

CHARTER
of the
DATA SCIENCE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP
COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Data Science Interagency Working Group (DSIWG) is hereby established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Technology (CoT).

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the DSAG is to improve Federal agency capacity for data-driven decision-making by advancing adoption of data science technologies, techniques, best practices, leveraging federal research and development efforts. It will identify the most pressing challenges in innovation using data science, advancing data capacity, promoting broader adoption of data best practices and leveraging opportunities to gain operational efficiencies. It strives to promote cross-agency collaboration and eliminate redundant “one-off” short term solutions.

The DSAG will collaborate with other Councils (i.e., Chief Information Officer (CIO) Council, Privacy Council, Chief Human Capital Officers Council) to unleash innovation by unlocking Federal data sets and returning on America’s investment in procuring and producing data, improve coordination of department and agency efforts to meet the objectives of innovation-focused policies such as the May 9th, 2013, Executive Order, Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information and the accompanying OMB Open Data Policy requiring federal agencies to maintain comprehensive inventories of their data assets following a standard metadata schema.

C. Functions

The functions of the DSIWG are to:

1. Provide a forum for monitoring Federal-sector progress in improving capacity for data-driven decision-making. The DSIWG will promote collaboration and community building across the Federal government for the purpose of sharing best practices, transferring knowledge, and highlighting innovative approaches to addressing Federal data capacity challenges.
2. Coordinate agency efforts to establish, share, and adopt data science best practices.
3. Develop and publish a Federal Data Science Best Practices Report that describes data science best practices to inform data-driven decision-making and a research agenda for addressing

the most pressing challenges to advancing Federal adoption of data science best practices. In doing so, the DSIWG will assess long-term needs for improving data decision-making through data science; outline options for developing and sustaining best practices; detail the steps to be taken to scale adoption of best practices; and identify criteria for monitoring progress towards improved data-driven decision-making.

4. Identify a set of demonstration projects for meeting challenges identified in the Federal Data Science Best Practices Report and linked to cross-agency priorities; and assess the requirements for scaling-up data efforts to meet these challenges.
5. Coordinate agency efforts to support training, education, and workforce development related to professionalizing data leadership roles such as the Chief Data Officer and Chief Data Scientist. Additionally, create pathways to data science careers in the Federal government as well as retaining data talent.

E. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the DSIWG:

Department of Agriculture;
Department of Commerce;
Department of Defense (Co-chair);
Department of Health and Human Services;
Department of Homeland Security;
Department of Interior;
Department of Labor;
Department of Transportation;
Department of Treasury;
Department of Veterans Affairs;
Environmental Protection Agency;
National Science Foundation;
Office of Personnel Management;
Social Security Administration;
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau;
Office of Personnel Management
General Services Administration (Co-Chair); and
U.S. Agency for International Development.

The following components of the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the DSIWG:

Office of Management and Budget; and
Office of Science and Technology Policy (Co-chair).

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include other such Executive organizations and agencies as the Co-chairs may, from time to time, designate. The DSIWG will also strive to enhance the Federal research and development enterprise by embracing diversity, recognizing that inclusion of a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives is critical to achieving robust intellectual dialogue.

F. Private-Sector Interface

The DSIWG may consult the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to secure appropriate private-sector advice and will recommend to the Committee on Technology and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology the nature of additional private-sector¹ advice needed to accomplish its mission. The DSIWG may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

G. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Chair of the CoT prior to its expiration, the DSIWG shall terminate no later than July 31, 2017.

¹ The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define "private sector," but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and international bodies.

H. Determination

I hereby determine that the establishment of the Data Science Interagency Working Group is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



Tom Kalil,
Chair, Committee on Technology and
Deputy Director for Technology,
Office of Science and Technology Policy

8/23/16

Date