Problem:

The problem is being able to predict which customers are likely to stop using the services of a telecom company given their demographics and usage of the different services being offered by that company. When a customer stops using the services of a company (i.e. they cancel their subscription), this is known as churn. So, the aim of this project is churn prediction.

Intended **beneficiaries/users**:

The intended beneficiary or user is any modern telecom company interested in being able to predict which customers they are about to lose.

Source of the dataset:

The dataset is provided/authored by IBM.

Quoting from their website: "The Telco customer churn data contains information about a fictional telco company that provided home phone and Internet services to 7043 customers in California in Q3. It indicates which customers have left, stayed, or signed up for their service."

The detailed description of this dataset can be found at:

https://community.ibm.com/community/user/businessanalytics/blogs/steven-macko/2019/07/11/telco-customer-churn-1113

The URL for downloading this dataset is:

https://community.ibm.com/accelerators/catalog/content/Telco-customer-churn

Dataset profile:

There are a total of 7043 entries (rows) in the dataset.

There are a total of 33 columns in the dataset

The number of non-null items in each column, along with its data type is provided below:

RangeIndex: 7043 entries, 0 to 7042 Data columns (total 33 columns):

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	CustomerID	7043 non-null	object
1	Count	7043 non-null	int64
2	Country	7043 non-null	object
3	State	7043 non-null	object
4	City	7043 non-null	object
5	Zip Code	7043 non-null	int64
6	Lat Long	7043 non-null	object
7	Latitude	7043 non-null	float64
8	Longitude	7043 non-null	float64
9	Gender	7043 non-null	object
10	Senior Citizen	7043 non-null	object

11	Partner	7043 non-null	object
12	Dependents	7043 non-null	object
13	Tenure Months	7043 non-null	int64
14	Phone Service	7043 non-null	object
15	Multiple Lines	7043 non-null	object
16	Internet Service	7043 non-null	object
17	Online Security	7043 non-null	object
18	Online Backup	7043 non-null	object
19	Device Protection	7043 non-null	object
20	Tech Support	7043 non-null	object
21	Streaming TV	7043 non-null	object
22	Streaming Movies	7043 non-null	object
23	Contract	7043 non-null	object
24	Paperless Billing	7043 non-null	object
25	Payment Method	7043 non-null	object
26	Monthly Charges	7043 non-null	float64
27	Total Charges	7032 non-null	object
28	Churn Label	7043 non-null	object
29	Churn Value	7043 non-null	int64
30	Churn Score	7043 non-null	int64
31	CLTV	7043 non-null	int64
32	Churn Reason	1869 non-null	object

We can notice that most of the missing data seems to be in the "Churn Reason" column and some missing data is in the "Total Charges" column.

Using information from the IBM website (URL given above), a small description of each column and the possible values (for categorical data) in the dataset is provided below:

<u>CustomerID</u>: A unique ID that identifies each customer.

Count: A value used in reporting/dashboarding to sum up the number of customers in a filtered set.

Country: The country of the customer's primary residence.

State: The state of the customer's primary residence.

City: The city of the customer's primary residence.

<u>Zip Code</u>: The zip code of the customer's primary residence.

<u>Lat Long</u>: The combined latitude and longitude of the customer's primary residence.

<u>Latitude</u>: The latitude of the customer's primary residence.

Longitude: The longitude of the customer's primary residence.

Gender: The customer's gender: *Male*, *Female*

Senior Citizen: Indicates if the customer is 65 or older: *Yes*, *No*

Partner: Indicates if the customer is married: Yes, No

<u>Dependents</u>: Indicates if the customer lives with any dependents: *Yes*, *No*. Dependents could be children, parents, grandparents, etc.

Tenure Months: Indicates the total amount of months that the customer has been with the company by the end of the quarter specified above.

Phone Service: Indicates if the customer subscribes to home phone service with the company: *Yes*, *No*

<u>Multiple Lines</u>: Indicates if the customer subscribes to multiple telephone lines with the company: *Yes*, *No*

Internet Service: Indicates if the customer subscribes to Internet service with the company: *No*, *DSL*, *Fiber Optic*, *Cable*.

