

# Operational Framework: Institutional Controls

Daniel "Dazza" Greenwood<sup>1,\*</sup>, Arek Stopczynski<sup>1,2</sup>, Brian Sweatt<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Hardjono<sup>1</sup>, Alex Sandy Pentland<sup>1</sup>

**1 MIT**

**2 DTU**

\* E-mail: dazza@civics.com

## Contents

<b>1 Introduction and Overview (Arek)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 The New Realities of Living in a Big Data Society (Arek)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 The New Deal on Data (Arek)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Personal Data: Emergence of a New Asset Class (Thomas)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Enforcing the New Deal on Data (Dazza)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6 Essential Elements of the New Deal of Data (Arek)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Transitioning End-User Assent Practices (Arek)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Business, Legal and Technical Dimensions of Big Data Systems (Dazza)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>9 Big Data and Personal Data Institutional Controls (Thomas)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Scenarios of Use in Context (Dazza)</b>	<b>11</b>
10.1 Example Scenario: Research Systems . . . . .	11
10.2 Scenarios of Use Today, Tomorrow and the Day After . . . . .	13
<b>11 Future Research (Thomas)</b>	<b>14</b>
11.1 Research on Design and Deployment of Big Data Systems . . . . .	14
11.2 Research on Big Data for Design of Institutions . . . . .	15

## 1 Introduction and Overview (Arek)

To realize the promise and prospects of a Big Data society and avoid its security and confidentiality perils, institutions are updating operational frameworks governing business, legal, and technical dimensions of their organization and interactions with the outside world. The control points traditionally relied upon as part of corporate governance, management oversight, legal compliance, and enterprise architecture must evolve to match operational frameworks for Big Data. An operational framework used for a Big Data driven organization requires a balanced set of institutional controls. These institutional controls must support and reflect greater user control over personal data and also large scale interoperability for data sharing between and among institutions. Core capabilities of these controls include responsive rule-based systems governance and fine-grained authorizations for distributed rights management.

## 2 The New Realities of Living in a Big Data Society (Arek)

Sustaining a healthy, safe and efficient society is a scientific and engineering challenge that goes back to the 1800s, when the Industrial Revolution spurred rapid urban growth and created huge social and environmental problems. The remedy then was to build centralized networks that delivered clean water and safe food, enabled commerce, removed waste, provided energy, facilitated transportation, and offered access to centralized healthcare, police, and educational services.

But these century-old solutions are increasingly obsolete. We have cities jammed with traffic, world-wide outbreaks of disease that are seemingly unstoppable, and political institutions that are deadlocked and unable to act. In addition, we face the challenges of global warming, uncertain energy, water, and food supplies, and a rising population that will require building one thousand new cities of a million people each in order just to stay even. **AS: citation?**

But it does not have to be this way. We can have cities that are protected from pandemics, that are energy efficient, have secure food and water supplies, and have much better government. To reach these goals, however, we need to radically rethink our approach. Rather than static, fixed systems that are separated by function-water, food, waste, transport, education, energy, and so on-we must consider them as dynamic, data driven systems. Instead of focusing only on access and distribution, we need dynamic, networked, self-regulating systems that are driven by the needs and preferences of the citizens.

To ensure a sustainable future society, we must use our new technologies to create a ‘nervous system that maintains the stability of government, energy, and public health systems around the globe. Currently, our digital feedback technologies are capable of creating a level of dynamic responsiveness that our larger, more complicated modern society requires. We must reinvent societies systems within a control framework: sensing the situation, then combining these observations with models of demand and dynamic reaction, and finally using the resulting predictions to tune the system to match the demands being made of it.

The engine that will drive this new nervous system is Big Data: the newly ubiquitous digital data now available about all aspects of human life. We can now analyze patterns of human experience and idea exchange within the ‘digital breadcrumbs that we all leave behind us as we move through the world: call records, credit card transactions, and GPS location fixes, among others. These data tell the story of our lives by recording what we have chosen to do. And this is very different from what we put on Facebook; our postings on Facebook are what we choose to tell people, edited according to the standards of the day. Who we actually are is more accurately determined by where we spend our time and which things we buy, not just what we say we do.

The process of analyzing the patterns within these digital breadcrumbs is called reality mining [1, 2], and through it we can learn an enormous amount about who we are. The Human Dynamics research group at MIT have found that we can use them to tell if we are likely to get diabetes, or whether we are the sort of person who will pay back loans. By analyzing these patterns across many people, we are discovering that we can begin to explain many things-crashes, revolutions, bubbles-that previously appeared to be random acts of God. For this reason the magazine Technology Review named our development of reality mining as one of the ten technologies that will change the world [3].

## 3 The New Deal on Data (Arek)

The digital breadcrumbs we leave behind provide clues about who we are and what we want. That makes these personal data immensely valuable, both for public goods and for private companies. As European Consumer Commissioner Meglena Kuneva said recently, “Personal data is the new oil of the Internet and the new currency of the digital world”. This new ability to see the details of every interaction, however, can be used for good or for ill. Therefore maintaining protection of personal privacy and freedom is critical to our future success as a society.

A successful data driven society must be able to guarantee that our data will not be abused; and perhaps especially that government will not abuse the power conferred by access to such fine-grain data. To achieve the positive possibilities of a data driven society, we require what I have called the New Deal on Data, workable guarantees that the data needed for public goods are readily available while at the same time protecting the citizenry [2]. We must develop much more powerful and sophisticated tools for privacy and reach a consensus that allows us to use personal data to both build a better society and to protect the rights of the average citizen.

A key insight that motivates the creation of a New Deal on Data is that our data are worth more when shared, because these aggregated data inform improvements in systems such as public health, transportation, and government. For instance, we have demonstrated that data about the way we behave and where we go can be used to minimize the spread of infectious disease. **AS: citation?** Our research has reported how we were able to use these digital breadcrumbs to track the spread of influenza from person to person on an individual level. And if we can see it, we can stop it. In this instance, the result of sharing our personal data is that we can build a world where the threat of infectious pandemics is greatly diminished.

Similarly, if we are worried about global warming, these shared, aggregated data now show us how patterns of mobility relate to productivity. **AS: citation?** In turn, this provides us with the ability to design cities that are both more productive and at the same time more energy efficient. But in order to be able to obtain these results and make a greener world, we need to be able to see the people moving around; this depends on many people being willing to contribute their data, even if only anonymously and in aggregate.

