

open data and APIs: fueling innovation

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SYNTROPICS

engage || experience || expand

who the hell is this aimee, anyway?

by day:

- large scale web projects (central gov)

who the hell is this aimee, anyway?

by day:

- service design/agile policy development/community engagement (local gov)

who the hell is this aimee, anyway?

by night:

- open data, open government and open source advocate
- civic tech community-builder (openciv.nz)

who the hell is this aimee, anyway?

- national coordinator, GovHack NZ
- founder/principal, Syntropics
- founder/ex-host, Nerd Nite Wellington
- co-founder, Sciblogs
- general loudmouth, twitter

why are we here again?!

- aimee != technical (technically)
- (but she sees and hears lots)
- we'll talk:
 - open say what now?
 - open data/APIs in the wild (GovHack)
 - MOAR OPEN

open say what now?

- shared definitions are a Good Thing
- open data IS:
 - publicly available
 - on an ongoing basis

open say what now?

- shared definitions are a Good Thing
- open data is NOT:
 - available for short periods of time
 - available to select groups of people
 - unaffordable

open say what now?

- open data can be:
 - human-readable
 - upsetting
 - a barrier to entry
 - static
 - out of date

example: Council minutes buried in awful PDFs

open say what now?

- open data can be:
 - machine-readable
 - less upsetting
 - smaller barrier to entry
 - machine-readable as API
 - it's aliiiiiiive
 - makes happy devs

APIs in the wild: GovHack NZ

- southern hemisphere's largest open data/open gov hackathon
- 9 locations across NZ / 31 across Australia
- > 2,500 participants
- 429 projects in 2016 (total); 65 in NZ

APIs in the wild: GovHack NZ

- 1,582 datasets used, many APIs
- huge range in projects
- APIs especially popular
- calls (ahaha) for more APIs, more open data

