

## OSCON 2017 Panel Proposal

10/25/16

**Proposal Title:** The People's Code: Learning How to Open Source the Federal Government

**Description of the Presentation:** This panel will focus on the implementation of the White House open source policy - [M-16-21: Achieving Efficiency, Transparency, and Innovation through Reusable and Open Source Software \(OSS\)](#). The policy, released this August, directs Federal agencies, among other things, to publish a portion of their code as open source software going forward. This panel will be made up of government technologists responsible for developing the policy and for implementing it at their agencies. We'll provide insight into our experiences. Specifically, we'll discuss the unique challenges - technical, legal, and cultural - in helping the largest bureaucracy in the world learn how to join the open source community. And we'll ask for help from attendees who've fought analogous battles.

**Suggested Main Topic:** In Real Life (IRL)

**Speakers** (bio and headshots below):

**Joseph Castle** (Panel Moderator)

*Director, Digital Services, U.S. General Services Administration*

**Michelle Ibarra**

*Agency Open Source Software Program Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

**Matt Bailey**

*Technology Advisor, Office of the U.S. CIO, The White House*

→ **Two additional senior government representatives pending agency approval**

### **Audience Information:**

- Individuals who are curious with the federal government publishing code.
- Individuals who work in large organizations who understand the benefit of OSS and have worked with lots of close-source code that should be made open.
- Individuals who love stories about "fighting the good fight."

### **Prerequisite Knowledge Needed by Attendees:**

- General knowledge of open source licensing and community norms.
- Understanding of version control platforms, scripting tools, and open data formats.

### **Reimbursement Needs:**

None

## Speaker Biographies



### **Joseph Castle**

Director, GSA Digital Service, Office of the CTO  
U.S. General Services Administration, Washington, DC  
[joseph.castle@gsa.gov](mailto:joseph.castle@gsa.gov)

Joe serves as the Director of the GSA Digital Service. He is responsible for implementing White House Digital Strategy policies and establishing GSA's Digital Service team. In 2013, Joe served in the Executive Office of the President in the Office of the USCIO. He served in the federal government for 12 years, after spending time in private industry. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. He holds an undergraduate business degree and an MBA from Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmittsburg, Maryland; and, a Master's in Information Systems Technology Management from The George Washington University.



**Michelle Ibarra**

Agency Open Source Software Program Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Michelle is the EPA Open Source manager responsible for implementing the new White House policy. She is the co-lead for EPA's Developers Guild, a community of practice for sharing, collaborating and exchanging best practices to innovate and develop the best environmental software applications that protect human health and the environment. Michelle's background includes study in User Experience Design and holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park.

**Matt Bailey**

Digital Services Expert

Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer, the White House

[mbailey@omb.eop.gov](mailto:mbailey@omb.eop.gov)

Matt is a technology strategist and organizer working at the intersection of open government, civic engagement, and public policy. A passionate generalist, his work has ranged from information security to open data and from crowdfunding to service design. As a co-founder of [Code for DC](#), he helps build the capacity of DC's technology community for social good. By day he serves at the White House Office of the Chief Information Officer as a Digital Services Expert, focusing on all the open things in a policy context - including the recently issued Federal Source Code Policy. Matt has also served as the Director of Technology Innovation for DC Government and as a User Experience Manager for the [U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#), where he focused on closing the loop from financial complaints by citizens to the marketplace using open data. He's an English major and thinks you should be too.