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Reflection #1
Open Data

Open data is, according to the Open Data Handbook, non-personal and publicly accessible data set that can be freely distributed, used and reused by everyone, without any discrimination. This kind of data is collected and distributed mainly by governments, business, associations and organizations. It entails many great benefits, mainly from the viewpoint of participation & engagement, government transparency, economical development, organizational efficiency and software development. Once an entity has published an open data set, it should encourage people to use it. It should first make sure that it is machine-readable, such as APIs, and available in at least one open format without requiring any special software. In order for it to be relevant, this entity should absolutely interact with its community in order to be able to represent their interests and understand their needs. Datasets should also be distributed on third-party sites, for instance, such as DataHub, in order to allow for more people to find it and use it.

The concept of open data is quite fascinating, and it is quite new, meaning it is still widely unexplored. It offers endless possibilities, as most governments and associations usually allow users to request for any data they might need that hasn't been made available. It is truly refreshing, especially with the recent Facebook scandals on personal information, government transparency allows us to put more trust in their administration and of how they use our data (of course, many laws and regulations exist in order to protect private and intellectual property, and let's not forget that open data is always non-personal shared data, which will encourage more people to use and distribute it).