Credit: Mike Riversdale

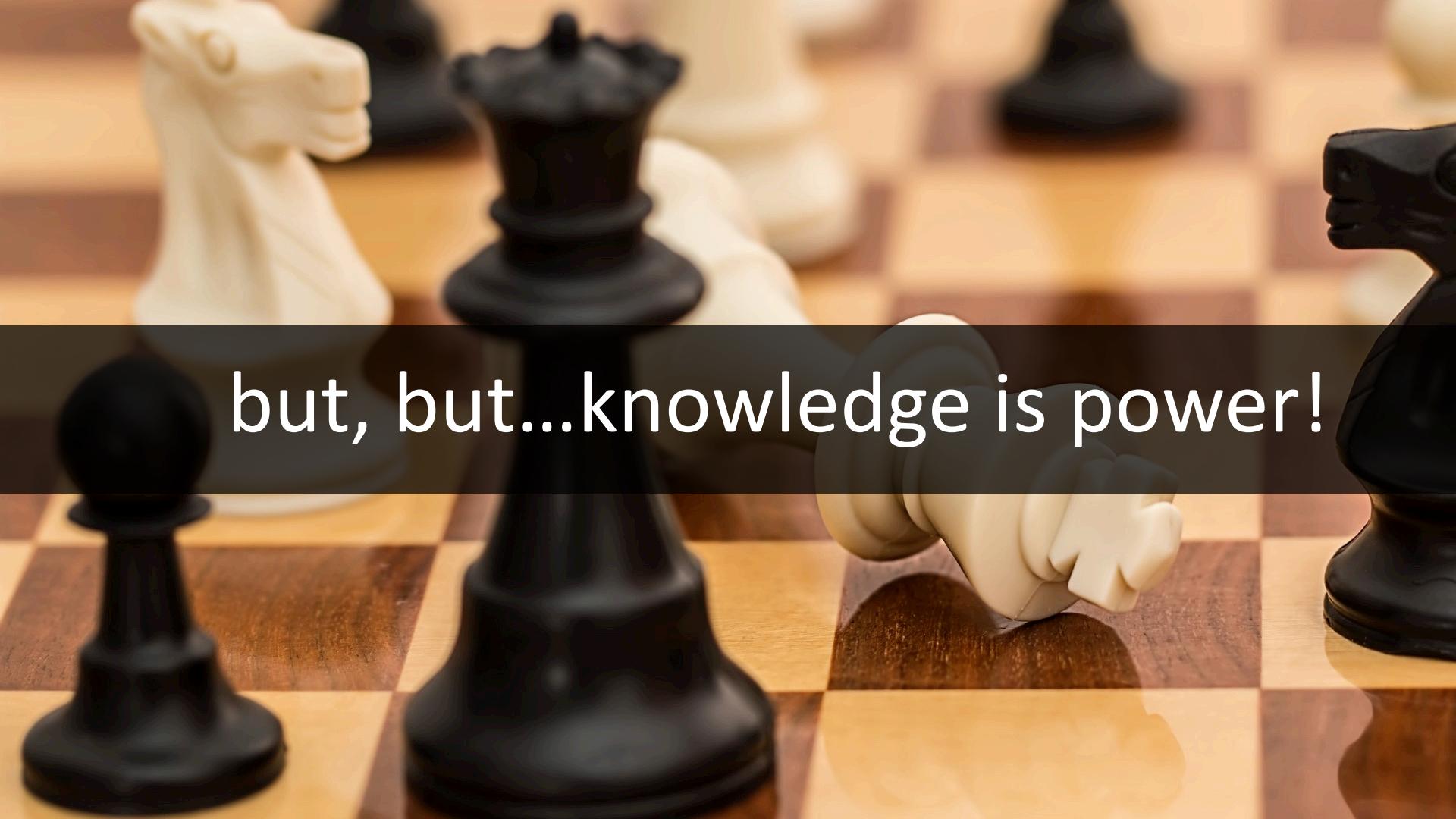
APIs in the wild: the social contract

- don't just take them down...
- ...or people won't use them





value: destroyed



but, but...knowledge is power!

societal value of open data

- publicly-funded should be publicly-available
- more informed citizenry, making better choices
- enables people to push for change (or status quo) with EVIDENCE

societal value of open data

- higher digital literacy
- more transparent and accountable government and power structures
- more engaged citizenry
- stronger democracy



we get to interrogate god(s)

commercial value of open data

- build businesses using open data
 - which is often free
- control the narrative
- affect the state of the art
- improve self-knowledge

