

# WHO OWNS THE INTERNET?

*Data Centres: Power, Water & People*

## **Part 1**

*Based on Business Insider investigation · Class project: Data Centres in Europe*

# Today's activity

*Go to*

<http://tiny.cc/jjl0101>

**After watching, you'll answer:**

*How confident are you in your dataset's completeness? What kinds of facilities might be systematically missing — and what proxies could you use if a direct source failed?*



Google | Maxar | Airbus | Landsat | Copernicus

# SCALE

# 1,240

**DATA CENTRES TRACKED IN THE US (END 2024)**

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*Nearly 4× the number in 2010 — and two new ones open every week.*

# WHO OWNS THEM?

**177 data centres — AMAZON**

**2nd largest — MICROSOFT**

**3rd — GOOGLE**

**4th — META**

**5th — QTS**

# "I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MUCH RESISTANCE."

*There is no official registry. No public map. No single regulator.*

**SHELL LLCs**

**TRADE-SECRET  
EXEMPTIONS**

**REDACTED PERMITS**

*Journalists filed public-records requests in all 50 states, then cross-referenced SEC filings to unmask owners.*

**THE ONE THING THEY CAN'T HIDE:**

**BACKUP GENERATORS NEED AIR-QUALITY PERMITS.**

*Every data centre needs diesel generators in case the grid fails. Those permits list capacity – and sometimes the applicant.*

***"Magellan Enterprises LLC" → Google***

# You are doing the same thing — for Europe.

**BUSINESS INSIDER**

*Air permits (US)*

**YOUR TEAM**

*DataCenterMap + EU sources*

**BOTH**

*Mandatory: operator, coords, source*

# CHUNK 1

## DISCUSS:

*How confident are you in your dataset's completeness? What kinds of facilities might be systematically missing — and what proxies could you use if a direct source failed?*

**After watching, you'll answer:**

*Which NUTS3 variables do you expect to be the strongest predictors of data centre presence in Europe — and why? Do you already see clustering in your dataset?*



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# DATA CENTER ALLEY

*Loudoun County, Virginia*

**1/3**

**OF THE PLANET'S INTERNET TRAFFIC PASSES THROUGH VIRGINIA**

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*329 tracked data centres consumed nearly a quarter of Virginia's electricity in 2023.*

# "I THOUGHT I WAS LOSING MY MIND."

— Donna Gallant, Prince William County, Virginia

*Data centres run 24/7. Cooling fans generate a constant drone. Residents report anxiety, insomnia, vibrations through walls — and children having nightmares about "a spaceship outside."*

**AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION: CHRONIC NOISE →  
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE & STRESS**

*One resident spent \$20,000 replacing windows and insulation.*

**STILL FEELS THE VIBRATIONS.**

*Amazon replaced the fans — noise dropped, vibrations remain. He logs readings twice a day. His family moved to the basement.*

→ **Rezoning is irreversible once approved.**

# Do you see similar clustering in your European NUTS3 data?

**1** *Population density (NUTS3)*

**2** *GDP per capita (NUTS3)*

**3** *Fibre / VHCN coverage (DESI)*

**4** *Tax regimes — your team's research*

# CHUNK 2

## DISCUSS:

*Which NUTS3 variables do you expect to be the strongest predictors of data centre presence in Europe – and why? Do you already see clustering in your dataset?*