**Module 8 – Dave Tarrant – Getting to grips with open data platforms**

**Getting to grips with open data platforms**

I’m Dave Tarrant, I’m the Trainer and Data Scientist here at the Open Data institute.

**What is an open data platform?**

So putting data on the web makes it available for anyone to access. So the web is the core platform, it’s exactly how people want to find, discover and access the data. For the publishers there’s a series of tools often referred to as platforms, that make this process simpler, but they also provide consistency to the users in terms of being able to access, download and use that data.

**Why is the choice of platform important?**

So the choice of platform is critical for the usage experience of the data for the users. So while it helps a publisher get the data online, it helps the user being able to discover the data, then explore, filter and visualise it, and in some cases they can directly use the data from within the platform.

Conversely there may be the need for the publisher to use many different platforms, in order to take advantage of the many different features of each.

**What are the main approaches taken by open data platforms?**

So there are two main approaches to getting data on the web. One of the approaches is to simply catalogue data that already exists in various different places, thus making it easier to discover. The second approach takes a much more hands on management style approach to the data, so you upload the data into that platform which allows it to be visualised and explored within that platform.

But in order to improve the usage experience it may be necessary to take a combination of those approaches, so to manage the data in one of those platforms, and then to catalogue it in lots of others.

**How can you use different platforms in your work with open data?**

So for users, having these different approaches is key to be able to explore the data in different ways, whilst having a consistency among the platforms allows this to be done much easier. This means it’s quicker to unlock the value and derive the new insight.