

CIVIC DIGITAL FELLOWSHIP

Automating Justice Assistance Data Survey (JADS) Tabulations

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Intro: Justice Assistance Data Survey

Census is tasked with processing data from public sector surveys and external sources to calculate Variable Pass-Through Percentages (VPTs)

VPTs are used to determine how states allocate funding received from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)

JAG is a major source of federal criminal justice funding for state and local governments, allocating approximately \$300 million yearly



Currently, Census provides these tabulations every three years due to cost and resource limitations

How Might We...

Shift this timeline to every year?

Having more recently updated data supports more accurate funding distributions

Intervention: Customized Web Application



Data fetched from
various APIs/databases



Manual user interventions
in spreadsheets/views

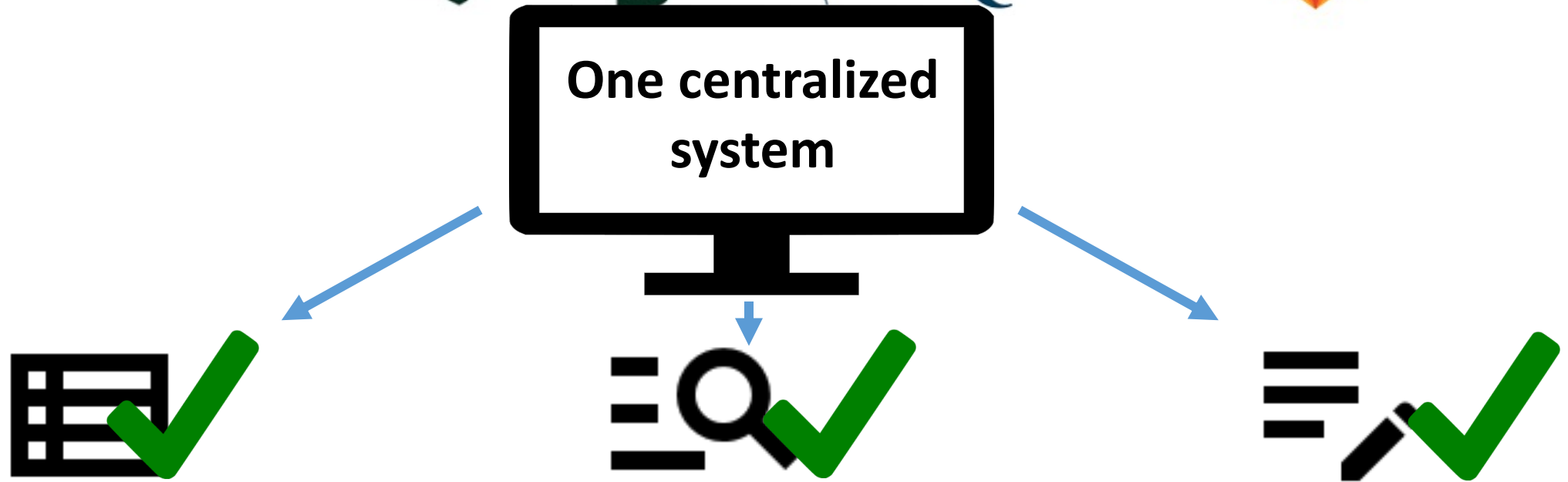


Difficulty in rapidly
reviewing/editing

**Opportunity for Automation:
Full-Stack Web Application**

 **ANGULAR** + **django** +  **SQLite** +  **GitLab**

Outcome: One Centralized and Streamlined System



Fetch, store, and process
data all in one place

Reduce # of clicks with a
streamlined user interface

Review and validate data;
more time for research

Example: Merging Six Interfaces into One

[JADS](#) [USA Spending](#) [Survey Data](#) [Nonjustice Expenditures](#) [Create/Review VPTs](#) [Generate Reports](#)

USA Spending

[Fetch from API](#) [Add/Review CFDA](#) [Classify Recipients](#) [Review](#)

2017 CFDA

Top Tier Name	Subtier Agency	CFDA Numbers
Department of Justice	-	-
Department of the Treasury	-	21.016
Department of State	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs	19.703
Department of Health and Human Services	Admin for Children and Families	<input type="text" value="93.586; 93.643"/>
Executive Office of the President	-	95.005; 95.001

Conclusion: What's Next?

Short-term:

Provide the data more often, at a lower cost, and with additional subject matter expert review to the sponsor, BJA

Finalize the documentation to reduce knowledge silos and fully explain the data flow and user process from start to finish

Long-term:

Future scalable, flexible, and robust customized web apps to tabulate expenditures for other government activity (such as for public health)