

# Building Freedom On The Move

Social Science History Association Annual Meeting | 2013.11.22

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# *Freedom on the Move*

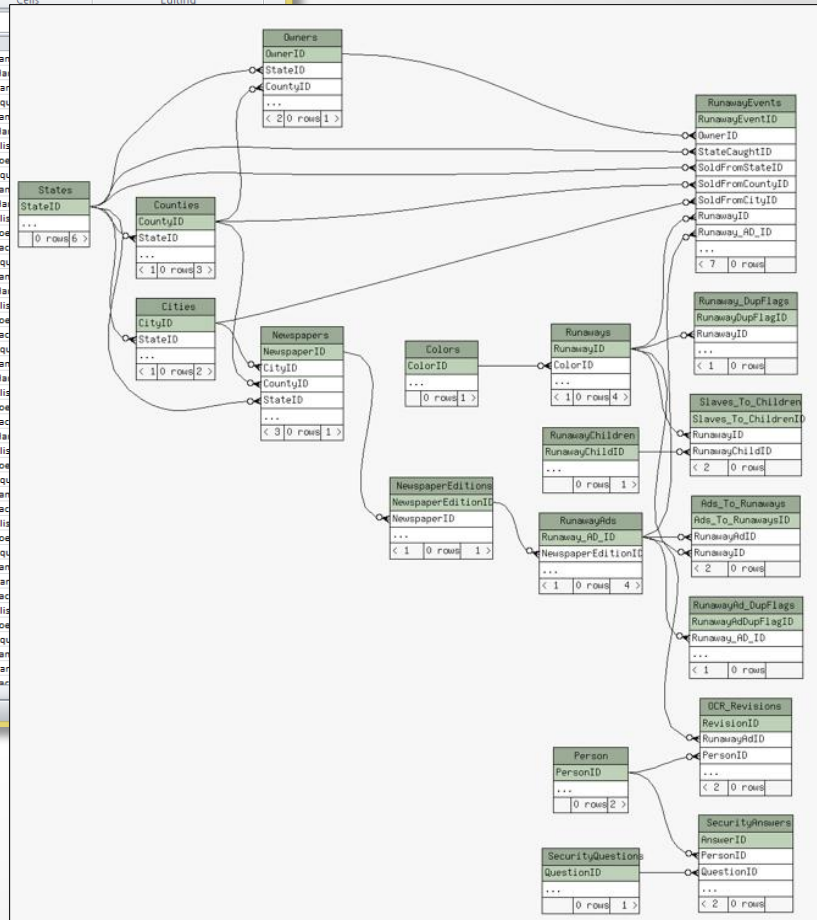
A database of fugitives from North American slavery

Throughout the 250-year history of slavery in North America, enslaved people tried to escape. Once newspapers were common, enslavers posted “runaway ads” to try to locate these fugitives. Such ads provide significant quantities of individual and collective information about the economic, demographic, social, and cultural history of slavery, but they have never been systematically collected. We are designing and beginning data collection for a database that will compile all North American slave runaway ads and make them available for statistical, geographical, textual, and other forms of analysis. Some elements of data collection will be crowdsourced, engendering a public sense of co-participation in the process of recording history, and producing a living pedagogical tool for instructors at all levels, in multiple disciplines.