<u>Online Security</u>: Indicates if the customer subscribes to an additional online security service provided by the company: *Yes*, *No*

Online Backup: Indicates if the customer subscribes to an additional online backup service provided by the company: *Yes*, *No*

<u>Device Protection</u>: Indicates if the customer subscribes to an additional device protection plan for their Internet equipment provided by the company: *Yes*, *No*

<u>Tech Support</u>: Indicates if the customer subscribes to an additional technical support plan from the company with reduced wait times: *Yes*, *No*

Streaming TV: Indicates if the customer uses their Internet service to stream television programing from a third party provider: *Yes*, *No*. The company does not charge an additional fee for this service.

Streaming Movies: Indicates if the customer uses their Internet service to stream movies from a third party provider: *Yes*, *No*. The company does not charge an additional fee for this service.

Contract: Indicates the customer's current contract type: *Month-to-Month*, *One Year*, *Two Year*.

Paperless Billing: Indicates if the customer has chosen paperless billing: Yes, No

Payment Method: Indicates how the customer pays their bill: *Bank Withdrawal*, *Credit Card*, *Mailed Check*

Monthly Charge: Indicates the customer's current total monthly charge for all their services from the company.

<u>Total Charges</u>: Indicates the customer's total charges, calculated to the end of the quarter specified above.

Churn Label: *Yes* = the customer left the company this quarter. *No* = the customer remained with the company. Directly related to Churn Value.

Churn Value: 1 = the customer left the company this quarter. 0 = the customer remained with the company. Directly related to Churn Label.

<u>Churn Score</u>: A value from 0-100 that is calculated using the predictive tool IBM SPSS Modeler. The model incorporates multiple factors known to cause churn. The higher the score, the more likely the customer will churn.

<u>CLTV</u>: Customer Lifetime Value. A predicted CLTV is calculated using corporate formulas and existing data. The higher the value, the more valuable the customer. High value customers should be monitored for churn.

Churn Reason: A customer's *specific reason* for leaving the company. Directly related to Churn Category.

NOTE: It is worth mentioning that IBM seems to have added two additional columns based on the predictive modelling performed by one of their tools. These two columns are: "Churn Score" and "CLTV". Because our aim is also to perform predictive analytics, hence, we will need to drop these two columns before doing any more work on this dataset. Similarly, the "Count" column, as explained above, seems to be useful only for use with IBM's internal tools. Thus, we will ignore it too.

The value name and its count for every column name (except CustomerID, Latitude, Longitude, Zip Code, Tenure Months, Monthly Charges, Total Charges) are given below:

Column Name: **Country** United States 7043

Column Name: **State** California 7043

Column Name: City	
Los Angeles	305
San Diego	150
San Jose	112
Sacramento	108
San Francisco	104
Fresno	64
Long Beach	60
Oakland	52
Stockton	44
Bakersfield	40
Glendale	40
Riverside	32
Berkeley	32
Whittier	30
Pasadena	30
Santa Barbara	28
Anaheim	28
San Bernardino	28
Modesto	28
Irvine	28
Santa Monica	25
Torrance	25
Burbank	25
Chula Vista	25
Inglewood	25
Santa Ana	24
Santa Rosa	24
Rancho Cucamonga	20
Escondido	20
Salinas	20
Van Nuys	20
Garden Grove	20
North Hollywood	20
Orange	20
Corona	20
Huntington Beach	16
Palmdale	16
Newport Beach	16
Moreno Valley	16
Santa Cruz	16
Palo Alto	16
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San Mateo	16
Concord	16
Fremont	16
Hayward	16
Vallejo	16
Fullerton	16
Redwood City	16
Beverly Hills	15
Gardena	15
Downey	15
Oceanside	15
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Compton	
El Cajon	15
Lakewood	15
Ontario	15
Covina	15
West Covina	15
Pomona	15
Los Gatos	12
Novato	12
Roseville	12
Chico	12
Hemet	12
Oxnard	12
Ventura	12
Santa Clara	12
Santa Maria	12
Richmond	12
Visalia	12
Redding	12
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Temecula	12
Walnut Creek	12
San Leandro	12
Lancaster	12
Fontana	12
Sun City	12
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Sunnyvale	
Mountain View	12
San Gabriel	10
Carlsbad	10
Vista	10
San Marcos	10
Twentynine Palms	10
Redondo Beach	10
Monterey Park	10
Sherman Oaks	10
Northridge	10
Buena Park	10
Malibu	10

