

Data in Government Panel Discussion

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Data for Public Good

History of Open Data

- Origin: grounded in the theory of open scientific data by Robert King Merton (as early as 1942).
- Concept of open data and open source formed in Dec 2007: 30 thinkers and activists of the Internet including Tim O'Reilly and Lawrence Lessig
 - Public data are common property for public good
- SEC Financial Disclosure Requirements for filers: 2008
- Presidential memoranda on open government (January 2009)
- G8 Open Data Charter: June 2013
- DATA Act: April 2014 (1st federal open data law)
- Evidence Act: January 2019
- GREAT Act: December 2019



Vision

- Better data, better decisions, better government (source: DATA Act)
 - Data + Use = Value
 - Open Data: accessible, reusable
 - Use: analytics, ML, AI (people, tools)
 - Value: transparency, accountability, efficiency, informed decisions, etc.



Transformational Success Stories

- Open Data: data.gov (200k+ datasets), usaspending.gov (\$5T+ in annual spending), census.gov, etc.
 - DATA Act
- Use
 - People
 - Technology



Outcomes (value)

- Increased transparency
- Accountability
- Efficiency
 - Financial regulations
 - Grant
 - Oversight
- Informed-decisions



Opportunities for Analytics

- Fraud Detection/Improper Payments
- Grant-making
- Cyber Security/Identity Theft
- Cryptocurrency
- Regulations/Compliance
- Etc.



Key Success Factors to Fully Realize the Vision

- Continue to democratize public data
 - Data standardization
 - Data infrastructure (process, governance, architecture)
- Public policy (i.e. data ethics, privacy)
- Sustained Government Leadership
- Workforce transformation