form\_newpaper\_metadataMobileRegister - Microsoft Excel

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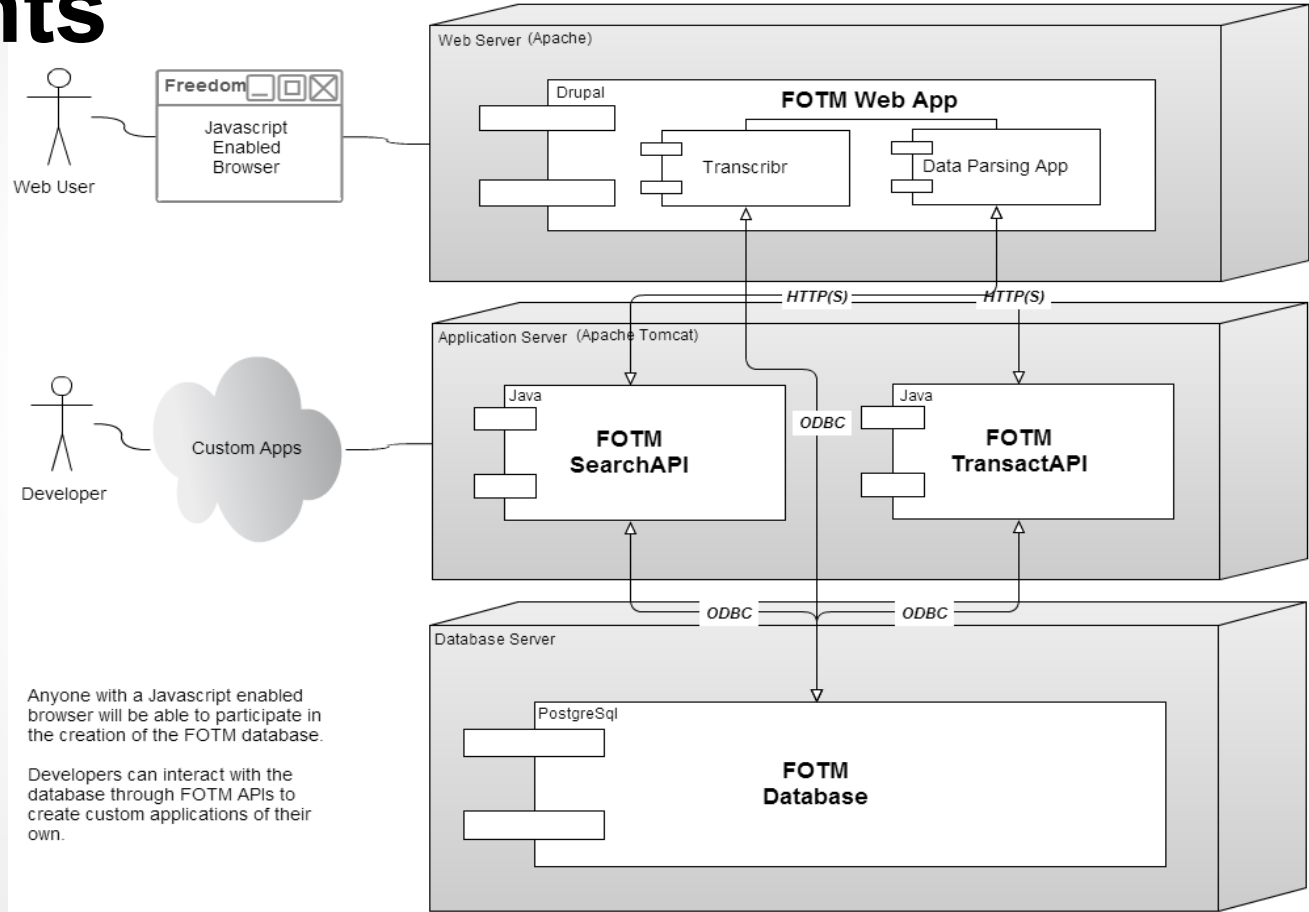
# Data Modeling

