

OpenCorporates Tipsheet

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opencorporates.com / [@opencorporates](#) / opencorporates.slack.com

What is OpenCorporates?

- Goal: An openly licensed database, with an entry and [Uniform Resource Identifier](#) for every company in the world.
- March 2018 – 134m companies, 127 jurisdictions (including 49 states) and we're constantly adding more!
- Massively reduces friction and time spent searching across registers and jurisdictions.
- Source and full provenance for all data.

4 key tools:

1. Powerful search
2. Corporate Groupings
3. OpenRefine Reconciliation
4. The API

Searching for companies

- If OpenCorporates doesn't have a [register](#) you're after yet, don't strike it off – branches may still provide useful leads for companies based in other jurisdictions.
- Create an account to use advanced search:
 - Search current, alternative and previous names, company numbers, registered address, and [trademarks](#).
- Filter by:
 - Jurisdiction of incorporation, data held, current status, company type, branches and nonprofits, [global industry codes](#).
- [Government gazettes](#) have been reconciled to companies.
 - An untapped resource, often indicating changes to a company months before the official register.
- Working with [OpenOwnership](#) to add [beneficial ownership](#) data:

- UK data revealed 3000 in beneficial owners registered in tax havens, 19 politically exposed persons, 17 from the US sanctions list, 267 disqualified directors.

Search for officers

- The most effective way to spider out networks and find leads.
- Search by name – and cast your net wide to eliminate false negatives!
 - For example, Jurgen, Jurgan, Juren, Gurgen + Huren Mossack - so just search Mossack!
 - Similarly named officers can be a useful way to find connections.
 - But there's no identifier for people - so verify your sources.
 - Remember that companies can be officers too.

Corporate Groupings

- User contributed [collections of companies](#) that humans (as opposed to corporate lawyers) consider part of the same group – allowing legal entities to be linked to fuzzy entities like wikipedia articles.
- [Donald Trump Corporate Grouping](#) - community led effort to identify and group over 1,000 companies related to Trump, his family, and Trump Organisation.
- [Network mapping spreadsheet template](#)

Reconciliation

- Use the [OpenRefine Endpoint](#) to match vague company names in other datasets to legal entities.

Extra resources:

- [Investigators' Handbook](#): tutorials, tips and past investigations that have used OpenCorporates.
- [Investigators' Newsletter](#): streamlined data updates and inspiration for investigations delivered straight to your inbox.