Culver City	10
Canoga Park	10
Woodland Hills	10
El Monte	10
La Puente	10
Carson	10
Alhambra	10
Encino	10
Palm Desert	10
Palm Springs	10
La Mesa	10
Glendora	10
Valencia	10
Spring Valley	10
Arcadia	10
Rancho Santa Fe	
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Desert Hot Springs	10
Apple Valley	10
Thousand Oaks	10
Indio	10
Upland	10
San Pedro	10
Auburn	8
Pleasanton	8
Rocklin	8
Lake Elsinore	8
San Rafael	8
Costa Mesa	8
Tustin	8
Frazier Park	8
Napa	8
Castro Valley	8
Mission Viejo	8
Simi Valley	8
Daly City	8
Los Altos	8
San Clemente	8
	8
Davis	
Lodi	8
Manteca	8
Camarillo	8
Madera	8
Danville	8
Merced	8
Eureka	8
West Sacramento	8
Citrus Heights	8
Woodland	8
Yuba City	8

Oroville	8
Grass Valley	8
Rancho Cordova	8
Alameda	8
Elk Grove	8
Clovis	8
Petaluma	8
Turlock	8
San Jacinto	8
Vacaville	8
Rialto	8
Murrieta	8
Lompoc	8
Brea	8
San Luis Obispo	8
Redlands	8
Yorba Linda	8
Perris	8
Victorville	8
Reseda	
Granada Hills	5 5
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Cabazon	5
Sylmar	5 5
Westlake Village	5
Pacoima	5
Porter Ranch	5
Beaumont	5
Newhall	5 5
Agoura Hills	5
Sunland	5 5
Canyon Country	
Claremont	5
Calipatria	5
Chino	5
El Centro	5
Walnut	5
Altadena	5
Dulzura	5
Jamul	5
Bonsall	5
Cardiff By The Sea	5
Encinitas	5
South Pasadena	5
Bellflower	5
Seal Beach	5
Lomita	5
Sunset Beach	5
Santa Fe Springs	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
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Lawndale	5
Harbor City	5
Morongo Valley	5 5
Monrovia	5
West Hollywood	5
Borrego Springs	5 5
Hawaiian Gardens	5
Paramount	5
La Canada Flintridge	5
Winnetka	5
Mount Laguna	5
San Fernando	5
North Hills	5
Hawthorne	5
Hermosa Beach	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
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Pacific Palisades	5
Montclair	5
Poway	5 5 5
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Stanton	5
Ramona	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
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Coronado	5
Bell	5
Santee	5
Jacumba	5
Studio City	5
Baldwin Park	5
Boulevard	5
Los Alamitos	5
Chino Hills	5
La Verne	
Mt Baldy	5
Diamond Bar	5
Temple City	5
Descanso	5
Lemon Grove	5
National City	5
Pine Valley	5
Potrero	5
Tecate	5
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Maywood	5
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Fort Irwin	4
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La Honda	4
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Montara	4
Moss Beach	4
Pacifica	4
San Carlos	4
San Gregorio	4
Stanford	4
Gerber	4
Alamo	4
Benicia	4
Bethel Island	4
Lakeshore	4
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Fish Camp	4
Junction City	
Firebaugh	4
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San Ardo	4
San Miguel	4
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Santa Ynez	4
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Bishop	4
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Lookout	4
Del Rey	4
Dos Palos	4
Villa Park	4
Calimesa	4
Loomis	4
Folsom	4
Rio Dell	4
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Smith River	4
Somes Bar	4
Trinidad	4
Whitethorn	4
Amador City	4
Carmichael	4