While concrete examples such as better health systems **AS: citation?** and more energy efficient transportation systems **AS: citation?** motivate a New Deal on Data, there is an even greater public good that can be achieved by efficient and safe data sharing. To enable sharing of personal data and experiences, we also need secure technology and regulation that allow individuals to safely and conveniently share personal information with each other, with corporations, and with government. Consequently, the heart of a New Deal on Data must be to provide both regulatory standards and financial incentives that entice owners to share data while at the same time serving the interests of both individuals and society at large. We must promote greater idea flow among individuals, not just corporations or government departments.

Unfortunately, today most personal data are siloed off in private companies and therefore largely unavailable. Private organizations collect the vast majority of personal data in the form of location patterns, financial transactions, phone and Internet communications, and so on. These data must not remain the exclusive domain of private companies, because then they are less likely to contribute to the common good. Thus, these private organizations must be key players in the New Deal on Data framework for privacy and data control. Likewise, these data should not become the exclusive domain of the government, because this will not serve the public interest of transparency; we should be suspicious of trusting the government with such power.

## 4 Personal Data: Emergence of a New Asset Class (Thomas)

It has long been recognized that the first step to promoting liquidity in land and commodity markets is to guarantee ownership rights so that people can safely buy and sell. Similarly, the first step toward creating greater idea and idea flow ('idea liquidity') is to define ownership rights. The only politically viable course is to give individual citizens rights over data that are about them and in fact, in the European Union these rights flow directly from the constitution. We need to recognize personal data as a valuable asset of the individual that is given to companies and government in return for services.

The simplest approach to defining what it means to own your own data is to draw an analogy with the English common law ownership rights of possession, use, and disposal:

You have the right to possess data about you. Regardless of what entity collects the data, the data belong to you, and you can access your data at any time. Data collectors thus play a role akin to a bank, managing the data on behalf of their customers.

You have the right to full control over the use of your data. The terms of use must be opt-in and clearly explained in plain language. If you are not happy with the way a company uses your data, you can remove the data, just as you would close your account with a bank that is not providing satisfactory service.

You have the right to dispose of or distribute your data. You have the option to have data about you destroyed or redeployed elsewhere.

Individual rights to personal data must be balanced with the need of corporations and governments to use certain data-account activity, billing information, and so on-to run their day-to-day operations. This New Deal on Data therefore gives individuals the right to possess, control, and dispose of copies of these required operational data, along with copies of the incidental data collected about you such as location and similar context.

Note that these ownership rights are not exactly the same as literal ownership under modern law, but the practical effect is that disputes are resolved in a different, simpler manner than would be the case for (as an example) land ownership disputes.

In 2007, one author (Pentland) first proposed the New Deal on Data to the World Economic Forum. Since then, this idea has run through various discussions and eventually helped shape the 2012 Consumer Data Bill of Rights in the United States, along with a matching declaration on Personal Data Rights in the EU. These new regulations hope to accomplish the combined trick of breaking data out of the current silos, thus enabling public goods, while at the same time giving individuals greater control over data about them. But, of course this is still a work in progress and the battle for individual control of personal data rages onward.

## 5 Enforcing the New Deal on Data (Dazza)

How can we enforce this New Deal? The threat of legal action alone is important, but insufficient, because if you cannot see abuses then you cannot prosecute them. Moreover, who wants more lawsuits anyway? Enforcement can be addressed in significant ways without prosecution of public statute or regulation at all. In many fields, companies and governments rely upon multi-party frameworks of agreed rules governing common business, legal and technical practices to create effective self-organization and enforcement. These approaches hold promise as a method for using institutional controls to form a reliable operational framework balancing the needs for big data, privacy and access.

One current best practice is a system of data sharing called trust networks. Trust networks are a combination of networked computers and legal rules defining and governing expectations regarding data. With respect to data belonging to individuals, these networks of technical and legal rules keeps track of user permissions for each piece of personal data, and a legal contract that specifies both what you can and cannot do with the data and what happens if there is a violation of the permissions. For example, in such a system all personal data can have attached labels specifying what the data can, and cannot, be used for. These labels are exactly matched by the network's system rules and terms in legal contracts between all the participants stating penalties for not obeying the permission labels. These rules can, and often do, reference or require audits of relevant systems and data use, demonstrating how traditional internal controls can be leveraged as part of the transition to more novel trust models.

Complete tracking and regulation of every aspect of a trust network is not the goal or even desirable in order to achieve effective enforcement. Rather, the rules for a trust network align enforcement with the highest priority issues and those upon which trust of participants is premised. The relevant issues arise from the dynamics of data flows, underlying trust models and contextual scenarios within which the networked data and the relationships of parties in the trust network. When a trust network involves use

of personal data, then the user permissions and corresponding limits on use are fundamental to the trust model. In this context, the permissions, including the provenance of the data, should require appropriate levels of audit. A well designed trust network, elegantly integrating computer and legal rules, allows automatic auditing of data use and allows individuals to change their permissions and withdraw data.

Having system rules applicable to the networks, applications and data as well as all the services providers other intermediaries, and the users themselves is the mechanism for establishing and operating a trust network. System rules are sometimes called operating regulations in the credit card context, or known as trust frameworks in the identity federations context, or trading partner agreements in a supply value chain context. There are many general examples of multiparty shared architectural and contractual rules that share the generic characteristic of creating binding obligations and enforceable expectations on all participants in scalable networks. Another common characteristic of the system rules design pattern is that the participants in the network can be widely distributed across very heterogeneous business ownership boundaries, legal governance structures and technical security domains. Yet, the parties need not agree to conform all or most aspects of their basic roles, relationships and activities in order to connect to systems of a trust network. Cross-domain trusted systems must, by their nature, focus mandatory and enforceable rules narrowly upon the critical items that must be commonly agreed in order for that network to achieve its purpose.

