

SI 206 PROJECT 2 REPORT

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Problem A

The current system of accountability for short-term rentals in San Francisco has some shortcomings. While the requirement for listers to register with the city's planning office and display the business license number on Airbnb's website is a step in the right direction, there are challenges with enforcing and validating these policy numbers. Additionally, the system relies on third parties to register complaints of illegal short-term rentals, which may not be sufficient to ensure full accountability. Possible changes to improve accountability in this system could include:

- **Enhanced Verification by Airbnb:** Airbnb could implement more robust verification processes for listers, such as verifying business license numbers directly with the city's planning office before allowing listings to be published. This would reduce the risk of fraudulent or unregistered listings.
- **Increased Monitoring:** The San Francisco Planning Office (SFPO) could implement more proactive monitoring of Airbnb listings to identify non-compliant properties. They could collaborate more closely with Airbnb to ensure that all listings comply with city regulations.

Problem B

An additional stakeholder that could help improve the regulation of short-term Airbnb rentals in San Francisco is neighborhood associations or community groups. These groups are impacted by the presence of short-term rentals in their neighborhoods and can play a role in advocating for responsible hosting practices. Actions or changes in behavior that community groups could implement include:

- **Community Outreach:** Community groups can engage with Airbnb hosts and encourage them to be responsible and considerate neighbors. They can provide information on local regulations and guidelines for hosting.
- **Advocacy for Local Regulations:** These groups can advocate for stronger local regulations that address the concerns of residents regarding noise, safety, and the impact of short-term rentals on the availability of housing.

Problem C

The Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA) is something that you have to consider when using web scraping in the US. The CFAA is a federal law that has been used in some cases to prosecute individuals or organizations for unauthorized access to websites or computer applications. However, what constitutes "unauthorized access" can be subjective and has led to legal uncertainty around web scraping.

Problem D

When deciding whether to scrape public data, here are two guidelines to consider:

1. **Respect Privacy Rights:** Ensure that the data being scraped does not contain sensitive personal data. Even with public data, you need to take into account protecting individuals' privacy.
2. **Transparency and Consent:** If scraping data that involves individuals, provide clear information about data collection and obtain consent when necessary. Transparency and informed consent help maintain trust and respect for individuals' rights.

These guidelines help balance the importance of open access to information with the need to protect individuals' privacy and maintain ethical standards in web scraping activities.