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Select * from World

I have been having a lot of fun with two Yahoo! technologies that have been evolving quickly. YQL and GeoPlanet. The first, YQL, puts an SQL-like interface on top of all the data on the Internet. And the second, GeoPlanet, introduces the concept of a WOEID (Where-On-Earth ID) that you can think of as a foreign key for your geo-related SQL expressions.

First some example YQL queries to get you used to this concept of treating the Internet like a database. Go to the YQL Console and paste these queries into the console to follow along.

```
select * from geo.places where text="SJC"
```

This looks up "SJC" in GeoPlanet and returns an XML result containing this information:

```
12521722
Airport
Norman Y Mineta San Jose International Airport
United States
California
Santa Clara
```

```
Downtown San Jose
```

```
95110
```

```
37.364079
-121.920662
```

```
37.35495
```

Posted by Rasmus in PHP at 15:06

WOW, thanks for sharing the information. This will open up a lot of new ways to scrap the internet data for an answer.
Anonymous on Mar 20 2009, 06:29

Hey,
I remember all these things coming in pretty handy at the time of the "hacku" on campus :).

YQL is superbly powerful in the way it can strip information from a whole lot of different places and then present it to you in a convenient format. Its like a swiss army knife for data fetching/mining.
Anonymous on Mar 20 2009, 18:59

thanks, nice post on nice topic. YQL and GeoPlanet are going to be more powerful tool for next generation web applications.
Anonymous on Mar 24 2009, 09:57