For example, institutions participating in credit card and automated clearinghouse debit transactional networks are subject to profoundly different sets of regulations, business practices, economic conditions and social expectations. The network rules focus upon the topmost agreed items affecting interoperability, reciprocity, risk and revenue allocation. The knowledge that fundamental rules are subject to enforcement actions is one of the foundations of trust as well as a motivation to prevent or address violations before they trigger penalties. A clear example of this approach can be found with the Visa Operating Rules, covering a vast global real-time network of parties that agree to rules governing their roles in the system as merchants, banks, transaction processors, individual or business card holders and other key system roles.

A system like this has made the interbank money transfer system among the safest systems in the world and the daily backbone for exchanges of trillions of dollars, but until recently such systems were only for the ‘big guys. To give individuals a similarly safe method of managing personal data, the Human Dynamics research group here at MIT, in partnership with the Institute for Data Driven Design, co-founded by John Clippinger and one author (Pentland), have helped build openPDS (open Personal Data Store) [fn: See <http://openPDS.media.mit.edu> for project information and <https://github.com/HumanDynamics/openPDS> for the open source code]. The openPDS system is a consumer version of a personal cloud trust network and we are now testing it with a variety of industry and government partners. Soon, sharing your personal data could become as safe and secure as transferring money between banks.

[FN: The Human Dynamics Lab has applied the system rules approach to development of integrated business, technical architecture and rules large scale institutional use of personal data stores, available as an example under MIT’s creative commons license by MIT, at: [github.com/HumanDynamics/SystemRules](https://github.com/HumanDynamics/SystemRules) and the Institute for Data Driven Design has published a guiding vision of digital common law, describing how these concepts can form the basis of next generation legal systems, available at: [idcubed.org/??](http://idcubed.org/??)]

The capacity to apply the appropriate methods of enforcement for a trust network depend upon a clear understanding and agreement among parties about the purpose of the trusted system and the respective roles or expectations of those connecting is as participants. Therefore, an anchor is needed to a clear context of a big data operational framework and institutional controls appropriate for access and confidentiality or privacy. The following section posits the trust model and signature traits of such a context, through the lens of the New Deal on Data.

## 6 Essential Elements of the New Deal of Data (Arek)

To realize the promise and prospects of Big Data, and to avoid the associated privacy perils, we need a balanced set of institutional controls. These controls must support and reflect a greater user control over personal data, as well as large scale interoperability for data sharing between and among institutions.

The core capabilities of these controls should include responsive rule-based systems governance and fine grained authorizations for distributed rights management.

Our lives are embedded within institutions. We are citizens of countries and cities, receive services from telecom operators, and search for things to buy in online stores. Almost any action we perform generates data, and those recordings of our lives are an important part of the Big Data promise. The data are not curated by us, but are collected ‘as is’ - and reflect our lives.

Today, all the data people generate in the context of institutions are stored in closed silos. Mobility traces, for example, are owned by the phone providers, while musical preferences are stored and used by music services.

For these data to be useful to society, the silos must be opened, and the data must be used far more often than they are today. If access to data for the purpose of creating value—either for the user or the society—is very limited, it does not matter how big the data is. The value of the data lies not just in the fact that they exist. Rather, it is the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom we gain from them that makes the data valuable. It is an even bigger challenge to open up the data from multiple silos. Accessing the multi-faced data, which exist under multiple jurisdictions, about people may be prohibitively difficult. Silos are hard to crack open. Such data, not just Big but Deep, covering multiple facets of a person’s life, may be invaluable for research.

Recently, we have shown how challenging, but also possible, it is to open such institutional Big Data. In the Data For Development (D4D) Challenge <sup>1</sup>, the telecom operator Orange opened access to a large dataset of call detail records (CDRs) from the Ivory Coast. Working with the data as part of a challenge, teams of researchers came up with life-changing insights for the country. The privacy of the people was protected not only by the technical means, such as removal of the Personally Identifiable Information (PIIs), but also by legal means, with the researchers signing an agreement they will not use the data for evil. As we have seen in several cases, such as the Netflix Prize privacy disaster [4] and other similar privacy breaches [5], true anonymization is extremely hard. Some of the weight of privacy protection must rest on the legal framework.

Opening data from the silos by publishing static datasets is important, but it is only the first step. We can do even more important things when the data is available in real time and can become part of a nervous system of a society. Epidemics and traffic congestions can be monitored and prevented in real time, underperforming students can be helped, and people with health risks can be treated before they get sick. The same data can be used for stalking, burglarizing one’s home, and as a reason to charge people more for an insurance policy.

In the Unique in the Crowd project [6], we have shown that even though human beings are highly predictable [7], we are also very unique. Having access to one dataset, it is easy to uniquely fingerprint someone based on just few datapoints, and use this fingerprint to discover their true identity. The higher the resolution of the data, the better the data, the easier it gets.

The question of privacy in this context effectively becomes a question of control:

Who can release the data of one’s movements? To whom? How much and how often? The data are collected by the institution. The data are about people and do not belong to them, they may not even be aware that they exist. People cannot decide upon them, cannot review them. People cannot delete them. Very few parties can use the data, even if people wanted them to. For systems to be truly data driven and capable of transitioning to the networked and highly dynamic assumptions of a big data economy, the key agreements reflected in trust networks must reflect a new deal. The operating frameworks successful

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.d4d.orange.com/home>

institutions are capable of balancing interests in access, confidentiality and every day reliance upon big data including personal and other sensitive information. The institutional controls relevant to achieve, maintain and appropriately adapt these balances support and reflect adherence to the fair information practices.

[Footnote: HEW Report, OECD rendition, EU Directive, DHS/NSTIC version, MGL FIPA and culminating in New Deal on Data adaptation].

Within the existing legal frameworks, it is possible to change the vantage point of the data ownership and put the user, the entity about whom the data are, in control. It may be a copy of the data living in the great silo, which is being given to the user. The user would become the owner of their copy of the data, or whenever possible the original, in the old Common Law sense with the right to use, transfer, and delete the data. An example of such a mechanism in an institutional context is Blue Button initiative <sup>2</sup>, where the patients can get a copy of their health records. Once the copy is with the user, they can do with it as they wish: give it to someone, make it public, do research on it, destroy it.