Diamond Springs	4
Dixon	4
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Elmira	4
Greenwood	4
Loleta	4
Jackson	4
Knights Landing	4
Madison	4
Orangevale	4
Penryn	4
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Plymouth	4
Rio Linda	4
Sheridan	4
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Sloughhouse	4
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Witter Springs	4
Alderpoint	4
Mckinleyville	4
Bayside	4
Blue Lake	4
Bridgeville	4
Crescent City	4
Ferndale	4
Winters	4
Meadow Vista	4
Mi Wuk Village	4
Topaz	4
Round Mountain	4
Seiad Valley	4
Shasta	4
Vina	4
Alturas	4
Davis Creek	4
Fort Bidwell	4
Lake City	4
Likely	4
Portola	4
Ravendale	4
Homewood	4
Nubieber	4
Tahoma	4
Tahoe City	4
South Lake Tahoe	4
Truckee	4
Baker	4
Cedar Glen	4
Colton	4
Fawnskin	4
Mentone	4
Sugarloaf	4
Anza	4
Palo Cedro	4
Lewiston	4
Soda Springs	4
Strawberry Valley	4
Antelope	4
Arbuckle	4
Bangor	4
Canyon Dam	4
Challenge	4
Dobbins	4
Dunnigan	4
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Forest Ranch	4	
Magalia	4	
Nevada City	4	
Princeton	4	
Twain	4	
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Lakehead		
Anderson	4	
Big Bend	4	
Callahan	4	
Corning	4	
Cottonwood	4	
Douglas City	4	
Fall River Mills	4	
Fort Jones	4	
Hayfork	4	
Igo	4	
Klamath River	4	
Oakdale	4	
Mariposa	4	
Hood	4	
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Lemon Cove	4	
Lindsay	4	
Maricopa	4	
Onyx	4	
Posey	4	
Shafter	4	
Tipton	4	
Wofford Heights	4	
Los Alamos	4	
Oceano	4	
Pismo Beach	4	
Johannesburg	4	
Huron	4	
Keene	4	
Pearblossom	4	
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Bass Lake	4	
Biola	4	
Five Points	4	
Friant	4	
Kerman	4	
Mendota	4	
Kernville	4	
Fellows	4	
Orosi	4	
Idyllwild	4	
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Crestline	4	
Daggett	4	
Ludlow	4	
Lucerne Valley	4	
Lytle Creek	4	
Phelan	4	
Running Springs	. 4	
Tecopa	4	
Wrightwood	4	
March Air Reserve	Base	4
Homeland	4	
Lake Forest	4	
Exeter	4	
Norco	4	
Port Hueneme	4	
Summerland	4	
	4	
Alpaugh		
Armona	4	
Avenal	4	
Bodfish	4	
Camp Nelson	4	
Coalinga	4	
Delano	4	
Earlimart	4	
Miramonte	4	
San Joaquin	4	
Long Barn	4	
Freedom	4	
Forest Knolls	4	
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Larkspur	4	
Marshall	4	
Nicasio	4	
San Anselmo	4	
Sausalito	4	
Tomales	4	
Valley Ford	4	
Alviso	4	
Boulder Creek	4	
Davenport	4	
Gilroy	4	
Bodega Bay	4	
San Martin	4	
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Acampo	4	
Glencoe	-	
Linden	4	
Valley Springs	4	
West Point	4	
Atwater	4	
Big Oak Flat	4	

Calambia	4
Columbia	4
Delhi	4
Hickman	4
Cotati	4
Greenbrae	4
Selma	4
Loma Mar	4
South Dos Palos	4
Tollhouse	4
Squaw Valley	4
Big Sur	4
	4
Carmel	-
Jolon	4
King City	4
Lockwood	4
Marina	4
Pebble Beach	4
Belmont	4
Pescadero	4
Albany	4
San Bruno	4
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South San Francisc	
Antioch	4
Birds Landing	4
Byron	4
Livermore	4
Martinez	4
Pinole	4
San Lorenzo	4
San Ramon	4
Union City	4
Nuevo	4
Foothill Ranch	4
Corona Del Mar	4
Ojai	4
Big Bear City	4
Bloomington	4
Green Valley Lake	4
Hinkley	4
Newberry Springs	4
Oro Grande	4
Silverado	4
Rancho Santa Marg	
Ladera Ranch	4
Placentia	4
	4
Carpinteria	
Somis	4
Westwood	4
Ducor	4

