The Future of Interagency Coordination on Data Protection

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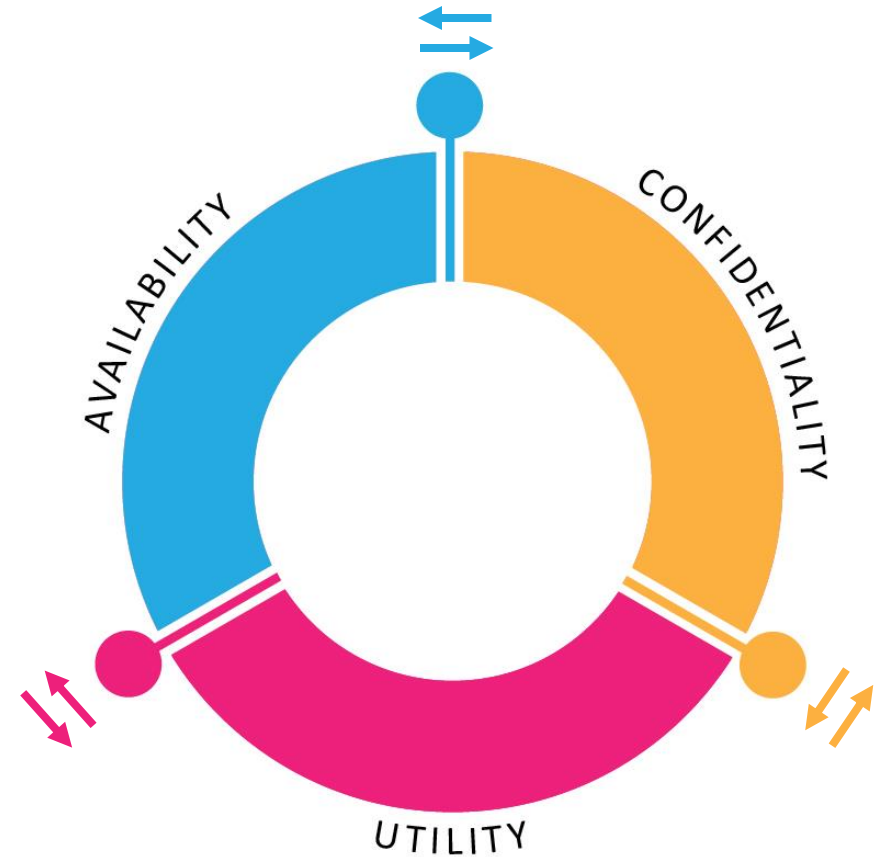FCSM Policy and Research Conference
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The Triple Trade-Off

The more statistics you publish (and the greater the granularity and accuracy of those statistics), the greater the disclosure risk.

All statistical techniques to protect confidentiality impose a tradeoff between the **degree of data protection** and the resulting **availability** and/or **utility** of the data.

You can maximize on any two dimensions, but only at profound cost to the third.

Ensuring Fitness-for-Use

All disclosure avoidance methods, and the parameters of their implementation, impact the resulting data's fitness-for-use in different ways.

Agencies must be deliberate in their selection and implementation of disclosure avoidance methods to ensure they meet the needs of their intended data users.

  Requires:

  - Subject Matter Expertise

  - Research and Evaluation

  - Stakeholder Communication and Engagement

Can NSDS Help?

...a PLACE?

Is NSDS...

...or a PHILOSOPHY?

Agencies have largely been tackling data protection issues on their own and face numerous human capital and technological challenges.

Better interagency coordination could:

- Increase the pool of subject matter experts across government

- Leverage existing agency investments in data protection and tiered access solutions to benefit the entire system

- Coordinate future research and development to have broader applicability

ANNOUNCING:
The Disclosure Review Officer Council

Official Representation by the DROs from each of the Principal Statistical Agencies and Units

Tasked with:

- Information sharing (on agency initiatives, challenges, research, and collaboration opportunities)

- Crowdsourcing solutions

- Maintaining and enhancing the Data Protection Toolkit

- Developing Evidence Act implementation guidance and resources

- Establishing a government-wide community of practice

Questions?