The users can accumulate data about themselves from multiple sources. Information on healthcare records, mobility patterns, favorite movies, etc., all belong to the user and can be accessed based on their authorization. This changes how and what data that can be obtained for the purpose of research and providing services. Rather than gaining access to the movements of millions of people from a telcom operator, one can potentially gain access to a smaller number but of much richer datasets describing the users from the mobility, health, shopping perspectives. New startups do not have to build the user profile from scratch, but can jump in offering competitive services based on the user's collected data. Users can immediately get better services, using their data in new places.

The first, operational challenge of moving towards the end-user data ownership on a large scale, is to create an ecosystem where such user-owned data are noticed and accessed. We are currently embedded in a feudal framework: Facebook owns the data generated by and about their users, and provides the access to them to the 3rd parties that user might or might have not authorized. It is reasonably easy for users to download all their data from Facebook. It is reasonably easy to put it on Dropbox or even create myself-API, becoming a self-hosted API to one's own personal data. The challenge is to have clients to talk to this API and provide services, rather than going to Facebook for one's data. Today, virtually no-one is ready to access user data directly from the user. We have done a slightly better on the Internet scale with identity: one can deploy own OpenID server fairly easily, and many services will allow the user to sign in. We should be heading in the same direction with data.

## 7 Transitioning End-User Assent Practices (Arek)

The way the user grants authorizations to the data she owns is not a trivial matter. Just answering the very simple question 'Who is authorized to know what city I am in today' may be a challenge. The 'Yes' the user has clicked so many times has given access to the location data to so many services. Every tweet, every geo-tagged picture, and every check-in provides the user's location not only to the primary service, but also to all the applications that have been authorized to access these data. This flow of information was a crucial part of the Web2.0 revolution, with RESTful APIs, mashups, and authorizations. The complexity of the flow became too large for a user to handle and manage.

Increasing the amount of data the user controls and increasing the granularity of the control is meaningless if this control cannot be exercised in an informed way. The EULA-catastrophe, where the users may be just as well giving up their soul when signing up without reading, will not bring us closer to the New Deal on Data. In the end it must be the user that makes the informed decision about who will be authorized to access the data and for what purpose. Making the authorization interface too complex is a failure, preventing the user from understanding her decisions. Making it too simple, is also

---

<sup>2</sup><http://www.healthit.gov/bluebutton>

a failure, as it will not convey the complexity of the privacy-related decisions. Writing it in complex legal language makes it very hard to claim that the user expresses informed consent. And if we start asking the users for authorization every 5 minutes, it will only train them to press 'Yes' every time a pop-up is presented.

In addition to the data ownership, we need a better way for the end-user to control what happens with, now their, data. Will users realize that clicking a single 'Yes' gives a service a second-resolution location data? And what can be inferred from such data, regarding alcohol abuse ('we see you a lot in a liquor store'), driving habits, not enough exercise.

This gap between the interface, the single click, and the effect, can render the data ownership meaningless if that click wrenches people and their data into systems and rules that are antithetical to fair information practices, such as is prevalent with today's end user licenses, cloud service and app user agreements. Managing the potentially long term and opposite dynamics fueled by old deal systems operating simultaneously with new deal systems is an important design and migration challenge during the transition to a big data economy. Ironically, some approaches to offering personalized data access by individual approval in secure context, would take the power over the data back out of the hands of the approving users. The same types of system rules that can and should reflect fair information practices in order to build a sustainable big data operational framework can also be abused to expropriate user's personal data. The so-called walled garden comprising the interior of a trust network can protect personal data within its context as a big data sanctuary or it can keep data owners and others with legitimate interests in data away from knowledge or consent for ever after. Walled-gardens comprised of networks of openPDS friendly operating environments can enable a new data economy or can be used as secret dens to hide and sell personal data. The cost of permitting backward looking industrial era practices better suited to keeping a secret formula in a safe are high. It's time to look forward, and embracing the relevant institutional controls is one actionable method gain deeper benefits of truly networked data today and accelerate emergence of a transformatively better era of big data.

There are several potential paths for institutional controls to eventually work in concert across many systems and enterprises and interoperating networks until a stable general environment for big data can be relied upon. For instance, one or a few regulated sectors of the economy could organize and in effect "get ahead" of prescriptive privacy and other legislation by self-regulating, in effect, by way of contractually based system rules. Or bottom up networks of apps, web services and perhaps diagonal chains of transactions, such as permission based automatic forms filling, could emerge and take hold as a beach head, eventually merging with others. Consumer, privacy or state/local policy maker groups could catalyze a national wave of adoption covering a horizontal type of data (perhaps location or identity data) or specific types of transactions could be first to cross the big data chasm and become broadly adopted safe-zones eventually merging with others and comprising most and then all of the data systems. However, when hubs of centralized systems operating outside a New Deal on Data rather than decentralized systems such as openPDS and other personal cloud services exist simultaneously and can arrogate the key rights to user's data in one fell click, there is a risk to smooth and timely transition.

Now, and during the transition to a big data economy and after the new deal on data is no longer new, personal data must continue to flow in order to be useful. Protecting the data of people outside of a domain of the user is very hard without a combination of cost effective and useful business practices, legal rules and technical solutions. For these reasons, the Human Dynamics Lab has focused upon and collaborated with partners to support the clarification of business, legal and technical short and longer term viable solutions. The World Economic Forum's thought leadership is an excellent example of how all levels of the economy are shining light upon the path to adoption of a New Deal on Data as way of avoiding uncertainty, catalyzing further innovation and a path to dynamic prosperous marketplaces fueled by big data. The Identity Ecosystem Steering Committee has likewise been a beacon on the policy front, demonstrating how fair information practices can form the bedrock of privately adopted operating rules and trust frameworks for identity sharing across all sectors of the economy, all types of business



and all individuals of the population.

[Footnote: WEF Relevant papers and blog posts, etc. NSTIC strategy document and IDESG RoA. Not sure best example for the various technical approaches being pursued... perhaps W3C work, or Kerberos/OIDC or something else that is hand-in-glove with openPDS approach?]

## 8 Business, Legal and Technical Dimensions of Big Data Systems (Dazza)

When it comes to data intended to be accessible over networks-whether big, personal or otherwise-the traditional container of an institution makes less and less sense. Institutional controls apply, by definition by or to some type of institutional entity such as a business, governmental or religious organization. A combined view of the business, legal and technical facts and circumstances surrounding big data is necessary to know what access, confidentiality and other expectations exist. The relevant contextual aspects of big data of one institutional is often profoundly different from that of another. As more and more organizations use and rely upon big data, a single formula for institutional controls will not work for increasingly heterogeneous business, legal and technical environments in play.

