

Iranian Shipping Master Class FAQ - July 2021

Analyst Questions

To what extent are corporate records published by governments reliable?

We have found government-published corporate records to be very reliable in Iran. It's important to remember that these records aren't just used for due diligence and other external investigations. They serve important business functions that require accurate disclosures, such as attracting investors, applying for credit, and applying for contracts.

Regardless, it's always important to try to corroborate information sourced from a single corporate registry. While Iran offers many public data sources that disclose company ownership/control and identifying information, it can be helpful to cross-reference that information with what is found in other jurisdictions. For example, Iran's CODAL source provides the downstream holdings of public joint stock companies. If an Iranian public joint stock company holds shares in a company based outside Iran, the upstream shareholder information from that company's native business registry can then be corroborated with the downstream information found in CODAL.

Fortunately, there are many sources [found in Sayari Graph](#) that can be used for this method of corroboration.

How do you handle entity resolution when investigating someone with a common name?

Entity disambiguation – that is, the process of determining whether multiple occurrences of the same name refer to a single real-world entity – can be complex, especially if you’re conducting research across multiple languages. The strongest disambiguations will incorporate unique identifiers, which are often publicly disclosed. In Iran, the unique identifier for companies and individuals is the National ID number. We recommend [this article](#) on how to interpret and use Iran’s National ID numbers.

Entity disambiguation is tougher but still possible when unique identifiers are scarce. In those cases, we might look for combinations of non-unique identifiers (e.g. full name + date of birth + citizenship), as well as co-occurrence in relationships. For example, if an individual named “Alireza Esfandiari” appears across multiple companies, we can’t be certain from that information alone whether each Alireza Esfandiari is the same person. But if Alireza Esfandiari shows up in every company with the same associates, it’s much more likely that the same person exists across all companies.

How can you search public records effectively when your target’s name frequently appears with different spellings?

This is a common challenge when searching for information on foreign nationals whose names may be spelled or transliterated multiple ways. If you can, always use [search operators](#) (e.g. fuzzy search) to query all spellings of a name. Major search engines, like Google, and advanced platforms, like Sayari Graph, will allow this. If you’re looking at public records directly through the native registries, though, this probably will not be an option. Most government data portals do not support that kind of querying. In those cases, you need to understand the different ways the name could be transliterated (e.g. i vs. y) and try it both ways.

In all cases, understanding how name transliterations and translations work is a huge factor in finding what you're looking for, particularly when you're dealing with non-Roman characters. We've written a lot about this and other similar topics in [Sayari Learn](#), Sayari's open source due diligence and investigations toolkit.

Does a new company announcement published in Iran's official Gazette imply the dismissal of the board members from an older company announcement?

Iran's official Gazette, also known as Rooznameh Rasmi, publishes company announcements which include changes in board members and executive leadership. In most instances, Rooznameh filings will include an entirely new list of board members that replaces the old board. Specific executive positions, like the Managing Director, Chairman, or Vice Chairman of the board, are immediately replaced by the mention of a new individual in that role from a Rooznameh record.

Occasionally, a Rooznameh filing will only state the addition or change of one new board member. In those rare cases, the old members still hold their positions with the inclusion of the new change mentioned in the filing.

If you are interested in learning more about how to interpret records from Rooznameh, we recommend reading [this article](#).

How does Sayari enrich transaction data related to illicit Iranian shipping/facilitator networks?

Sayari enriches transaction data by adding detailed information on the individuals and entities behind the transactions. As we demonstrated in the master class, there's a lot of public data out there that you can use to fill gaps in how you are assessing illicit shipping risk through transaction data. For example, shipping data will often tell you the company acting as the vessel owner or manager; you can then supplement this information with public corporate records to determine additional layers of ownership (i.e. the entity or entities behind the vessel manager/owner).

In the same vein, related party information from tax registries, contractors registries, or corporate registries, can also provide insight into who is behind a suspicious third-party wire transfer. Finally, Sayari applies Graph technology to enriched public data to better understand the broader corporate network associated with an entity/individual involved in a transaction, thus providing additional context and the ability to identify risk at varying degrees from the subject itself.

Do you have any other examples of case studies of investigating Iranian shipping networks?

Yes! We would recommend taking a look at:

- [Active Shipping Companies Linked to Oil Smuggling and Sanctioned Terror Financiers](#)
- [How Iran's National Shipping Company Used Offshore Companies to Dodge U.S. Sanctions](#)
- [Emiratis for Hire: The Role of Nominee Shareholders in Sanctioned Iranian Networks](#)
- [Chinese Tankers Using Evasive Tactics to Transport Iranian Oil](#)

We regularly publish new insights and investigations like these in [our Resource Center](#). For alerts, you can follow us on LinkedIn or sign up for our monthly newsletter [at the bottom of this page](#).

