OPEN DATA TRANSITION REPORT

An Action Plan for the Next Administration

OCTOBER 2016

This summary presents highlights from the Open Data Transition Report, which provides recommendations to improve open data policies and programs in the next administration.

To read the full report, please go to:
OpenDataEnterprise.org/Transition-Report

This report includes 27 actionable recommendations designed to be of value to the next President, his or her transition teams, and government agencies and departments in the next administration.

The administration can launch many of the recommendations in the first 100 days. All recommendations in this report will produce meaningful results in the administration's first year.

These recommendations support four priority goals.

GOAL I: ENHANCE THE GOVERNMENT OPEN DATA ECOSYSTEM

Open data can help federal agencies accomplish their missions more effectively and efficiently. While some agencies have established strong open data programs, most need additional resources and support. The next administration should enhance the open data ecosystem by developing a strong data infrastructure across government, including appropriate personnel, policies, and coordination efforts.

GOAL II: DELIVER DIRECT BENEFITS TO CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES

In the United States and internationally, open data has helped citizens and communities improve their health care, nutrition, education, public safety, and more. The next administration should identify the major challenges impacting American communities and leverage open data to address them.

GOAL III: SHARE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DATA TO SPUR INNOVATION AND SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

When scientists freely share their data, the entire research enterprise benefits. Working with the research community, the next administration should develop policy and technology solutions to make open, shared research data the norm.

GOAL IV: HELP BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS USE GOVERNMENT DATA AS A RESOURCE

American businesses are the heart of the economy and open data can fuel their growth. The next administration should help businesses by making it easier to access valuable government data and simpler to report data to regulatory agencies.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ACTOR	TIMELINE
GOAL I: ENHANCE THE GOVERNMENT OPEN DATA ECOSYSTEM		
1. Define, fund, and appoint Chief Data Officers for each federal agency to establish data as a key element of each agency's mission.	**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**	100 DAYS
2. Ensure government data is born digital to help agencies analyze and open the data efficiently.	**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**	100 DAYS
3. Conduct a National Data Infrastructure Review to identify high-value opportunities for federal investments in tribal, city, and state data infrastructure.	**COUNCIL ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REFORM**	100 DAYS
4. Develop a centralized public database of FOIA requests and information released under FOIA, acting on the principle of "release to one, release to all."	**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET & THE FOIA OFFICERS' COUNCIL**	FIRST YEAR
5. Fully implement the DATA Act to provide financial transparency and accountability through open data.	**ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES**	FIRST YEAR
6. Standardize reporting data for federal grants to help make that data more accessible and useful.	**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES & OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**	FIRST YEAR
7. Enable data users to voluntarily provide direct feedback that will improve data quality.	**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY**	FIRST YEAR
GOAL II: DELIVER DIRECT BENEFITS TO CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES		
8. Create a National Hunger Heat Map to help distribute food supplies to areas of greatest need and decrease hunger.	**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**	100 DAYS
9. Continue to support and expand local data-driven climate resilience projects to help communities prepare for severe weather incidents.	**THE WHITE HOUSE**	100 DAYS
10. Launch a Police Data Initiative 2.0 to collect data on police violent encounters in a standardized, open format for transparency and research.	**THE WHITE HOUSE AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**	100 DAYS
11. Standardize and update the government's public data on occupations and required skills to help Americans find jobs.	**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY**	FIRST YEAR
12. Help communities address opioid addiction by opening up data on drug treatment facilities.	**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**	FIRST YEAR
13. Establish a National Data EnviroCorps in which volunteers collect air, water, and soil quality data and help communities identify and manage environmental risks.	**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**	FIRST YEAR

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ACTOR	TIMELINE
14. Develop guidelines for all consumer-facing regulatory agencies to make consumer complaints available as open data to improve products and services.	OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS	FIRST YEAR
15. Expand open data summer camps to inspire the next generation of data-savvy students and help improve and apply open government data.	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	FIRST YEAR
16. Open up data on housing choice voucher wait lists to support low-income families in finding housing.	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	FIRST YEAR

GOAL III: SHARE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DATA TO SPUR INNOVATION AND SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ACTOR	TIMELINE
17. Establish a Federal Research Data Council to coordinate the government's commitment to open research.	NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL	100 DAYS
18. Develop an Annual Research Data Census to increase awareness of federally funded research and improve access to data.	NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	100 DAYS
19. Coordinate agency efforts to transition to cloud storage and analytics, enabling more research with government data.	GOVERNMENT SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	100 DAYS
20. Work with major research organizations, scientific publications, and professional associations to work toward requiring researchers to publish their data in open, reusable formats.	THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY	100 DAYS
21. Establish international standards for collaboration and data-sharing, beginning with a pilot in Arctic research.	THE WHITE HOUSE	FIRST YEAR
22. Identify and publish large, high-quality datasets across all fields for use in machine learning to support advances in artificial intelligence.	NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL & INTELLIGENCE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS ACTIVITY	FIRST YEAR

GOAL IV: HELP BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS USE GOVERNMENT DATA AS A RESOURCE

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ACTOR	TIMELINE
23. Identify cost barriers to accessing government data and eliminate fees to level the playing field for data users.	U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE	100 DAYS
24. Launch a Standard Business Reporting Program that will ultimately help businesses lower reporting burdens and costs.	THE PRESIDENT, THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, & NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL	100 DAYS
25. Partner with the automated vehicle industry to give open data a central role in creating national safety standards.	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	100 DAYS
26. Provide complete, accurate, and timely data on energy use in buildings to help companies save money by increasing energy efficiency.	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	FIRST YEAR
27. Make it easier to discover and access government owned intellectual property to help entrepreneurs build on this free resource.	U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	FIRST YEAR

Open government data—data that is freely available for use, reuse, and republication—is a major public resource for government, citizens, the scientific research community, and the private sector. Citizens are using open data to improve democracy by interacting directly with the government and holding public officials accountable. Federal open data programs are helping students and their parents choose colleges, improving health care, supporting local business, and literally mapping the universe. The government is applying open data to deliver public services more effectively, foster entrepreneurship, broaden opportunities for businesses, and empower researchers to advance scientific discovery and drive innovation.

The Obama Administration has championed open data as an essential part of open, transparent government since the President's first day in office. Over the past eight years, the federal government has launched a range of new open data programs. The White House has also made future commitments to use open data to improve government and to support international data-driven efforts.

Drawing on numerous interviews, expert meetings, and other research, the Open Data Transition Report examines the current open government data ecosystem and makes recommendations to improve open data policies and programs moving forward. Many open data champions and subject-matter experts provided guidance and input to make this report possible.

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