Looking at an institution as a business, legal and technical system is one effective approach for dealing with the inherent complexity of managing heterogeneous and distributed networks of actors and interactions. The business models, interface-point operational practices and relevant assumptions must be consistent and frequently carefully agreed at an executive level by and with institutions as part of the value exchange involving data and access to high value, mission critical or sensitive systems and services. The applicable legal frameworks, common assumptions regarding likely allocation of liability and resolution of disputes in the event of losses and expected types of contracting practices need to reflect and support the business goals and purposes for the system and data. When technical standards are selected, configured and applied to systems they too must support and reflect the business and legal dimensions and be supported and reflected by those dimensions.

Once a systems view is adopted, there is a tractable starting point to narrow or broaden the scope of view to see the smaller and larger systems and to make better and more effective use and control of big data. Within a given institution, there may in fact be many different discernable institutions and corresponding systems and any given system of one institution will frequently in fact exist across many different discernable institutions. However, defining as a system the thing to which institutional controls apply provides an achievable and measurable basis for balancing privacy, access and other interests in big data.

## 9 Big Data and Personal Data Institutional Controls (Thomas)

The phrase "institutional controls" refers to safeguards and protections by use of legal, policy, governance and other non-strictly technical, engineering or mechanical measures. The phrase institutional controls in a big data context can perhaps best be understand by examining how the concept has been applied to other domains. The most prevalent use of institutional controls, per se, has been in the field of environmental regulatory frameworks.

A good example of how this concept supports and reflects the goals and objectives of environmental regulation can be found in the policy documents of the EPA. This following definition is instructive, and is part of the Institutional Control Glossary of Terms, available at: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/correctiveaction/r>

"Institutional Controls - Non-engineering measures intended to affect human activities in such a way as to prevent or reduce exposure to hazardous substances. They are almost always used in conjunction with, or as a supplement to, other measures such as waste treatment or containment. There are four

categories of institutional controls: governmental controls; proprietary controls; enforcement tools; and informational devices.”

Going deeper, the article *Restrictive Covenants as Institutional Controls for Remediated Sites: Worth the Effort?* by Ralph A. DeMeo and Sarah Meyer Doar, available at <http://www.floridabar.org/divcom/jn/jnjournal01.nsf/> defines institutional controls thusly:

”Institutional controls are administrative and legal controls that help minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of the physical remedy. They can include recorded restrictive covenants, but land use laws and regulations, deed restrictions, department consent orders, and conservation easements are all institutional controls.”

In domains of information technology, this approach is most commonly reflected as enterprise controls” related to security. See, for example, *Secure Data Access Anywhere And Anytime, Current Landscape And Future Outlook Of Enterprise Mobile Security*. available at: <http://www.juniper.net/us/en/local/pdf/industry-reports/secure-data-access.pdf> section ”Enterprise Mobility Outlook Mobility Enters A Strategic Planning Stage” at 15, stating: ”Enterprise mobility technologies, especially those designed to retrofit enterprise controls on top of consumer mobile devices, are rapidly evolving. This was a message we heard loud and clear in the study.” This study and analysis also reveals much about the internal controls needed to accommodate mobile device use by employees. In both capacities as employee, consumer and other roles, the use of mobile devices triggers myriad legal, policy and other implications for institutional controls.

In the legal domain, this concept frequently emerges under the moniker ”regulatory compliance or legal compliance anchored in legal and regulatory frameworks such as HIPAA and Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX). These statutory legal frameworks require covered organizations to established integrated sets of governance, legal, transactional, security and other internal controls to avoid violating the rules. The institutional controls are accomplished in tight integration with engineering and other measures in order to ensure compliance and to control legal and security risk. The use of institutional controls of this type are fundamental methods for achieving and maintaining the transition to a digital, networked and big data footing for any private company, government agency or other organization.

Consider again the analogy of institutional controls in the context of environmental law, and how these types of measures can be applied in the big data, privacy and access context to digital environments. Given the relatively mature and stable state of environmental regulation, there is much to be learned by examining this context of institutional controls. Environmental regulatory compliance with waste management cleanup requirements could include institutional controls restricting land use on adjacent property. In these situations, it is possible that the remediation strategy requires significant use of land outside the property boundaries of the cleanup site. In these cases, the regulators and the land owner responsible for the regulated property must find ways to ensure a common approach among multiple owners and across multiple property environments. Use of measures such as a clauses on the relevant deeds, an enforceable consent order or regulations and zoning rules are examples of more severe institutional controls that can be employed to ensure consistent and effective actions are taken across ownership and real property boundaries.

See, for example, FDEP, Division of Waste Management, *Institutional Controls Procedures Guidance* at 22 (Nov. 2010), available at [www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick\\_topics/publications/wc/csf/icpg.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/publications/wc/csf/icpg.pdf), ”...RMO III does contemplate contamination beyond the Property boundaries, which would require agreement by the adjacent owners to put an RC on their properties as well.”

The concept of an ”institutional control boundary” is especially clarifying and powerful when applied to the networked and digital boundaries of an institution. In the context of Florida’s environmental regulation frameworks, the phrase is applied to describe the various types of combinations risk management levels related to target cleanup standards and extend beyond the area of a physical property boundary. See the *Final Technical Report: Development of Cleanup Target Levels (CTLs) for Ch. 62-777, F.A.C.*, at 134, available at [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick\\_topics/publications/wc/FinalGuidanceDocumentsFlowCharts\\_April28-05\).pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/publications/wc/FinalGuidanceDocumentsFlowCharts_April28-05).pdf) ”Risk Management Options Level III, like Level II, allows concentrations above the default

groundwater CTLs to remain on site. However, in some rare situations, the institutional control boundary at which default CTLs must be met can extend beyond the site property boundary.”