Runaways		
RunawayID		
SlaveName		
SlaveGender		
SlaveAge		
SlaveHeightInches		
SlaveWeightPounds		
SlaveBuildDesc		
SlaveMarksPhysicalAttribu		
Notes		
Date_Transcription		
ColorID		
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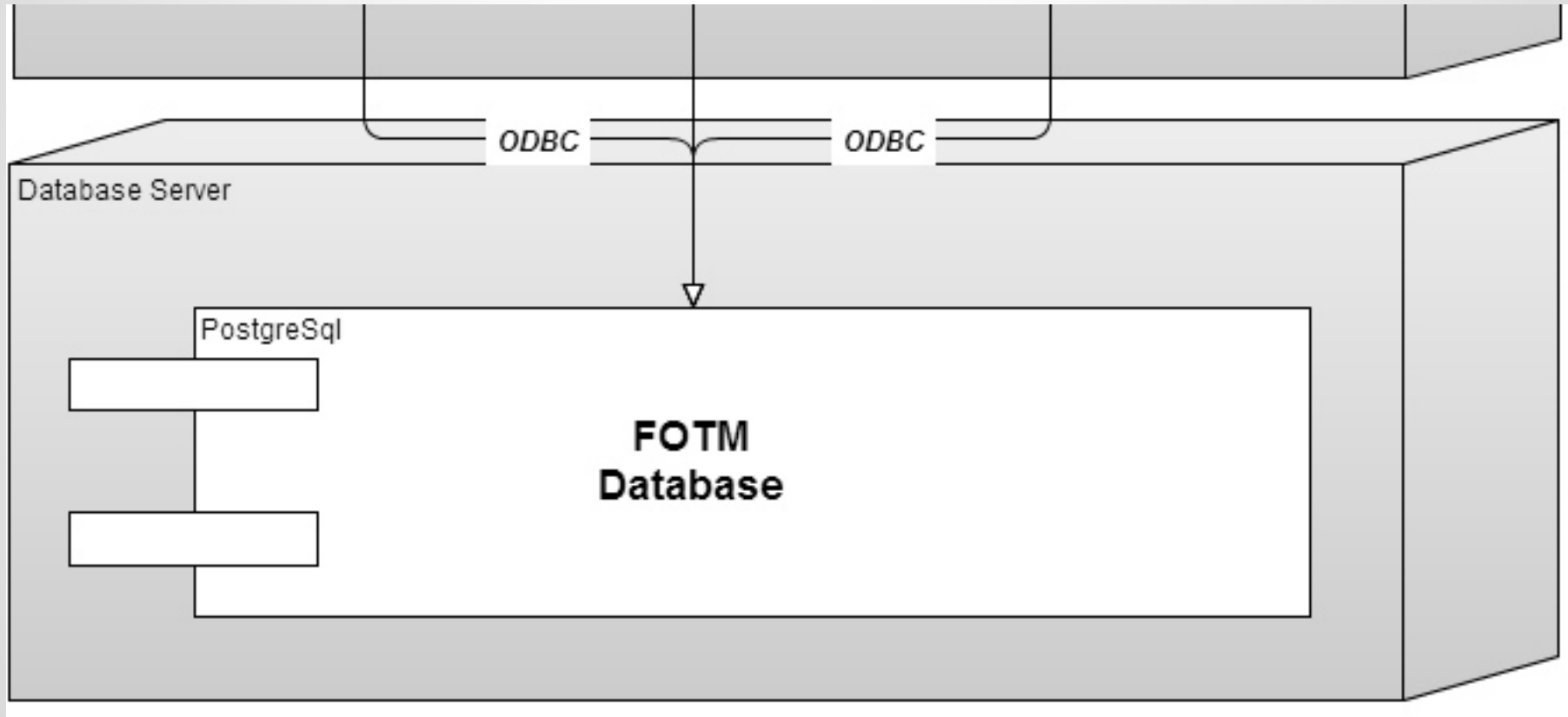
RunawayEvents		
RunawayEventID		
OwnerID		
StateCaughtID		
SoldFromStateID		
SoldFromCountyID		
SoldFromCityID		
DateEntered		
SlaveWearingDesc		
SlaveLanguageSpoken		
WasSlaveRecentlySold		
HeadedDesc		
wasHeadedHome		
ranAlone		
RanWithNumber		
motherAndChildren		
Ran_Mid-ForcedMigration		
Notes		
SlaveMarksScarsMutilatio		
isAgeApproximate		
wasCaught		
Reward		
RunawayID		
Runaway_AD_ID		
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**Data Modeling**

# Components



# Components



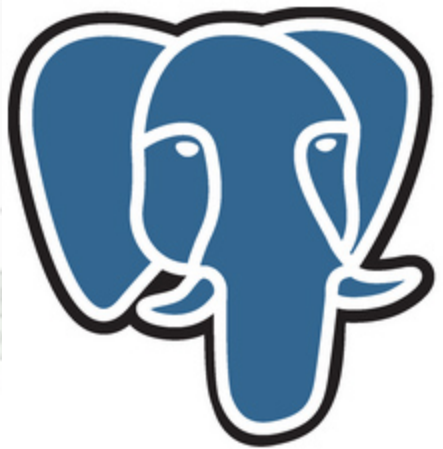


# PostgreSQL

Because elephants are just plain better than dolphins.



