Agenda

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Police Data Accessibility Project
September 22, 2022 Community Call

0: Introductions →
1: Ecosystem updates, helping wall
2: Vision & Milestones
3: PDAP community, strategy, and roles
4: Contributing

Remainder: Open discussion, Q&A

Welcome

0: Introductions

Welcome! Grab a sticky note or create your own by pressing "s"

- Your name
- Your discord handle or social tag
- Something about yourself, why you're here, and/or a project that matters to you

Josh Chamberlain
@josh__#6240

Multidisciplinary designer, working full-time on PDAP.

Eddie Brown
@Eddie#3121

Board president, keeping the nonprofit's corporate side healthy

Drew Quinton
@@B1_Drewberiron#5743

Technology enthusiast interested in helping out with the cause in the little free time that I have
Found you on Reddit

I'm ✓Stocking

hi everyone <3

Stocking

Matt Styles
@Kowhai#1496

Programmer, would love to do some coding for a good cause. Here from Hacker news

Anthony Becker
@longterm#2390

SWE from HN. Hoping to contribute some backend with a good DevEx

Jack Knudson
@flip#3394

Full-time freelance software developer, looking to contribute part-time

Juan Olvera
@jolv#8115

Frontend engineer. Scrapper hobbyist with Python.

Orion Taylor
@orionjtaylor

Run a project that might have some data overlap with y'all!

Tristan Juricek
@TristanJuricek#1305

Software Engineer, found this from HN. I have some time to volunteer from my company, so I'm interested in how I can help

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Ecosystem & helping wall

1: Ecosystem updates & helping wall

Create a sticky note by pressing the s key or finding it in the toolbar below.

- What are you working on?
- Is there anything you're looking for help or guidance on?
- Are there exciting things going on in the world of police data?

I could always use help finding people who work on police systems / manage municipal data from the state side

Josh Chamberlain

OSINT project in need of ownership: https://github.com/twintproject/twint
allows for scraping tweets; likely not applicable

Flip Liquid

Curious what the ideal end state for the technical system is

Scraper jobs running that dump into Archive.org?

Anthony Becker

Question: Considering PDAP seems to be early in development. It may not be relevent.

However: What is currently being done to ensure collected data is: permanently archived?

(Archive.org?)
(Please move note if it's in the way.)

Stocking

Goals & milestones

2: Vision & milestones

Feel free to comment or make notes.
We've been working with activists, journalists, and researchers to understand how they already use police data—and what we can do to make it easier.

How it works now:

People email spreadsheets of useful URLs and ZIP files of FOIA requests to their friends.

– duplication of effort
– finding useful information takes time
– data falls through the cracks

How it should work:

People share data with each other using a common system, and use metadata to catalogue their sources for others to use.

+ decentralized workload
+ shared metadata for organization
+ empowers those already doing the work

Milestones

1. Data Source management & archiving
Maintain and search Data Sources for basic tasks.

2. Data Source grouping & reporting
Collaboration, automation, progress tracking.

3. Shared scrapers, extractions, & analysis
Using scrapers for on-demand data extraction.

4. PDAP-published extraction & analysis
Transparency studies, reports, and standards.

Decentralization is certainly a good idea.

Not only does this spread out data. It also spreads out risk and (if PDAP turns into a pain for the police) it decentralizes accountability.

That is: It's not possible to 'take down' a resilient grassroots movement.

Just thinking ahead I guess.

Stocking

Is it definitely the case that there are no nationwide reporting standards for arrests?
@Craeft

What's the difference between 1. and 2. ? Data source management & archiving vs... grouping & reporting?

Anthony Becker

Maybe mark off the notes that have been talked about?

Is public API and query system for "all data" we have a possibility?

Or would those costs exceedingly drag down a project and are we 'stuck' with uploading standardized files to archive.org and linking to that in a machine-readable format?

Stocking

Is there an effort to standardize police data between various local departments, states, and federal jurisdictions?
@Intern

I could use help identifying which forms to request from police agencies. I've found that there are Use of Force data forms collected by the DOJ and a few more specific crime reporting forms sent out by the CA government, but could use more information on this

@Intern

Does PDAP (or the pro-bono lawfirm that represents PDAP?) provide project users with legal representation in case of legal harassment from police or other agencies?

Stocking

No / not yet. This is a good question and something we could look into. Legal risk for collecting public information should be low though.

Josh Chamberlain

PDAP community

3: PDAP community, strategy, and roles

Feel free to comment or make notes.
We succeed when we help someone answer a question about the police. This could be a journalist, activist, policymaker, municipal data team, or anyone at all looking to learn what they can from the data our criminal justice system makes public.

These groups overlap.
We're bringing independent actors together to compare notes and share resources.

Data Consumers
Using police data for a variety of projects at any scale

For example,
- policy analysts comparing police budgets in similar cities
- journalists uncovering information about critical events
- activists deciding where to focus their efforts
- a city trying to address police misconduct

PDAP Volunteers
Data nerds with a shared goal of police transparency

PDAP Staff
Designing and coding open-source tools for facilitation

We're in the Airtable prototype phase, developing our own app in parallel as we learn and iterate.

Expert Community
Our board and network of advisors, giving us guidance

Do you know of anyone we should be taking cues from?

Add text

Stocking

Contributing

4: How to help

Thank you for being here!

- Contribute valuable Data Sources to help build the foundation for more work. Scrape them, or find them manually!
- Make a recurring donation to help cover our expenses.
- Tell people about our project.
- Investigate a question about the police using our process. Learn something, collaborate, and help us develop our tools in the process!
- Keep sharing your valuable time and perspective with us.

Wrapup: any final thoughts? Feel free to make a sticky ↓

I'm no expert on the legal/ police system and how organisations as such are organised or what the 'trajectory' that people go through between suspect -> arrested -> convicted-> released

Idea: Is a general talk/ lecture about the organisation of police departments a good idea?

Stocking

What successes has PDAP had so far?

How much data has PDAP processed so far?

Do current PDAP folks have any calls to action?

Afterparty? Who's gonna stick around for a bit?

Stocking

Blog
Updates and news from PDAP.
docs.pdap.io

PDAP
Information hub for the Police Data Accessibility Project
pdap.io

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