The EPA provides considerable information on the nature and use of institutional controls, including situations when the situational scope extends to adjacent properties owned by third parties. See, generally, EPA Hazardous Waste Corrective Action Guidance on Institutional Controls, <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/correction>. Also see: Institutional Controls Bibliography: Institutional Control, Remedy Selection, and Post-Construction Completion Guidance and Policy, December 2005, <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/ic/guide/biblio.pdf>

When institutional controls would apply to “separately owned neighboring properties” a number of issues arise. Engagement with affected third parties, requiring the party responsible for site cleanup to use “best efforts” to attain agreement by third parties to institute the relevant institutional controls, use of third party neutrals to resolve disagreements regarding the application with institutional controls or forcing an acquisition of the neighboring land by forcing the party responsible to purchase the property or by purchase of the property directly by the EPA. See, Institutional Controls: A Guide to Planning, Implementing, Maintaining, and Enforcing Institutional Controls at Contaminated Sites, December 2012, at pg 16, Section 4.4 ICs and Landowners, <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/ic/guide/Final>

In the context of big data, privacy and access, institutional controls are seldom if ever the result of government regulatory frameworks such as are seen in the environmental waste management oversight by the EPA. Rather, institutions applying measures constituting institutional controls in the big data and related information technology and enterprise architecture contexts will typically employ governance safeguards, business practices, legal contracts, technical security, reporting and audit programs and a various risk management measures. Inevitably, institutional controls for big data will have to operate effectively across institutional boundaries just as environmental waste management internal controls must sometimes be applied across real property boundaries and may subject multiple different owner to enforcement actions corresponding to the applicable controls. Short of government regulation, the use of system rules as a general model are one widely understood, accepted and efficient method for defining, agreeing and enforcing institutional and other controls across business, legal and technical domains of ownership, governance and operation.

The use of system rules and integrated participation agreements by developers and end-users is a way to ensure intended operational frameworks conform to applicable institutional controls. The example of “living consent” described below, demonstrates how institutional controls comprised of legal and definite workflow measures in concert with technical methods can result in a higher level of performance while appropriately balancing legitimate interests of various parties regarding use and access to personal data.

## 10 Scenarios of Use in Context (Dazza)

Supporting the effective development of institutional controls for big data requires an understanding of how to define and work with the applicable context surrounding the scenarios within which the big data exists. In particular, the New Deal on Data will require a set of Institutional Controls involving governance, business, legal and technical aspects that are knowable only with reference to the relevant context of a factually based scenario of use. The following scenarios demonstrate signature features of the New Deal on Data in various contexts and serve as an anchor to evaluate what Institutional Controls are well aligned.

### 10.1 Example Scenario: Research Systems

Computational Social Science (CSS) studies are based on data collected often with an extremely high resolution and scale. Using computational power combined with mathematical models, such data can be used to provide insights into human nature. Much of the data collected, for example mobility traces

are sensitive and private; most individuals would feel uncomfortable sharing them publicly. The need for solutions to ensure the privacy of the individuals has grown alongside the data collection efforts.

The data collection in the CSS context is based on the informed consent of the participants. Countries have different bodies regulating such studies, for example Institutional Research Boards (IRBs) in the US. Although certain minimal requirements for implementing informed consent exist[TODO: reference], they are often not very well suited for the large-scale studies, where the amount and sensitivity of the data calls for sophisticated privacy controls. As the scale of the studies grows, in terms of the number of participants, collected bits per user, and duration, the EULA-style informed consent is no longer sufficient and makes it hard to claim that participants in fact expressed informed consent.

This year we have deployed a 1,000 phones study at Technical University of Denmark, where we handed out mobile phones to freshmen students in order to study their networks and social behavior in the important change moment of their lives, when they join the university. The study, called SensibleDTU, uses not only data collected from the mobile phones (location, Bluetooth-based proximity, call and sms logs etc.) but also data collected from social networks, questionnaires filled out by participants, behavior in economic games and so on. As the data is collected in the context of the university, there is potentially a big issues of students feeling obliged to participate in the study, feeling that their grades may depend on it, or that the data may influence their grades. In this context, we see the implementation of Living Informed Consent not only as a technical mean to put participants in control of the data we collect, but also to convey the message about the opt-in nature of the study, the boundaries of the data usage, and parties accessing the data.

It is not feasible to explain the terms and answer all the questions to all 1,000 students personally. The controls must be self-explanatory as much as possible, and guide the user from the first opening of the link to the study to the grant of the authorizations. At the same time, every click made by the user, should be an expression of an informed decision, so the user journey must be a balance of guidance and understanding. For this reason we have created a set of web applications, allowing the users to enroll into the study, express informed consent, and interact with their data.

As the study will last for several years, hopefully allowing us to see the life of a student from the very first friendships made until the graduation party, the consent must remain alive. It is again a matter of balance: we do not want the participants to feel under constant surveillance (as they are not, the data is used mostly in aggregated form), at the same time to remember that in fact, the data is being collected and used. We are still trying to understand how to achieve this equilibrium: how often should we remind the users about the collection effort? should they re-authorize applications from time to time? We see a great hope in the applications we create for the users to provide certain services, simple such as life-logging where they can see how active they are, what are their top places etc. and more advanced, such as artistic visualizations of their social networks. Making the user aware of the data by transforming them into value, can greatly benefit the privacy, making users constantly aware what is being collected, but also what kind of value they can get out of it.

When a study of such scale is deployed, the particular experiments and sub-studies may not be exactly defined from the very beginning. The initial deployment is a creation of a testbed, where shorter or longer experiments can take place; for example part of the population may participate in the experiment of quantifying the impact of feedback application on their activity levels. Being able to create such experiments in an efficient way is a huge value for the researchers. To do that in the most frictionless way, we give the users the choice to opt-in to those additional experiments, providing some financial or other benefits. This is only possible if there is a notion of identity of the participants, stronger and more useful than a piece of paper with a signature. This identity allows us to reach out to people, offer them additional experiments, and let them agree or disagree to them.

This touches upon the re-usability of data, as the new experiments may require additional data to be collected, but also have access to all the existing data, based on user authorization. We can imagine going even further, where entirely different studies can re-use participants data from a previous study based on

their authorization. When the data are owned by the users, they are free to authorize access to them to any party that requests it. We can see a New Deal on Data pattern here: rather than services (studies) talking to each other about the user data, they talk directly to the users, seeking their authorization. This can address a very important problem in the research context, the data re-use in a privacy-aware manner. Rather than publishing a static dataset, where the users have lost control over their data, live and fresh data can be continuously accessed by any study that the user agrees to be a part of.

