



FROM: Paula Davis

Subject: InSider, Transparent Government web app

This should be a fun project. Not only is it for a good cause – who can argue with making it easier for the public to see how their government works – but the people at Transparent Government in Fact (TGIF) want us to come up with our own ideas. More and more government data is being made available in web-friendly form and TGIF knows that they *don't* know all the ways it might be useful.

I've met with them, and we worked out some initial deliverables that will give us a chance to become experienced with the data and data formats TGIF is interested in, and let them see what we can do. The deliverables all deal with Congressional data.

While you're doing those tasks, start thinking about a bigger project that we can send to them. We just need to earn their trust with these initial deliverables.

I'll send another email with the first simple demo that I worked out with TGIF.

Thanks,
Paula

Paula Davis
Team Lead
Code of the Web



FROM: Paula Davis

Subject: InSider, first demo

TGIF has identified two sites that provide web-friendly access to government data:

- [ProPublica](#)
- The [OpenStates project](#)

Both run web servers that let you get data in JSON form using URLs, so it should be fairly easy to do everything with just HTML, CSS and JavaScript. The ProPublica site is focused on the US Federal government. The OpenStates project is focused on the individual state governments. TGIF wants to start with ProPublica.

I said we'd create a Home page, a Senate page, and a House of Representatives page. The Senate and the House page will have a table listing the names of the current members of the appropriate chamber of Congress, along with their party, their state, years in office, and their "voted with party" percentage. Each member's name would be a link to her or her official home page. The Senate and the House page will each have two data table filters; one dropdown filter to allow the user to filter by state and one set of checkboxes to allow the user to filter by party affiliation.

To make demoing simple, fast, and not dependent on a server, get the relevant JSON objects once from the ProPublica site and save them in local files, one for the Senate and one for the House of Representatives. Then we can simply double-click the HTML files to demo.

This data is available for the 113th Congress. That number should be clearly noted on the web pages.

Our team's graphic designer has put together some simple wireframe sketches of the web pages for you to use as you build out the pages and get the demo working. The clients have seen the wireframes and asked that you build out tables to be just clean horizontal lines instead of the table boxes shown in the wireframes. I've attached the wireframes and a basic html page for you to use as a starting point.

For now, you can just send me a zip file of the website once you are done.

Thanks,
Paula

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