and free subscriptions are there?
 - i. *The output should be → 1 row per pub w/ 3 columns*
- b. Now, adjust query to split out these columns:
 - total_email_list (free + paid)
 - paying_subscription
 - comped_subscriptions
 - gifted_subscriptions
 - i. *The output should be → 1 row per pub w/ 5 columns*
3. For each publication, what is the percentage change in the number of new subscriptions each week?
 - For example, pretend publication X had 10 subscriptions this week and 8 subscriptions in the week prior. Then publication X had a 25% week-over-week (**Wow**) increase in subscriptions.
4. For each publication, what is the total number of subscribers on any given day?
 - The output should be a table with 3 columns, corresponding to 1 row per day per pub and the total subscriber count on that day.