Many studies will be willing to offer money or other value for the access to the data. Other will provide the user the opportunity to have new data collected. This way, the data collection becomes an opportunity for the user to enrich their personal dataset, and to benefit from it in the future. Join our study and we will provide you with a smartphone and collect your movement patterns for a year; we will do science and you will gain new data that can get you better value or deals in different services. You may now be eligible for a different study. Or your music recommendation may get better, because your music service can make a use of this extra data. Your data.

## 10.2 Scenarios of Use Today, Tomorrow and the Day After

By inquiring into and noting the four facets of relevant context described above, it is possible to describe the basic material contours of any scenario within which big data exists such that the operational framework and adequate approaches to access, use, confidentiality and other key interests can be sustainably balanced. In a commercial scenario the relevant people might be a consumer, merchants, banks, products manufacturers, third party app developers and individual members of that consumers bowling team. The relevant transactions might be a purchase of goods by the consumer from the merchant and the corresponding app that was embedded in the goods and the downstream transaction of involving the consumer now transacting with the merchant bowling alley and interacting with a bowling team, with whom activity and sports performance data are shared and aggregated and further mashed up. The rest of the context can be described for any given scenario and this all could be expressed specifically rather than by role simply by running a report from the system to indicate it was in fact John Doe, of [openpds.org/owner/571](https://openpds.org/owner/571) purchasing a smart bowling ball from Bowl-a-Tronic of [bowlappgood.com/store/221](https://bowlappgood.com/store/221) and so on for each party that played a role in the relevant scenario. The same techniques, used for scenarios in other economic sectors and social endeavors shed light on the fundamental nature and implications of big data and options for the use of operational frameworks acting across domains to balance privacy and access, among other interests.

This book represents a high value opportunity to take stock of the current state and dominant trends related to big data and help to illuminate important choices at a moment of early adoption, dynamic innovation and wide open possibilities. By contemplating the relevant contexts of today's scenarios of use in, say, the fields of education, entertainment, government, manufacturing, transportation and many other core anchors of human activity, we have traction to postulate how today's prevailing trends are likely to result and what changes – perhaps quite small but of profound long term impact – could lead to materially different better outcomes. Consider that if the essence of the New Deal on Data were accepted today, or soon, the nature, tenor, capabilities and experience of living by future generations could be unrecognizably better. Simply extrapolate from the current anomalous practices regarding personal data and individual identity and push forward the timeline by 5, 10, 20 years and beyond. The current trajectory ends up with dystopian scenarios that effectively reverse hard fought but easily lost constitutional deal of the United States and social compact of common law and compatible societies.

By contrast, by adopting the New Deal on Data now it is entirely possible to enjoy a period of unprecedented prosperity and invention even before the new deal on data frameworks are formally launched. This is because the uncertainty and confusion about the basic premises and expectations around personal data and identity will be resolved and so investment and risk taking on a firm foundation can be unleashed. Many policy techniques can be used to make adoption of the new deal on data all but impossible to oppose on grounds of cost, disruption or over regulation. For instance, generous easy to implement support

such as phase-in periods of many years, opportunities for delays and flexible approaches to adoption, etc.

## 11 Future Research (Thomas)

Our traditional methods of testing and improving government, organizations, and so on are of limited use in building a data driven society. Even the scientific method as we normally use it no longer works, because there are so many potential connections that our standard statistical tools generate nonsense results.

The reason is that with such rich data, you can easily uncover misleading correlations. For instance, lets imagine we discover that people who are unusually active are more likely to get the flu. This is a real example: when we examined the minute-by-minute behavior of a small university community a real-time flow of gigabytes per day for an entire year we noticed that an unusual level of running around often predicted onset of the flu. But if we can only analyze the data using traditional statistical methods, we have the problem of why is it true? Is it because flu virus makes us more active in order to spread itself more quickly? Or did interacting with many more people than usual make you more likely to catch the flu? Or is it something else? From the real-time stream of data by itself you just cant know.

The point here is that normal analysis methods don't suffice to answer these sorts of questions, because we dont know all the possible alternatives and so we cant form a limited, testable number of clear hypotheses. Instead, we need to devise new ways to test the causality of connections in the real world. We can no longer rely on laboratory experiments; we need to actually do the experiments in the real world, and usually on massive, real-time streams of data.

### 11.1 Research on Design and Deployment of Big Data Systems

The highest value, lowest risks and overall best outcomes can be achieved most efficiently by applying top current research to design and deployment of the coming global wave of big data systems. To understand and address the unique problems and prospects affiliated with big data, the relevant context must be identified and corresponding rules-driven capabilities must be designed into the underlying systems.

People and/or rules engines can determine the right rules to apply to data when the right information is reliably attached to or logically associated with that data in a standard manner. Any system that can make, use, receive or share big data must be capable of associating provenance and purpose for all data in a common and actionable manner. Requiring a lot of narrative documentation and background about the nuances and circumstances surrounding every data set is both impractical and counterproductive. By contrast, a small amount metadata listing or reliably linking to the parties, transactions, systems and provenance of the data would suffice. This relevant context together

It is important for science and research to develop further solutions and options ensuring contextually appropriate rules can be applied by big data systems. For rules to be effectively applied, systems must not only be able to establish which rules apply but also support the right functional capabilities and have appropriate information structure, format and meta-data.

Today, computational social science can provide unprecedented insights into the business, legal and technical dimensions of big data driven systems. Harnessing these insights it will be possible to conduct research enabling common design patterns and reference implementations for responsive enterprise architectures that can orchestrate services and adapt rules based on dynamic real-time big data analytics. Advanced analytics reveals the reality of situations, and can be a powerful guide to the further optimization of financial management, user experience and control, conditions catalyzing innovation and other key inputs to overall economic impact.

Some capabilities will likely be essential to all big data systems, such as highly scalable active storage, standard methods for integration with other big data systems and a processing architecture enabling high speed statistical analytics. But there are and will continue to emerge multiple types of big data

systems. Some functions or controls will likely be important - or even feasible - only for certain types of future systems. For instance, it is reasonable to expect some systems will specialize in enormous volumes of entirely non-personal data from many real-time sources (e.g. for soil science, materials engineering, astronomy, etc) while other big data systems will hinge upon mass quantities of highly sensitive personal information (e.g. for clinical medicine, education and life-long learning, social entertainment, etc).

