80 WANT ANSWERS

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QUESTION STATS

Views	13,473
Alias	1
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Edits	

Why hasn't anyone built any products on top of Craigslist data?

Is it a matter of Craigslist policy not letting people use the data?

Want Answers 80   Comment Share Downvote

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10 ANSWERS   **ASK TO ANSWER**

Kenneth Walton, COO & Co-founder, KlickNation (social... (more)
44 upvotes by George Tang, Yishan Wong, Keith Rabois, (more)

Craigslist is notorious for stopping mashups of its site. It's allowed some, but there are plenty of examples of it sending scary cease and desist letters to hobbyists and teenagers who've devised clever re-uses of craigslist postings. The inconsistency and ham-fisted legal attacks have created a chilling effect, stifling the growth of what should be a much more robust CL developer scene. The site has no API and seemingly no interest in building one, so anyone who builds something on top of craigslist data is taking his chances.

http://www.craigslittlebuddy.com/
http://www.lizardrobot.com/?cat=13
http://www.craigsly.com
http://www.google.com/search?hl=...

CL claims to allow non-commercial use of their RSS feeds, but there are plenty of examples of them stopping this too.
http://romy.posterous.com/dont-b...

It's an unusual little company.

Updated 9 Sep, 2010. 7,895 views.

Upvote 44   Downvote Comments 1+   Share

> **George Tang**
> fascinating, and very strange i agree
> Cannot add reply. Remove Anonymity • Upvote • Downvote • Share • Report • 18 May, 2010
>
> > **Toli Kuznets**: This is absolutely true - I've read p...

Brian Wang, Co-Founder of Fitocracy, the fitness ... (more)
12 upvotes by Devabhaktuni Srikrishna, Ned Rockson, George Kellerman, (more)

http://www.padmapper.com/   comes to mind.

Written 18 May, 2010. 4,166 views.

Upvote 12   Downvote Comment 1   Share

> **Aaron Kavlie** 2 votes (show)
> Indeed, it does... because it's now prohibited from showing Craigslist apartment listings. http://blog.padmapper.com/2012/0...
> Cannot add reply. Remove Anonymity • Upvote • Downvote • Share • Report • 23

RELATED QUESTIONS

Why hasn't anyone built a federated Q&A/FAQ/Comment site, similar to Quora?

If Craigslist had an open API, what would people build on top of it?

Why hasn't another product disrupted and replaced Craigslist?

Why hasn't a company directly replaced craigslist?

Can a business be built on top of Foursquare yet?

Is there any data that shows how much commerce happens on craigslist annually in the U.S.? # of transactions? Globally?

Why hasn't there been serious competition to Craigslist's gigs section for one time local jobs like movers, house painters... (continue)

Why doesn't Craigslist open its API?

Why hasn't anyone tried to disrupt Gartner model?

Can anyone provide any startup ideas that can be built on a web platform or as a product?

More Related Questions

Jun, 2012

Greg Kidd, 3taps.com Founder, Craiggers.com back... (more)
14 upvotes by Mike Melanson, Ivan Zhao, Ezekiel Templin, (more)

Actually, given Craig's assertion that "Actually, we take issue with only services which consume a lot of bandwidth, it's that simple," 3taps set out to un-fence the data in a matter that meets Craig's standard. One example of the resulting possibilities has just launched and been reviewed on the ReadWrite Web:

http://readwrite.com/2011/05/02/...

Updated 14 Jul, 2013. 3,345 views.

Upvote **14**   Downvote Comment Share

Craig Newmark, Customer Service Rep & Founder
59 upvotes by June Lin, Ludi Rehak, Adam Bossy, (more)

Actually, we take issue with only services which consume a lot of bandwidth, it's that simple.

Written 14 Jul, 2010. 4,754 views.

Upvote **59**   Downvote Comments **6+**   Share

Ed Gutierrez 16 votes (show)
Was pad mapper consuming excess bandwidth? It's such a great service for apartment hunters, and it makes craigslist rental listings so much more valuable for advertisers, it's unfortunate that you shut it down. Can you foresee allowing them to come back on line?

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Ryan Lackey 6 votes (show)
What if someone offered to pay for ALL of your bandwidth?

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James Hritz 3 votes (show)
What if a company offered to pay your additional bandwidth costs?

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Craig Newmark
James, just think about that for a moment; like, how would one measure that? How would one pay for the time thinking about it and figuring out what to do? Remember, we're driven by the general community, and that's always the highest priority. Thanks!

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James Hritz
Just wondering. Thanks.

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Adam Bossy
Doesn't the fact that many people have created products on top of Craigslist indicate a demand among the general community?

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Craig Newmark
Adam, think about it, a few very developers, who want to offer a service, maybe for profit, vs. fifty million users per month. They tell us to keep the site fast, fight spam, etc.

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Adam Bossy
I see, thanks!