the commercial value of open data

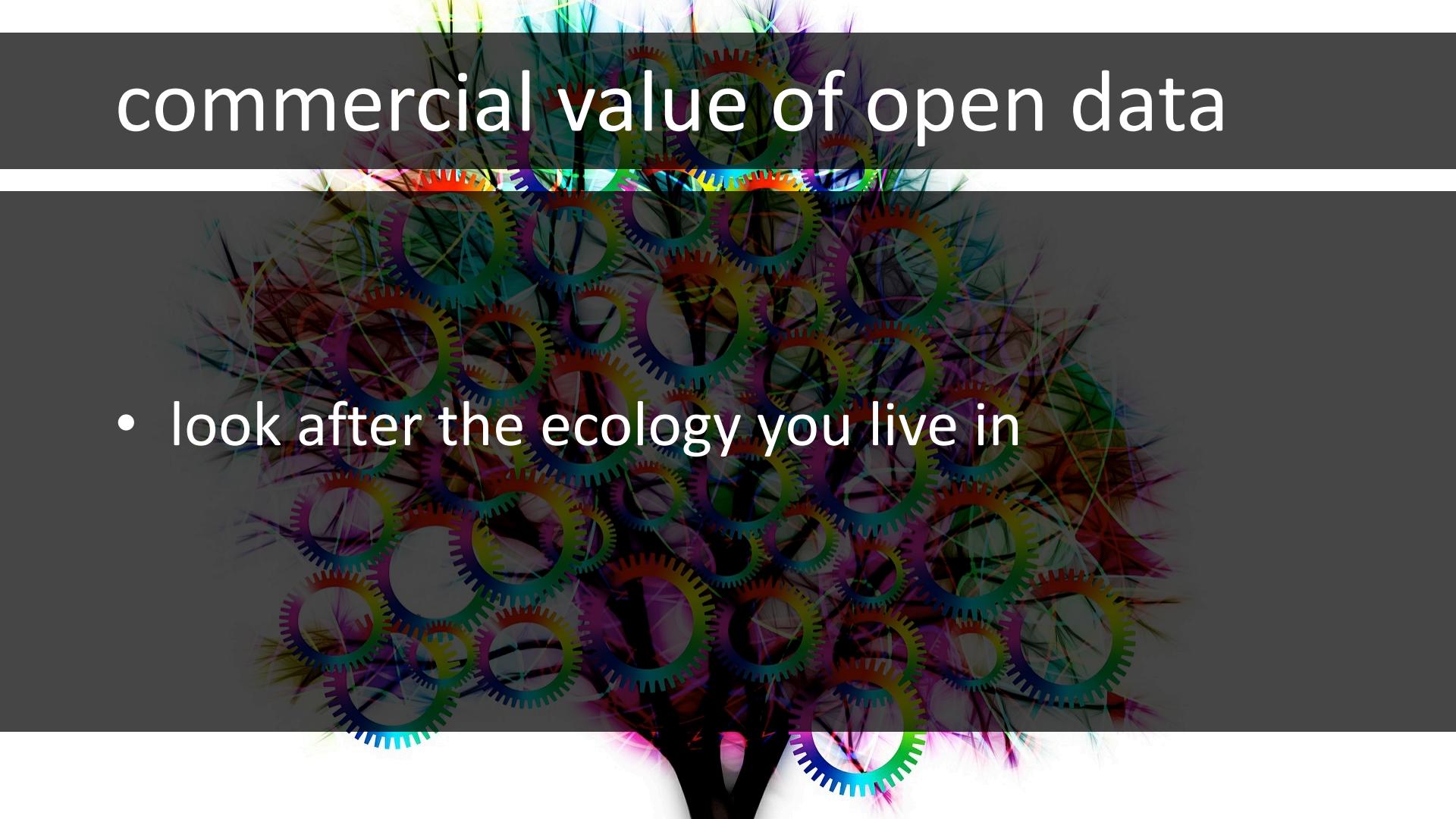
- affect your competitors' behaviour
- improved market and industry:
 - learning
 - competition
 - collaboration



conferences: open data lite

(open human APIs)

commercial value of open data



- look after the ecology you live in

commercial value of open data

examples:

- patents
- open source (and free?) software

A black and white photograph of a modern architectural staircase. The stairs are made of dark, rectangular tiles. To the left, there is a vertical wall with horizontal wooden slats. The stairs lead up towards a building with a glass roof and a dark, angular facade. The sky above is filled with wispy, light-colored clouds.

open drives progress

APIs-as-a-(library)-service

not THOSE libraries...

APIs-as-a-(library)-service

THESE ones

APIs-as-a-(library)-service

- common language
- range of formats
- range of subject matter
- available

APIs-as-a-(library)-service

- services to help find and digest info
- long tail of use
- (mostly) harmless free
- easy to find

APIs-as-a-(library)-service

- connecting node for research, community, collaboration and creation
- bring together different people, skills, interests
- drive innovation by creating a primordial information ooze

