**Travel Challenge 2.0 Data Analysis and Mashup**

*Description of the Challenge:*

In February of 2014, GSA’s Office of Government-wide Policy launched a federal prize competition called the Travel Data Challenge. This purpose of this competition was to engage the public in creating an innovative tool allowing federal agency travel managers, CFO’s, and other officials to better understand and use their vast quantity of travel data. The tool that was procured through this competition is called the Travel Challenge Tool. The developer of the tool created a unique, fully functioning prototype for an online analytics tool that incorporates multiple data sets and benchmarks federal data against national averages for flight and hotel costs. The tool uses the Department of Transportation’s national average airfare costs, an API that pulls in data from Kayak.com, sample historical data from three agencies’ voucher, reservation, and Smartpay data, and information from the CityPairs and Fedrooms programs.

The Travel Challenge Tool was procured in June of 2014. Since then, OGP has been exploring options for migrating the tool to GSA’s environment, hosting it on a GSA platform, and continuing with further development that is needed so that the tool can incorporate data from multiple agencies and new sources. Our ask to the hackers would be to help with one challenge of the initiative, how to connect with and pull in third party travel data from multiple sources in a way that is flexible and system agnostic.

Note: Data feed that pulls corresponding travel data from third party data sources according to a user defined set of parameters such as: Origin city, Destination city, Time Frame. data feed stream must be flexible to be incorporated into any sort of database.

*Goals for the Hackathon:*

* Create a prototype or concept for design that will:
  + Allow user to manually entered origin and destination (by airport code, nearest airport by entered city if possible)
  + Based on user selected origin and destination, pull flight data
  + Based on user selected destination, pull hotel data based on city
  + Give users ability to choose export (various RDBMSs or flat files)
  + Give users ability to import existing travel data (from various RDBMS or flat files)
  + Automatically associate elements from imported data to 3rd party data
  + If time allows, display basic comparative analysis on imported data such as averages of commercial vs historic flights, or cheaper alternative from nearby airports

*Skills Needed:*

Data analytics and coding/development experience