Is Web Scraping Legal? Is it Ethical?



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Overview

Is web scraping legal? Is it ethical?

Web scraping legal risks

Web scraping court case

Is Web Scraping Legal? Is it Ethical?




ETHICS


Wiki
Blog
www
Website
Shop
advert
Content
code
optimization
Usability
link
building
Design
SEO
keywords
visits
hits
TRAFFIC
page rank



Web Scraping Legal Risks





Web Scraping Legal Risks

Relatively Safe
Public Government web sites
Scraping for personal use
Aggregated data projects & research
Terms & Conditions specifically allow scraping

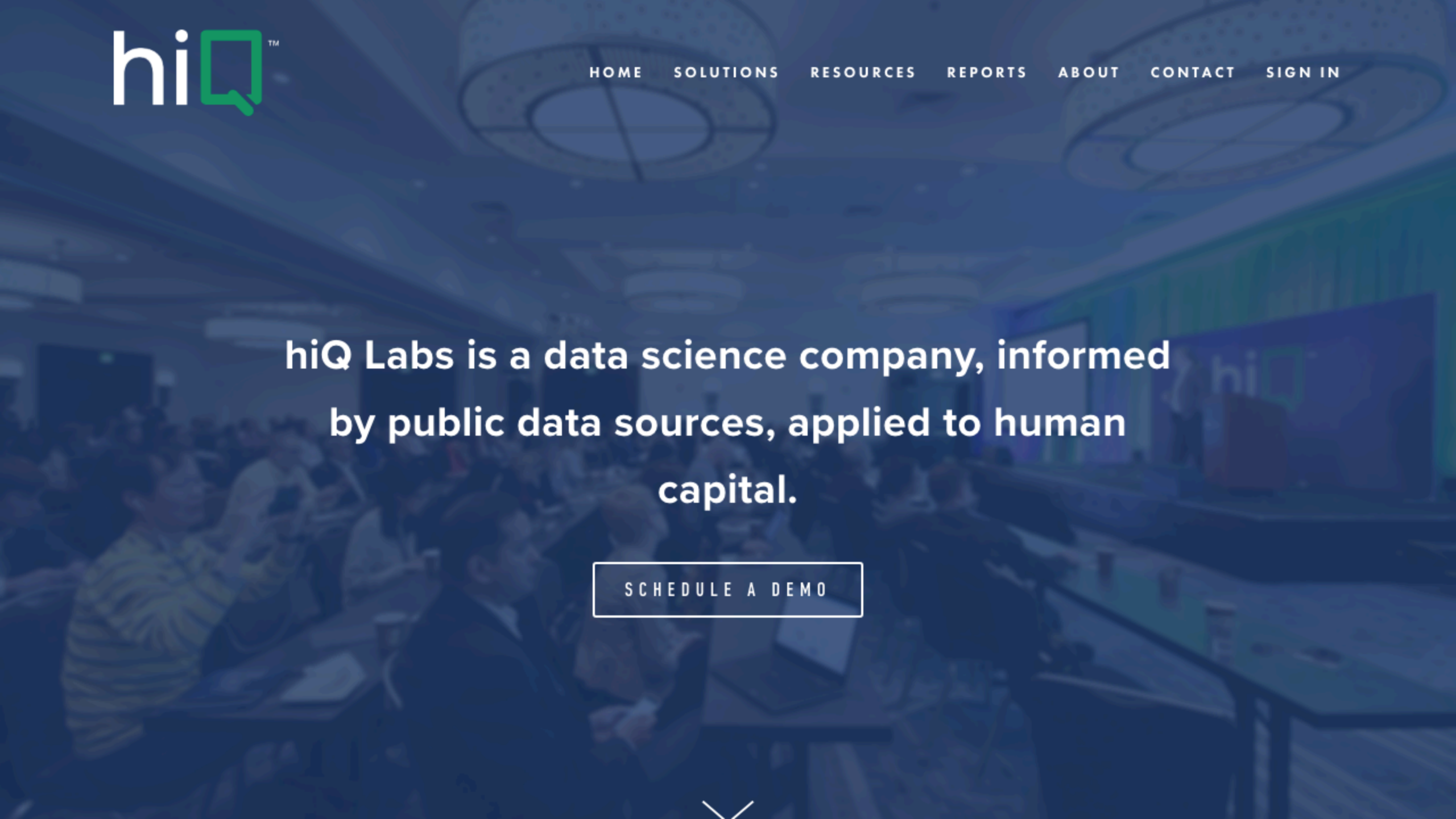
Web Scraping Legal Risks

More Risky
Scraping for personal use even though prohibited by the terms and conditions
Scraping data you don't own while logged in
Large scale scraping to publish widely promoted "news" reports

Web Scraping Legal Risks

Relatively Risky
Large scale scraping for profit
Scraping to create a commercial product
Scraping large company web sites for profit
Creating and selling derivative works
Scraping personally identifiable data (PII)

hiQ Labs Legal Case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Facts In The Legal Case



LinkedIn sent hiQ a cease-and-desist letter

Does the American anti-hacking law apply? Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA)

hiQ filed suit to protect its business

hiQ asked the court to prohibit LinkedIn from blocking access



Summary

Automated web browsing is ethical. Still, you must use the data ethically

It’s unlikely that web scraping will land you in jail

You can receive a cease-and-desist letter—even get sued

Be careful—especially if you’re scraping for profit

Consult an attorney