RECOMMENDED TOOLS

The Open Data Initiative (ODI) works to ensure government finance data is consistent, transparent, and easily available. ODI is administered through Lincoln Network, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. For more information, *please visit our website*.

open
data
initiative

Socrata

Socrata has government back office accounting products that enable publishing public data. Socrata is a Series C startup with $57M funding, founded in 2007 with about 160 employees. Government entities that have outsourced open data management to Socrata generally lack a published open data policy. Instead, the organization has relied on Socrata to create this policy. Many state government Socrata implementations are very similar and seemingly based on a template. Socrata federal government implementations are often in conjunction with CKAN. Socrata supports an open source version of their proprietary server that can be implemented to provide access to the Socrata API.

junar

Junar is a Series B startup with $2M of funding, founded in 2010 with about 20 employees. It has a simple interface with intuitive controls, excellent data formats, and consistent data access methods. Junar implementations are the best we have seen so far. Their commercial support team, however, is smaller than the other options.

OPENGOV

OpenGov has two product lines: their AWS cloud-based government back-office accounting software and open data publishing. OpenGov is a Series C startup with $77M funding, founded in 2012 with about 160 employees. The accounting product is their main offering and it is focused on supporting budgets under $500K. Their analytics really separates them from their competition. Their open data product is based on the open source project Comprehensive Knowledge Archive Network (CKAN). Broader open source support differentiates OpenGov from its main competitor, Socrata, in the government open data market. In April 2016, OpenGov acquired Ontodia, which had hundreds of open data clients in the public sector. This acquisition is how OpenGov started supporting open data. OpenGov has plans to allow internal accounting reports to be published publicly, through CKAN, by 3Q 2018. Right now, public reports and their data must be manually created each time.

ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

Munetrix
ClearGov
Goinvo

ckan

The Comprehensive Knowledge Archive Network (CKAN) software is an AGPL licensed open source project with hundreds of contributors from around the world, including commercial organizations like OpenGov, LinkDigital, and Viderum. The largest implementations are by U.S. government agencies like GSA and NOAA, as well as the E.U., Ireland, Romania, the United Kingdom, Germany, Greece, and the Netherlands. There are hundreds of international municipality implementations as well. CKAN typically relies on WordPress for the presentation layer, but there are also Drupal implementations. The nonprofit *Open Knowledge International* is supporting CKAN administration.

ADDITIONAL OPEN SOURCE PROJECTS

Open source licensed software has publicly available source code with some restrictions on its use. If your organization has an experienced engineering staff, then open source software is an option to save on licensing costs. Without an engineering team, use commercial software.

Data.gov	Visual Town Budget
Socrata	ProPublica
OpenSpending	OpenGov Foundation
Civio	