Abstract „Open Data Use Cases"
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Abstract
The talk will give a quick overview about the open data use cases that the German open data community currently deals with. I will talk about how different projects generate data, scrape data, demand data from agencies, and finally edit and use data. The presented projects measure air quality with a sensor on balconies, try to make election data more accessible, build up a massive database of structured knowledge (Wikidata) and campaign for opening up transport data in order to improve routing services. Most of the projects are developed in the spare time. The talk aims to show some of the enthusiasm and diversity we encounter when working on digital propositions and solutions for today's society.

Outline
The talk will start with a short definition of open data and the different interest groups that are related to the topic (which are governments, society, developers and companies). Open data is the availability of administrative or to the public while there are now restrictions in analyzing or editing the data.
The current stage of data availability depends largely on the the states. Hamburg has a transparency law which requires its administration to publish data, other states do not even have a Freedom of Information act making it hard for the public to ask for data. As Germany joined the Open Government Partnership last year (we were very late to this game), we expect the open data movement to speed up within Germany. In my talk, I will explain why open data can be quite awesome already and what obstacles we are currently dealing with. This could motivate parts of the audience to actively engage more with open data.

I will categorize activities for citizens around open data with generating data, scraping data, demanding data, and editing and using data. I will use this categorization to show some examples of current open data activism:

- luftdaten.info/Feinstaubsensoren is a project from Stuttgart where people get instructions how to build up their own air pollution (fine dust) measuring station on their balcony. During the last couple of months, a network of more than 300 sensors have been installed all around Germany and it is increasing rapidly. With these sensors comes data in an API and there are tons of use cases to play around with it.
- The OK Labs, German open data community, are currently looking into enhancing the access to pre-electoral, especially prior to the federal elections in September. This is interesting for many different groups: citizens, hackers with a focus on society, data journalists and the scientific community (mainly political scientists).
- wikidata.org is a platform run by the Wikimedia foundation, backing information of Wikipedia sites with data. In the meantime it has also built up as an immense data base on any kind of data with can be queried. If you ever wanted to know how the name „Berlin" is translated into different languages or who was married to Britney Spears, Wikidata is the perfect place to find just this information structured as a data table. As Wikidata is a community-driven project, one can edit the information as well.
- While routing and public transport apps work pretty well in Berlin, this is not the case for some other places all around Germany. The reason is that public transport companies do not give away their schedule data in an industry standard. www.rettedeinennahverkehr.de is currently campaigning for opening up theses databases to the public so that the data can be integrated in a lot of existing apps, improving the situation for everyday commuters and travelers. This is a perfect example on how working on open data often includes non-coding work as the data needs to be hard won first.

It will take 3-5 minutes for each example to give the audience an idea of those current projects and to understand the diverse topics we deal with. I will finish the talk with a few remarks on the current open data situation in Berlin. This will be a positive outlook as the city of Berlin installed an E-government law in 2016. At this moment, different institutions are in talks how this will include open data. We expect more data sets and more applications that are built upon data.