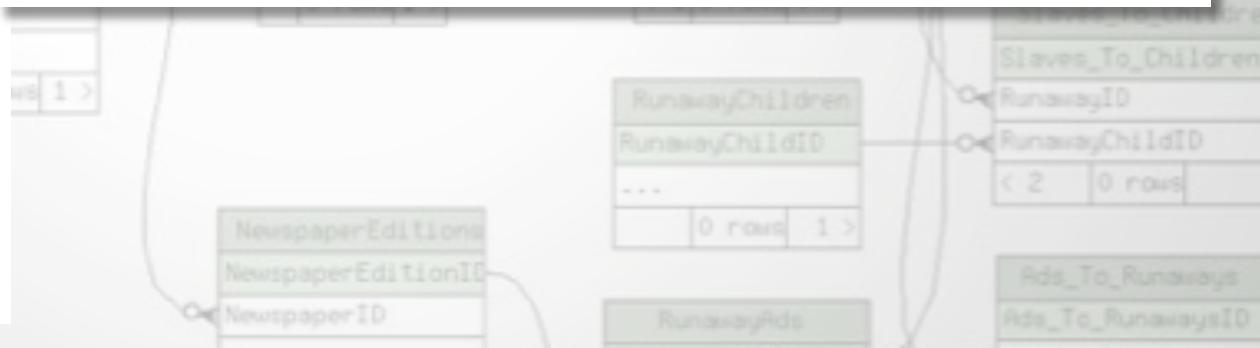
# Database



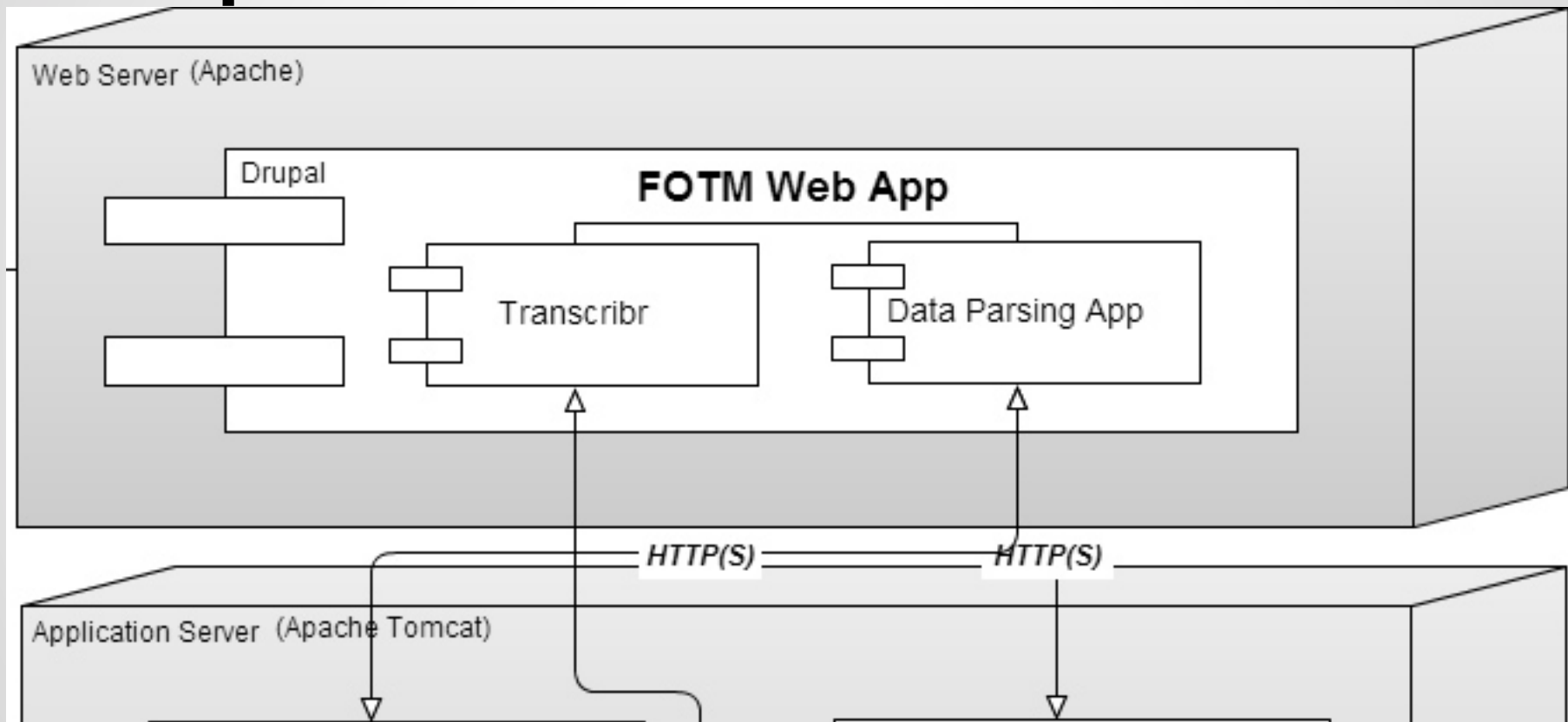
# PostgreSQL

the world's most advanced open source database

# PostGIS

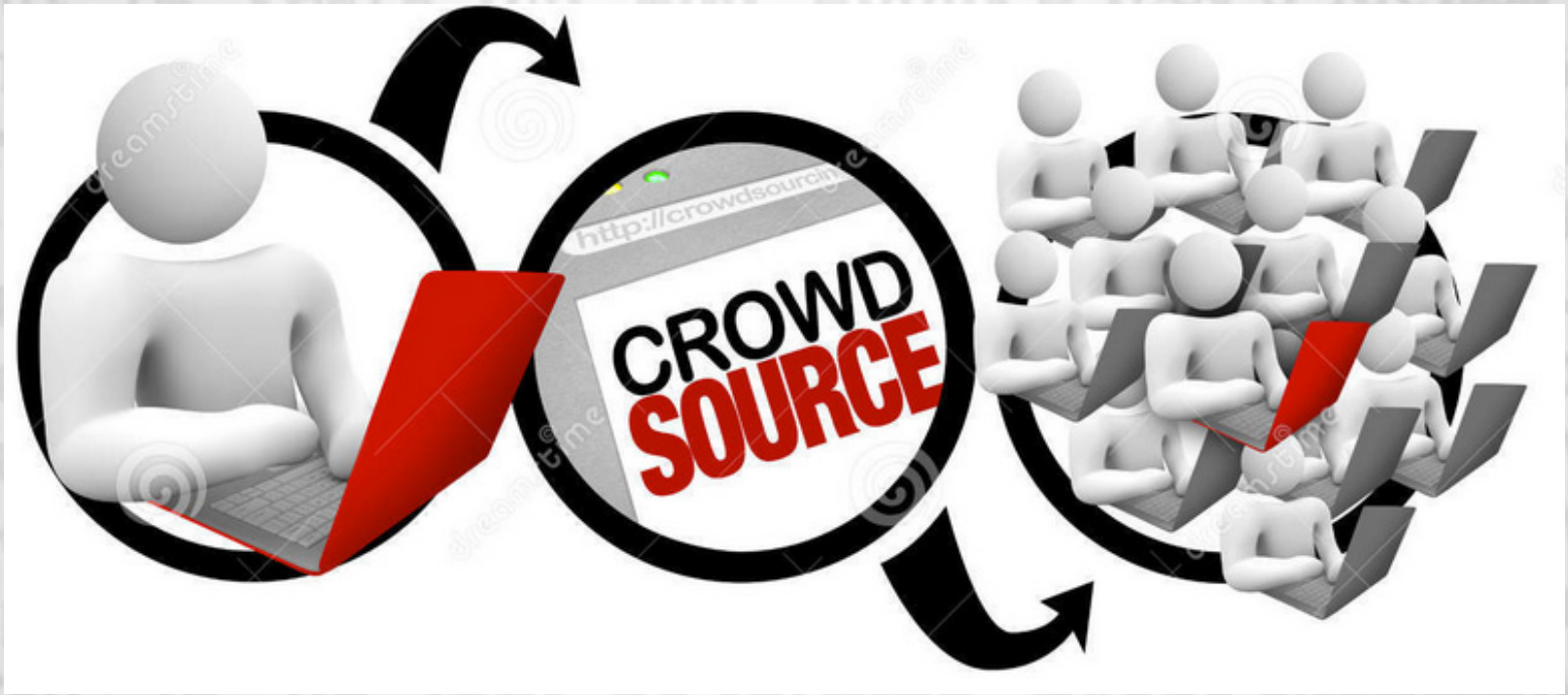


# Components





# Crowdsourcing





# Transcription

## Mobile Register 9/24/1831 Page 4 Ad 1

Page 1 of 1



Image Resize



Transcription

Comments

Transcription

Status:

Partially

Transcribed

What Do You See?

Please transcribe this document to improve its accessibility.

See a Mistake?

You can edit a previously transcribed page or resave a transcribed page as incomplete.

Ten Dollars Reward.

Ran away from Mr. John Mackay's Plantation, two Negro Slaves Dave and his wife Aggy, and may possibly make for Mobile, as the fellow was employed as a hand on the steam boat Herald, last winter, under Capt. Fry and Capt. Young. He is a likely fellow, about 6 feet high, of dark complexion, quick spoken, and inclined to have a bushy head. the woman is very likely and cross-eyed; no other marks recollected. If the said slaves should be apprehended in or about Mobile, to be delivered to T. & G. Holt, and if apprehended in any other county, lodge them safe in any jail, and the above reward will be paid.

Martin Greer

Save Page as Complete

Save Page as Incomplete





## The Runaway Event

This section seeks to understand the details about the runaway's flight.

What state was the slave caught in?

What state was the slave sold from?

What county was the slave sold from?

What city was the slave sold from?

What state did the slave run from?

What county did the slave runaway from?

What city did the slave runaway from?

Was the slave recently sold?

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

Where was the runaway headed?

Did they run alone?

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

How many people did this runaway run away with?

Did the slave run mid-forced migration?

How old was this slave at the time they ran?

Had the slave been caught before?

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

Was there a reward listed? What was the amount?

# Data Entry and Prototyping



# Future Work

- De-duplication workflow with supporting apps
- Gamification of user interface
- Data visualization and reporting
- Linked Open Data publishing

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