Lemoore 4
Porterville 4
Sequoia National Park 4
Strathmore 4
Wasco 4
Woody 4
Casmalia 4
Guadalupe 4
Boron 4
Edwards 4
Tahoe Vista 4
Sierraville 4
Valyermo 4
Burney 4
Clipper Mills 4
Colusa 4
Downieville 4
Grimes 4
Palermo 4
Quincy 4
Rough And Ready 4
Sutter 4
Willows 4
Adin 4
Bieber 4
Dorris 4
Sierra City 4
Mineral 4
Montague 4
Oak Run 4
Old Station 4
Paskenta 4
Red Bluff 4
Weaverville 4
Whitmore 4
Blairsden Graeagle 4
Doyle 4
Eagleville 4
Lake Hughes 4
Ahwahnee 4
Dana Point 4
Elk 4
Wallace 4
Crows Landing 4
Gustine 4
Hughson 4
La Grange 4
Lathrop 4
Pinecrest 4

Stevinson	4
Vernalis	4
Winton	4
Cobb	4
Glen Ellen	4
Lockeford	4
Mendocino	4
Redwood Valley	4
Sonoma	4
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Fields Landing	4
Ноора	4
Myers Flat	4
Samoa	4
Zenia	4
Clarksburg	4
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Fair Oaks	. 4
Galt	4
Murphys	4
French Camp	4
Big Creek	4
Pittsburg	4
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Helm	4
Kingsburg	4
Parlier	4
Sanger	4
Shaver Lake	4
Pacific Grove	4
	4
Seaside	•
Half Moon Bay	4
Millbrae	4
Calistoga	4
Lafayette	4
Port Costa	4
Clements	4
Rio Vista	4
San Pablo	4
Bolinas	4
Corte Madera	4
Point Reyes Station	1 4
Capitola	4
	4
Cupertino	
Milpitas	4
Morgan Hill	4
Arnold	4
Campo Seco	4
Camptonville	4
Butte City	4
Beale Afb	4
Pleasant Hill	4

Hume	4
North Fork	4
Oakhurst	4
Prather	4
Tranquillity	4
Traver	4
Carmel Valley	4
San Lucas	4
Brisbane	4
Burlingame	4
Atherton	4
Crockett	4
	4
Dunlap	4
Fairfield	-
Travis Afb	4
Moraga	4
Orinda	4
Pope Valley	4
Dublin	4
Rodeo	4
Saint Helena	4
Deer Park	4
Sunol	4
Emeryville	4
Fowler	4
Dinuba	4
Granite Bay	4
Los Osos	4
Midway City	4
Newport Coast	4
Trabuco Canyon	4
Moorpark	4
Oak View	4
Piru	4
Santa Paula	4
Buttonwillow	4
Mc Kittrick	4
Taft	4
Terra Bella	4
Bradley	4
Cutler	4
Buellton	4
Morro Bay	4
Nipomo	4
Templeton	4
Benton	4
Independence	4
Inyokern	4
Lee Vining	4

Rosamond	4
Tehachapi	4
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Cantua Creek	4
El Sobrante	4
Inverness	4
Mill Valley	4
Mather	4
Klamath	4
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Piercy	4
Brooks	4
El Dorado	4
Elverta	4
Garden Valley	4
Grizzly Flats	4
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Guinda	4
Herald	4
Isleton	4
Lotus	4
Newcastle	4
	4
Stinson Beach	•
Nicolaus	4
Pilot Hill	4
Pine Grove	4
Rio Oso	4
Thornton	4
	4
Applegate	
Camino	4
Dutch Flat	4
Echo Lake	4
Pollock Pines	4
Weimar	4
Hydesville	4
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Gasquet	4
The Sea Ranch	4
Westport	4
Aromas	4
Moss Landing	4
San Juan Bautista	4
Angels Camp	4
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Avery	4
Hathaway Pines	4
Mountain Ranch	4
Sheep Ranch	4
Vallecito	4
Ballico	4
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Catheys Valley	4
Newman	4
Patterson	4
Planada	4

