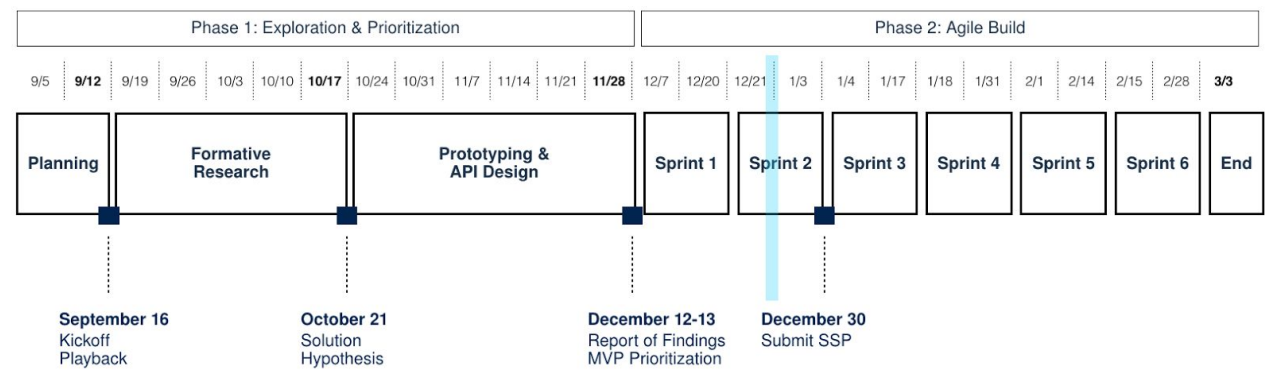FBI Crime Data Explorer

Status Report (12/27)

18F

Project plan

The project team has outlined a two-part approach for designing, building, and deploying the Crime Data Explorer (CDE). Part 1 will focus on establishing parameters and identifying priorities for the minimum viable product (MVP). Part 2 will focus on implementing features based on the resulting product roadmap and ongoing user and stakeholder feedback.

Overall progress will be communicated through these status reports and weekly check-ins with the FBI project core team.

Executive Summary of Activities:

Last week 18F finished sprint 1 and met with the FBI core team to outline its plan for the remaining development sprints. In talking through this approach, in which the team will work to implement core functionality first and then add enhancements, 18F presented the latest design direction for the display of local, state, and national crime data. These designs will guide the development of the "explorer view" as part of sprint 3; however, we expect the visual and interaction design to be refined through additional user testing over the coming weeks.

This week 18F is focused on exploring designs and the user experience for the "data downloads" section of the website, which is where a user would go to download prepared reports as a CSV or JSON file. The team is also working on selected backend tasks, such as API performance tweaks, to support the development of user-facing features for sprint 3. In addition to the aforementioned development tasks, 18F plans to submit the bulk of the required documentation for a 90-day ATO by the end of this week.

Due to the holiday schedule, the core team calls for this week and the next are cancelled. Among other schedule updates: The team is actively scheduling participants for user testing on this Thursday. A special status update for Mr. Durbis and Nicholas, which will include a review of design progress to date, is scheduled for the following Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Open Issues:

The following items may require action from the FBI core team in order to resolve:

- Larry to provide Sammy and Lori with background material about the project and a sign-up sheet to collect contact information from prospective research participants. Lori and Sammy to explore how we can post this information on FBI media and channels like the UCR website and Facebook to collect email addresses to follow-up with for future user testing.

Key Risks

- **Managing expectations:** There are many stakeholders involved in this project and different perspectives on what the CDE should do and why. Aligning around what is both feasible and of highest value to users will be key to achieving the best possible result and managing expectations going forward.

- **Limited opportunity:** The CDE is limited to *presenting* the data that's available from the FBI. It will not directly affect the volume, quality, or timeliness of the data it displays.

- **Dealing with uncertainty:** There is uncertainty around what data will be available, what it can support, and how it will be updated.

- **Agile, user-centered design, and open data:** 18F works in ways that are new to the FBI and may present organizational and cultural challenges.

- **Providing visibility around decision-making and approval:** How might shared responsibilities among the project core team, the FBI's ATO process and the Office of Public Affairs influence our ability to make decisions in a timely manner?