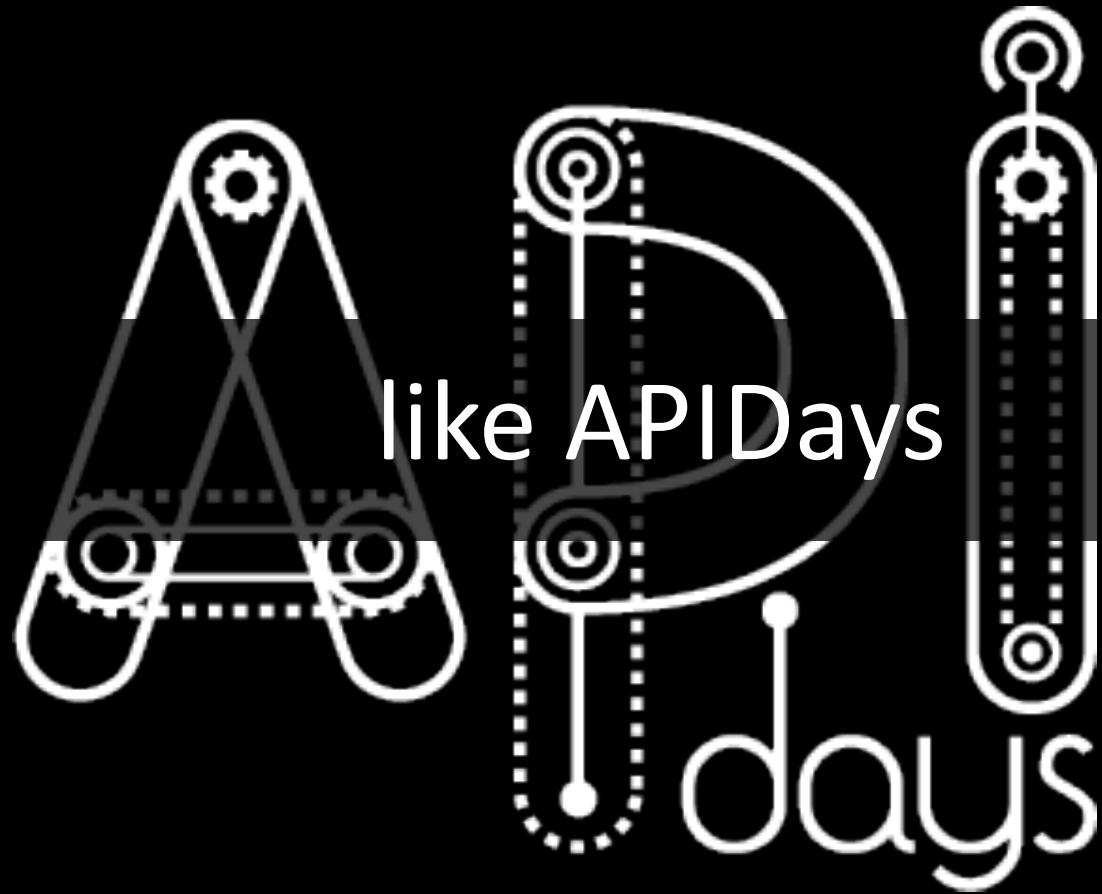


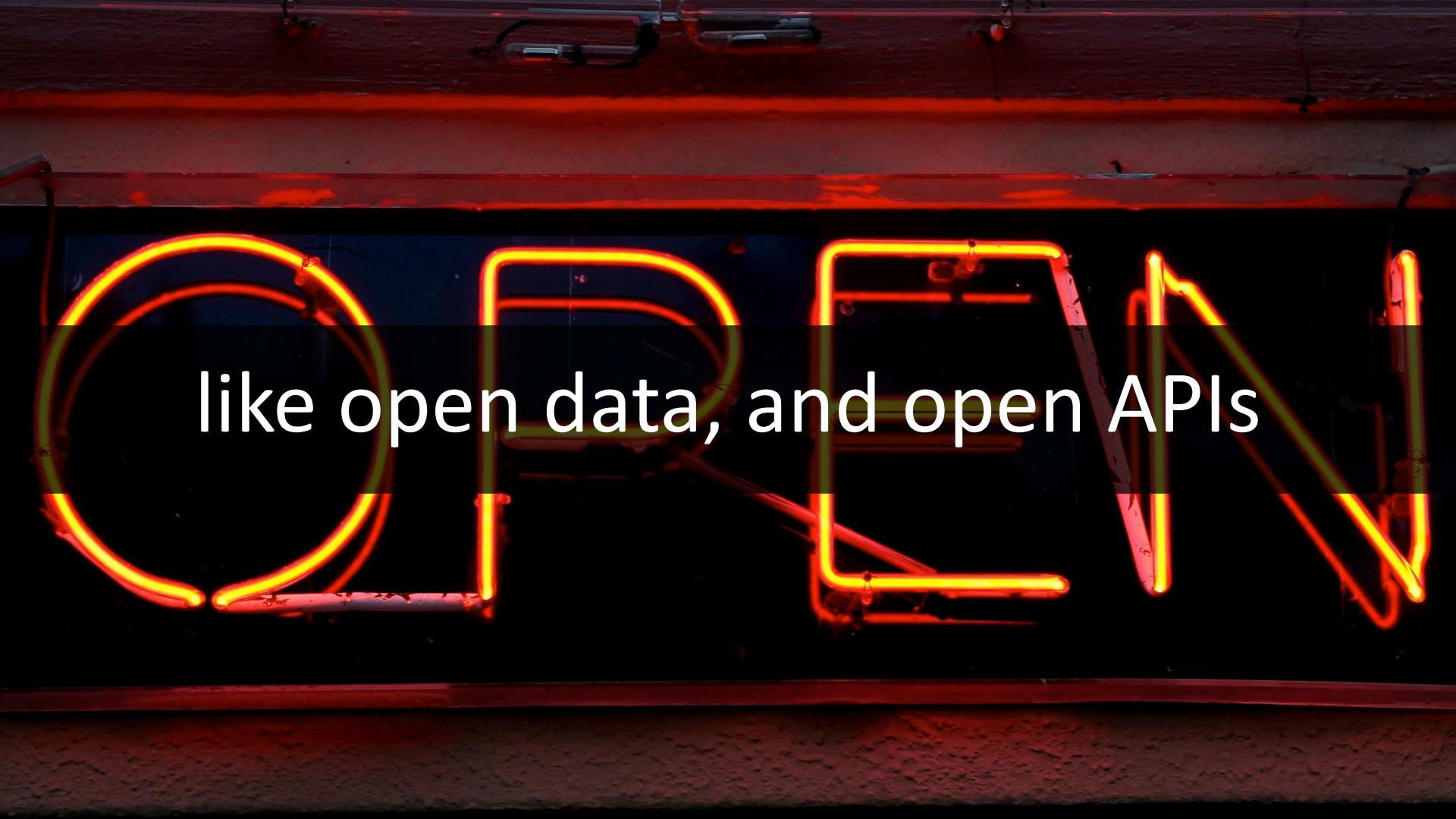
like the internet



like hackathons

Credit: GovHack Hamilton





like open data, and open APIs

no database (should be) an island

- de-escalate data as power source
- open data:
 - opens doors to opportunity
 - equaliser
 - source for good
 - natural partner to OSS ->
 - more open and accountable government and power structures



more transparent
more free
more informed
more engaged
more powerful



a better world

Credit: NASA



you have the key

thank you!

er, questions?

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SYNTROPICS

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Statistics NZ @StatisticsNZ · 11h

They're here! Try our new prototype APIs and help us make them even more awesome by giving us your feedback ow.ly/BucT304Msq9



↪ 12 ❤ 8 ...

In reply to aimee whitcroft

Statistics NZ @StatisticsNZ · 3h

@teh_aimee We believe APIs provide another way for our customers to [Reply](#) value from our data and create value for all NZers.

↪ 2 ❤ 2 ...

In reply to aimee whitcroft

Statistics NZ @StatisticsNZ · 2h

@teh_aimee Yes please do. We intend to co-design future iterations with our customers so are keen for people in this space to get in touch.

↪ 1 ❤ 2 ...