Soulsbyville 4
Waterford 4
Clearlake Oaks 4
Covelo 4
Guerneville 4
Healdsburg 4
Jenner 4
Philo 4
Point Arena 4
Olympic Valley 4

Column Name: **Gender** Male 3555 Female 3488

Column Name: Senior Citizen

No 5901 Yes 1142

Column Name: Partner

No 3641 Yes 3402

Column Name: **Dependents**

No 5416 Yes 1627

Column Name: Phone Service

Yes 6361 No 682 Column Name: Multiple Lines

No 3390 Yes 2971 No phone service 682

Column Name: Internet Service

Fiber optic 3096 DSL 2421 No 1526

Column Name: Online Security

No 3498 Yes 2019 No internet service 1526

Column Name: Online Backup

No 3088 Yes 2429 No internet service 1526

Column Name: **Device Protection**

No 3095 Yes 2422 No internet service 1526

Column Name: **Tech Support**

No 3473 Yes 2044 No internet service 1526

Column Name: **Streaming TV**

No 2810 Yes 2707 No internet service 1526 Column Name: Streaming Movies

No 2785 Yes 2732 No internet service 1526

Column Name: **Contract**Month-to-month 3875
Two year 1695
One year 1473

Column Name: Paperless Billing

Yes 4171 No 2872

Column Name: **Payment Method**Electronic check 2365
Mailed check 1612
Bank transfer (automatic) 1544
Credit card (automatic) 1522

Column Name: Churn Label

No 5174 Yes 1869

Column Name: Churn Reason

192
189
162
154
140
135
130
103
102
98
89
88
57
53
44

Long distance charges	44
Lack of affordable download/upload speed	44
Poor expertise of phone support	20
Poor expertise of online support	19
Deceased	6

For the numerical data columns (Tenure Months, Monthly Charges, Total Charges), the minimum, maximum, mean, and median of each of these columns, respectively, are:

feature_name	feature_min	feature_max	feature_mean	feature_median
Tenure Months	0	72	32.37114865824223	29.0

feature_name	feature_min	feature_max	feature_mean	feature_median
Monthly Charges	18.25	118.75	64.76169246059918	70.35

feature_name	feature_min	feature_max	feature_mean	feature_median
Total Charges	18.8	8684.8	2283.3004408418656	1397.475

<u>Three examples</u> from the dataset (the first three rows) are ('\' denotes that row is continued on the next line):

0 1	CustomerID 3668-QPYBK 9237-HQITU 9305-CDSKO	X 1 Uni 1 Uni	Country ited States ited States ited States		City Los Angeles Los Angeles Los Angeles	Zip Code \ 90003 90005 90006
Row 0 1 2	Lat Lat 133.964131, -1 34.059281, -1 34.048013, -1	18.272783 18.30742	Latitude 33.964131 34.059281 34.048013	Longitude -118.272783 -118.307420 -118.293953	Gender Male Female Female	Senior Citizen \ No No No No
0 N 1 N	Partner Depen No No No Yes No Yes	dents Tenure I 2 2 8	Y	Service es es es	Multiple Line No No Yes	es \
Row In 0 1 2	nternet Service DSL Fiber optic Fiber optic	e Online Yes No No	e Security	Online Backu Yes No No	p Devic No No Yes	e Protection \
Row T 0 1 2	Tech Support No No No	Streaming TV No No Yes	V Stream No No Yes	ning Movies	Contract \ Month-to-mo Month-to-mo Month-to-mo	onth
Row P 0 1 2	Paperless Billir Yes Yes Yes	Maile Electr	nt Method d check onic check onic check	Month 53.85 70.70 99.65	nly Charges	Total Charges \ 108.15 151.65 820.50
0 1	Churn Label C Yes Yes Yes	Churn Value 1 1 1	Churn Score 86 67 86	CLTV 3239 2701 5372	Churn Reaso Competitor r Moved Moved	on nade better offer

The <u>classifier</u> I'd very likely use is: *Support Vector Machine* I might also try the Random Forest classifier, but I am not sure about it right now.