While some capabilities, such as ingesting and processing astronomical data-sets, will be unique to only a subset of big data systems it is reasonable to anticipate that data will be increasingly cross-tabulated, merged and otherwise shared with other systems and data. It can be nearly impossible to conclusively predict for the entire life of a system what data will be received by, created in or transmitted from that system at the design phase. This prediction is all the harder to make when the systems are intended for big data.

The four contextual facets of people, interactions, technology and data were initially developed to provide a sound underpinning for the design of new big data and web 2.0 systems. The existing systems design and development processes of establishing business cases, use cases, agile stories, functional requirements, etc. do not reliably identify the factors most relevant to use of big data, especially in a web 2.0 massively distributed environment. The four facets can also be used to analyze appropriate, required or prohibited uses for existing big data systems. However, it can be difficult to extract the relevant information from or apply any effective control on systems used for big data but designed to achieve limited purposes in hierarchical closed environments.

Big data, by its nature, represents a new set of business, legal and technical capabilities and requirements. Most of the worlds systems today are not capable of ingesting, storing, using or dynamically flowing big data with other systems. Considering that a) big data is of high value immediately and higher value in the short and long terms, and b) the young but competitive marketplace of big data system components, platforms, applications and other solutions is a hotbed of innovation it can be predicted that a transition to big data systems will continue. The key observation is that virtually all big data systems have yet to be designed, implemented, customized or deployed. Institutions that are the current early adopters of todays big data system will soon replace those systems and the rest of the world will adopt big data systems in phases over time. Based upon this observation,

## 11.2 Research on Big Data for Design of Institutions

Using massive, live data to design institutions and policies is outside of our normal way of managing things. We live in an era that builds on centuries of science and engineering, and the standard choices for improving systems, governments, organizations, and so on are fairly well understood. Therefore our scientific experiments normally need only consider a few clear alternatives (i.e., plausible hypotheses).

But with the coming of big data, we are going to be operating very much out of our old, familiar ballpark. These data are often indirect and noisy, and so interpretation of the data requires greater care than is usual. Even more importantly, a great deal of the data is about human behavior, and the questions are ones that seek to connect physical conditions to social outcomes. Until we have a solid, well-proven and quantitative theory of social physics, we wont be able to formulate and test hypotheses in the way we can when we design bridges or develop new drugs.

Therefore, we must move beyond the closed, laboratory-based question-and-answering process that we currently use and begin to manage our society in a new way. We have to begin to test connections in the real world far earlier and more frequently than we have ever had to do before, using the methods my research group and I have developed for the Friends and Family study or the Social Evolution study. We need to construct Living Laboratories communities willing to try a new way of doing things or, to put it bluntly, to be guinea pigs in order to test and prove our ideas. This is new territory and so it is important for us to constantly try out new ideas in the real world in order to see what works and what doesnt.

An example of such a Living Lab is the ‘open data city just launched by one author (Pentland) with the city of Trento in Italy, along with Telecom Italia, Telefonica, the research university Fondazione Bruno Kessler, the Institute for Data Driven Design, and local companies. Importantly, this Living Lab has the approval and informed consent of all its participants they know that they are part of a gigantic experiment whose goal is to invent a better way of living. More detail on this Living Lab can be found at <http://www.mobileterritoriallab.eu/>

The goal of this Living Lab is to develop new ways of sharing data to promote greater civic engagement and exploration. One specific goal is to build upon and test trust-network software such as our openPDS (Personal Data Store) system . Tools such as openPDS make it safe for individuals to share personal data (e.g., health data, facts about your children) by controlling where your data go and what is done with them.

The specific research questions we are exploring depend upon a set of personal data services designed to enable users to collect, store, manage, disclose, share and use data about themselves. These data can be used for the personal self-empowerment of each member, or (when aggregated) for the improvement of the community through data commons that enable social network incentives. The ability to share data safely should enable better idea flow among individuals, companies, and government, and we want to see if these tools can in fact increase productivity and creative output at the scale of an entire city.

An example of an application enabled by the openPDS trust frame work is sharing of best practices among families with young children. How do other families spend their money? How much do they get out and socialize? Which preschools or doctors do people stay with for the longest time? Once the individual gives permission, our openPDS system allows such personal data to be collected, anonymized and shared with other young families safely and automatically.

The openPDS system lets the community of young families learn from each other without the work of entering data by hand or the risk of sharing through current social media. While the Trento experiment is still in its early days, the initial reaction from participating families is that these sorts of data sharing capabilities are valuable, and they feel safe sharing their data using the openPDS system.

The Trento Living Lab will let us investigate how to deal with the sensitivities of collecting and using deeply personal data in real-world situations. In particular, the Lab will be used as a pilot for the New Deal on Data and for new ways to give users control of the use of their personal data. For example, we will explore different techniques and methodologies to protect the users privacy while at the same time being able to use these personal data to generate a useful data commons. We will also explore different user interfaces for privacy settings, for configuring the data collected, for the data disclosed to applications and for those shared with other users, all in the context of a trust framework.

## References

1. Eagle N, Pentland A (2006) Reality mining: sensing complex social systems. *Personal and ubiquitous computing* 10: 255–268.
2. PENTLAND A (2009) Reality mining of mobile communications: Toward a new deal on data. *The Global Information Technology Report 2008–2009* : 1981.
3. Greene K (2008) Reality mining. *Technology Review* .
4. Narayanan A, Shmatikov V (2008) Robust de-anonymization of large sparse datasets. In: *Security and Privacy, 2008. SP 2008. IEEE Symposium on*. IEEE, pp. 111–125.
5. Sweeney L (2000) Simple demographics often identify people uniquely. *Health (San Francisco)* : 1–34.



6. de Montjoye YA, Hidalgo CA, Verleysen M, Blondel VD (2013) Unique in the crowd: The privacy bounds of human mobility. *Scientific reports* 3.
7. Song C, Qu Z, Blumm N, Barabási AL (2010) Limits of predictability in human mobility. *Science* 327: 1018–1021.