Sayari Graph Platform Questions

What data does Sayari Graph include?

Sayari Graph currently holds over 1.3 billion records from 320 sources across the globe, including from traditionally hard-target jurisdictions such as China, Russia, and Iran. These records contain identifying and relational information on more than 900 million people, companies, and other legal entities.

What language support does Sayari Graph offer?

Sayari Graph offers [multiple translation and transliteration functions](#) to help you explore records in foreign languages. This is everything from on-demand translation of record text to translating your search terms and results. We use a combination of Google Translate, translations and transliterations we generated ourselves based on internal deep learning models, and translations native to the original documents (for example, when Chinese companies disclose their names in English).

How often do you update the data in Sayari Graph?

Constantly. Each source runs on its own schedule to account for client usage, size, and complexity. All updates take place at least once per year and typically more frequently than that for the average source (e.g. quarterly).

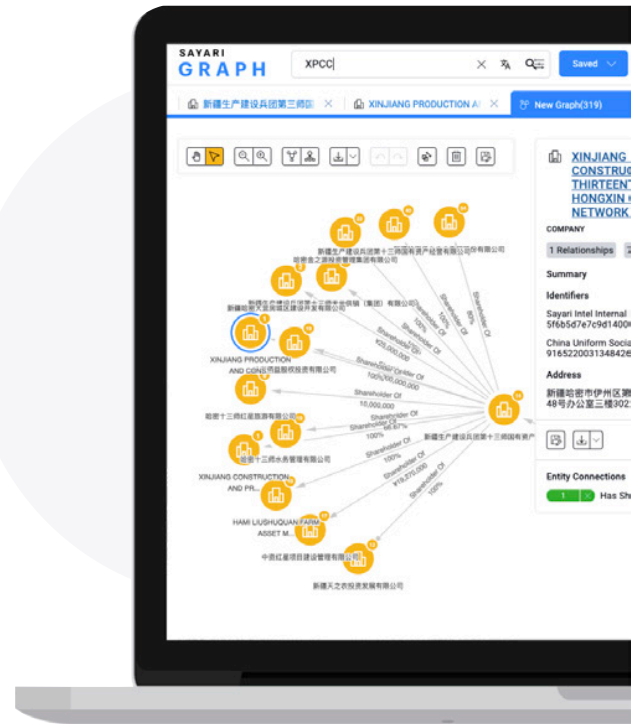
Can I export this data?

Yes, we make all original source documents available for download in the platform or via API. You can also export data as a CSV to integrate with other systems.

SAYARI FOR

Financial Services

The world's largest specialized database of companies, their key people, and their most important relationships. Designed for express determination of ownership & related entity risk.



 **KYC, CDD & EDD**

 **AML, FIU & Investigations**

 **Sanctions & Embargoes**

Sayari powers investigative and analytical workflows across the financial crime compliance and risk management enterprise. Our mission is to put instant global corporate transparency directly into the hands of practitioners, maximizing visibility and minimizing the need for customer contact.

SAYARI

Sayari Global Data

Sayari provides instant access to authoritative business information worldwide, covering 391 million companies and 435 million of their key personnel in over 200 jurisdictions, all linked and resolved together into pre-built networks of ownership and control relationships. Sayari is available via cloud-hosted [User Interface](#), [API](#), or [Data Subscriptions](#).



CHECK OUT OUR COVERAGE LIST

1.3B

DOCUMENTS

462M

KEY PEOPLE

200+

JURISDICTIONS

717M

RELATIONSHIPS

401M

COMPANIES

3

DEPLOYMENT
OPTIONS

Sayari data is also available via pre-built partner integrations:

NICE · ACTIMIZE

ORACLE



SAYARI



Sayari Graph Platform

Visualization & Search

Hundreds of millions of pre-built profiles, corporate hierarchies, and network visualizations, searchable globally.

Financial Crime Graph Analytics

Preset and customizable financial crime graph analytics, powered by the most scalable database technology on the market.

Documentation & Sourcing

Full data provenance available in-app, with millions of exportable original source documents.

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GRAPH



Entities	401M	360M	365M
Key People	462M	100M	325M

Developed Markets

High-Risk, Emerging & Offshore

Financial Crime Graph Analytics

In-App Official Documents

Direct Refresh from Official Sources

Rapid Contracting & Licensing

Cloud-Native Scale & APIs

Investigator User Interface

