

# A Web of Money

## Muckrakers

<http://croctail.corpwatch.org>

Database of corporate subsidiary relationships, collected from SEC filings. Works well for most cases, but limited to publicly traded companies that file with SEC. Data acquired from SEC not always reliable; corporation naming can be problematic; some of the big obvious ones get missed.

<http://littlesis.org>

“Involuntary facebook for the rich and powerful.” Crowd-sourced data. Good for the big obvious cases.

<http://muckety.com>

“Lombardi” style charts of power and influence. Curated by journalists and vetted contributors.

<http://www.followthemoney.org>

National Institute on Money in State Politics. Collects data from politicians' disclosure files made public by state agencies. Limited to state politics.

<http://www.opensecrets.org>

Center for Responsive Politics. Data on interest groups, lobbying, revolving doors, and more. No APIs, but bulk data downloads are available. Limited to national politics. Data collected from public filings.

<http://transparencydata.com>

Sunlight Foundation. Data on campaign contributions, lobbying, and grants. Bulk downloads and API. Data collected from Center for Responsive Politics, National Institute on Money in State Politics, and other sources.

<http://dbpedia.org>

Project to collect structured data from Wikipedia and turn it into searchable databases. Includes lots of financial and corporation-relevant data (corporate ownerships, reported profits, etc).

<http://developer.blippy.com/>

Capitalize on the fools who share their credit card statements with the world.

This file: <http://ur1.ca/07udr>

## Government

<http://data.gov>

A new, “one stop shop” for all the Government's online data. Bulk downloads, some apps (mostly pins on maps), and “community”. Most Popular Dataset: “US Topo 7.5-minute map for Imperial, TX”.

<http://recovery.gov>

Website dedicated to tracking TARP expenditures. No APIs, but bulk downloads available.

## Personal Finance

<http://www.mint.com>

Most popular bank aggregator. Now owned by Intuit. No API, but spreadsheets can be downloaded.

<http://quicken.intuit.com>

Alternative product offered by Intuit. Tighter integration with other Intuit products. With Intuit's blessing, apps can run on Intuit Labs (<http://intuitlabs.com>) using personal data.

<http://buxfer.com>

Competing aggregator, powered by yodlee.

<http://www.expensify.com>

Competing aggregator, focusing on the use case of expense report automation.

<http://yodlee.com>

Engine behind many aggregators, including Buxfer and Mint (at least partially). Offers wholesale APIs for accessing personal financial records.

<http://wesabe.com>

Competing, independent aggregator (does not use yodlee, but relies on apps or browser extensions to acquire data). Offers an API, but no longer documents it. Find transactions at

<http://wesabe.com/transactions.xml>

<http://www.bankofamerica.com>

Largest personal banking provider in the US. If you don't want to use a 3rd party aggregator, targeting BAC will give you the most users.

## Case studies

News :

<http://mps-expenses.guardian.co.uk>

Good example of a publication capitalizing on crowd-sourcing to get meaning out of bulk data.

Good writeup: <http://ur1.ca/65ia>

<http://ur1.ca/07u5r> (Washington Post)

Article and infographic describing conflicts of interest in congress members, based on data from the Center for Responsive Politics.

<http://bailout.propublica.org/>

Ongoing project by ProPublica to track bailout expenditures. Uses data acquired from the Treasury Dept and other government agencies.

## MIT Media Lab Research:

<http://ur1.ca/07u8y>

“Merry Miser”: a personal financial watchdog that helps you make financial decisions based on your location and financial history. Intended as an ally against advertisements and persuasive influence.

<http://grocktx.media.mit.edu/>

“GrockTX”: Project to ease the use of credit card transaction data by scraping from multiple aggregators (“aggregate the aggregators”), parsing transaction strings, and associating higher quality metadata with transactions.

<http://make-them-think.org>

“Red Ink”: Public, socially driven, community-oriented organizing around financial data, empowering groups of people to leverage their collective buying power for or against corporations.

<http://ur1.ca/07u9x> (PDF)

“Connected Consumption: the Hidden Networks of Consumption”, a collaborative interest sharing system for purchase guidance and collective buying power.