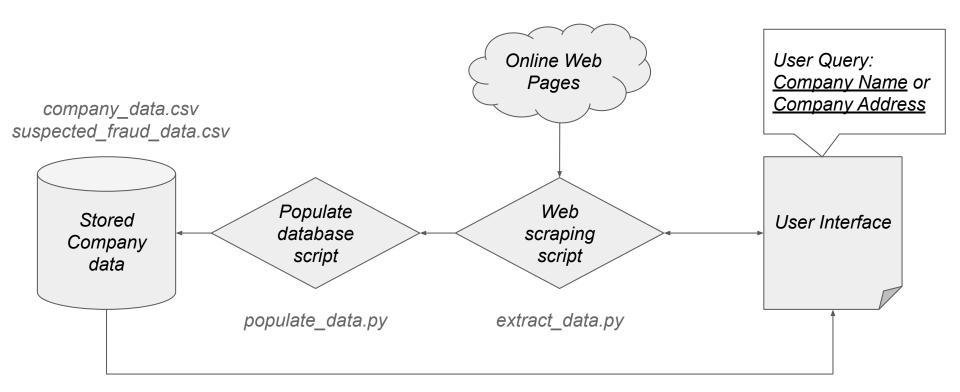


System Overview

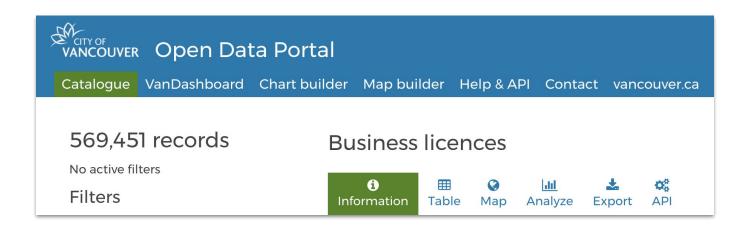


Data Scraping

- Three main data sources used
 - Two for company information
 - One for red flag detection
- All data sources extracted **follow** the websites' **terms and conditions**
 - Some sites that we would have liked to use otherwise specifically state in their terms of use that web scraping is <u>not</u> permitted, such as https://beta.canadasbusinessregistries.ca
- Variety of scraping methods used to extract data including Selenium,
 BeautifulSoup, GET Requests
- Data formats parsed included JSON and XML
- Missing data is displayed as "Unknown" in the application

Data Source 1: City of Vancouver Open Data Portal

- Used for populating business data fields
- The sourced data is updated regularly, previous folder years are expected to remain static
- Accessed via public API



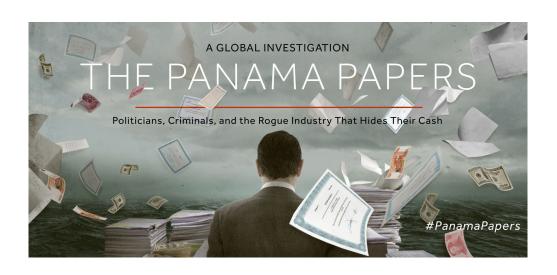
Data Source 2: Federal BN Registry

- Used for populating business data fields
- The data is updated weekly according to comments on the site
- One script automatically downloads the data in bulk as XML files
- Another script scraps the director names based on extracted company names and IDs using Selenium



Data Source 3: Offshore leaks database

- Used for **legal check** and **offshore accounts** for potential fraud detection
- Multiple sub-sources scraped, including:
 - Offshore leaks
 - Bahamas Leaks
 - Panama Papers
 - CanLII Federal
 - CanLII Provincial (BC)



Extracted Data and Storage

- Data details
 - Over 1,000,000 rows of company details exported
 - ~790,000 unique corporation IDs
 - New fields include
 - Business numbers
 - Addresses for federally registered companies
 - Aliases
 - Directors
- Storage system
 - Currently using a series of csv files
 - Future plan is to migrate to database



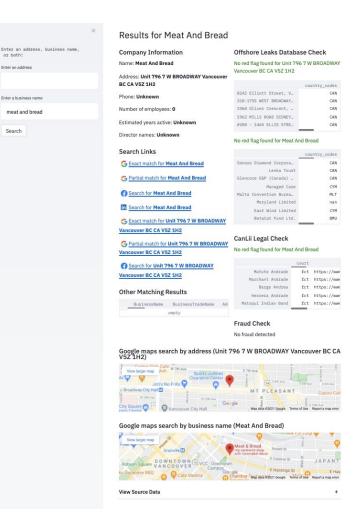
Data analysis

- Fraud detection algorithms:
 - Word similarity comparisons (Levenshtein distance)
 - Business number validation
- Fraud detection reasoning:
 - Legal history with regards to bad faith
 - Multiple addresses for the same building
 - Lack of electronic paper trail
 - Mismatched addresses



User Interface

- UI is built with <u>Streamlit</u>
- Designed with the end user in mind
 - Able to search with either
 - Company address
 - Company name
 - Company name AND address
 - Easy to quickly read summary
 - Side-by-side maps for comparison
 - Displays key information
 - Includes helpful links for manual review
 - Helpful error messages
 - Fraud/Legal checks with suspicion score



Usage Instructions

- Install by following instructions on https://github.com/sbabicki/ice-cream
- Enter in business name, address, or both
- If there are multiple matches for the same address these matches will also be shown along with key characteristics
- Matches for related companies and individuals (the latter yet to be implemented) that have a higher likelihood of bad faith actions

Ethical Implications

- Bias concerns, the following minorities may be targeted disproportionately:
 - **Immigrants** may not be familiar with Canadian regulations
 - **Technologically illiterate** lower online presence
 - Lack of resources not enough resources to pay to advertise or set up online presence
 - **Type of business** certain types businesses will have less of an online presence
 - Legal records relying heavily on past behaviour to predict future behaviour
- Potential ethical concerns for our product:
 - Providing legal records
 - May not otherwise be checked
 - Maps displayed for all companies
 - May lead to subconscious biases



Future plans

- Additional Feature Aspirations
 - Move data sources to database
 - Additional data sources
 - Partial string matching for address and business name lookup
 - Fuzzy matching improvement for Offshore Leaks DB
 - Search by director name
 - Automated fraud detection score based on company characteristics
 - Link for viewing matching data result
 - API integration with app
- We are confident that with slightly more time we could implement many of these features!

Questions for us?