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Downvote • Share • Report • 14 Jul, 2010

Dror Shimshowitz
Craig, have you considered the potential for lots of
new users who could be added to the community via
3rd-party apps/UIs? A great example is AirBnB
making space rentals much easier to navigate (in
addition to better enabling the transaction with
reputation and payment services).

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Downvote • Share • Report • 14 Jul, 2010

Craig Newmark
Dror, I'd appreciate any solid info you have, real
stuff, and if you email it to me, I'll share it with Jim
the CEO.

Cannot add reply. Remove Anonymity • Upvote •
Downvote • Share • Report • 14 Jul, 2010

Dror Shimshowitz
Will do, Craig. Thanks for participating in this forum!

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Downvote • Share • Report • 14 Jul, 2010

Craig Newmark
Thanks! I appreciate it!

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Matt Gattis 1 vote by Dan Loewenherz
Craigslist is almost all text. If you guys do 8B
pageviews/month and you're serving 3KB per page,
you can't be paying more than $25k per year in
bandwidth.

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Downvote • Share • Report • 16 Jul, 2010

Ryan Merket 1 vote by Mehul Kar
Henley, you're right scraping is bad for the overall
UX. So why not open a traditional API with built in
limit requests? What value is it offering visitors?
Have you seen Padmapper.com   ?

Cannot add reply. Remove Anonymity • Upvote •
Downvote • Share • Report • 2 Apr, 2011

Shital Shah
Is measuring bandwidth consumed by API calls that hard? CL can just
stipulate throttle on API calls (just like almost any other web service
does). When the calls/bandwidth volume goes above threshold you
ask the caller to pay for bandwidth and extra resources. If you don't
have those extra resources at the moment then you ask caller to
prepay and get on waitlist.

Alternatively, you can easily allow few official "providers" that
replicates your data and provide APIs. These providers can be for-
profit or non-profit and would take the risk of providing bandwidth,
support etc.

Here the key is the willingness to liberate the data and to support
external innovations. The CL clearly doesn't have resources and
imagination of 1000s of developers out there and to make advances in
this space it needs to enable external developers instead of squashing
them with top tier lawyers.

Cannot add reply. Remove Anonymity • Upvote • Downvote • Share •
Report • 29 Jul, 2012

Morgan Sutherland 4 votes (show)
Let us pay for access!

Cannot add reply. Remove Anonymity • Upvote • Downvote • Share • Report • 24
Jul, 2012

Robb Shecter
But don't you also restrict for the reason that a service enables cross-region
searching? AFAIK you desire the data to only be used for local-to-local queries.

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Mar, 2013

Kevin Dickson

The Padmapper angst can be abandoned now that CL has recently incorporated a
similar map. As Craig keeps saying, they do react to community input. The
Padmapper debacle really got the point across to them, and they implemented
their map in just 4 months.

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Nov, 2012

Ahniwa Ferrari, Librarians know everything.
6 upvotes by Jon Bellinger, Heidi Strom Moon, Yair Livne, (more)

There actually seem to be quite a few. You might check out these sites:

- http://craiglook.com/

- http://www.padmapper.com/

- http://www.housingmaps.com/

- http://www.searchallcraigs.com/

Lifehacker also has an excellent article on being a Craigslist power user, which
includes some methods of creating your own Craigslist widgets and custom
search engines, which may be useful to you.

- http://lifehacker.com/software/t...

Written 14 Jul, 2010. 3,955 views.

Upvote   6   Downvote   Comment   Share

Ronald Steinberg, some random truth seeker
1 upvote by Jeff Farris.

Patrick Killelea of Patrick.net   fame was "trying to add value to Craigslist by
tracking rents and prices over time, making graphs with the data, estimating
what rents should be, etc. But then they removed addresses from their RSS
feeds and started suing people"

http://patrick.net/forum/?p=1217073

Written 4 Feb, 2013. 392 views.

Upvote   1   Downvote   Comment   Share

Alexander Robertson

I just checked TagTroc Social Classifieds   and it's way better then all the web
classifieds that i saw before . It's the firts classifieds where you can chat with
seller or buyer . No more emails it's faster and it's very easy to use . You can
subscribed people to be update in what they are posting . Now the classifieds
website it's getting serious . I liked it .

Written 18 Jul, 2014. 264 views.

Upvote   Downvote   Comment   Share

Danik Hasher

There is service which lets you post to Craigslist and other sites and fetch
listings via unified API: https://www.listingapi.com

Written 12 Jun, 2014. 199 views.

Upvote   Downvote   Comment   Share

Jascha Wanger, Startupaholic

Also see http://mashupawards.com/category...

Written 14 Jul, 2010. 2,505 views.

Upvote　Downvote　Comment　Share

👤 **Anonymous**

http://searchdeck.appspot.com/　searches all craigslists

Written 26 May, 2012. 1,451 views.

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1 ANSWER COLLAPSED (WHY?)

These answerers have an unverified name:

👤 **Quora User**

Also see http://yourlist.com

Written 7 Feb, 2012. 27 views.

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