U.S. Open Data Status and Case Study Conference on Open Data Applications In Taiwan

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Open Data in the U.S.

- U.S. Open Government Initiative – Creating policy framework

- Data.gov – Making high value government data accessible

- Challenge.gov – Harnessing the power of government data to create new solutions

- Future directions

- Critical success factors

U.S. Open Government Initiative

Principles

• *Transparency* promotes accountability to citizens

• *Participatio*n through public engagement enhances government effectiveness

• *Collaboration* actively engages Americans in the work of government

"My administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government…Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government." --President Obama, January 21, 2009

U.S. Open Government Initiative – Policy Framework

Federal agencies directed to:

• Publish government information online

• Improve data quality

•Develop and implement agency-specific open government plans

•Create a culture of open government

Shift to Open Government

- Risk avoidance

- Information Silos

- Data Production

- Static data

- Use by individuals

→

- Trust

- Data analytics

- Information consumption

- Mobile apps

- Crowdsourcing

U.S. Open Government Initiative – Implementation

- Make government data more accessible to improve citizen services, build trust and drive economic growth

- Agency Flagship Initiatives - transparency, participation and collaboration

  - Engage citizens in policy-making, public dialogues, democratizing data

- Open Government Executives are accountable for results and meet monthly

  - Update progress

  - Share information and best practices

  - Annual plans and public performance reporting

U.S. General Services Administration
Office of Citizen Services and Innovative Technologies

GSA

Open Government Dashboard

http://www.whitehouse.gov/open/around

Accessing High Value Government Data

- Flagship U.S. open government initiative

- Instant, central access to over 400,000 government datasets in easy to use, open formats

- Data from across the federal government

- Enables development of innovative applications

- Drives innovation and knowledge use across the globe

Data.gov Model

- Catalog of high-value, machine-readable datasets generated by U.S. federal government agencies
- 185 agencies and sub-agencies participating
- Includes "raw" datasets, data tools and apps, geospatial and interactive datasets
- Interactive datasets are API-enabled to empower developers to create apps using the data
- Rapid growth and uptake from May 2009 to today:
  - Datasets increased from 47 to 400,000
  - Downloads went from zero to over 2 million

Open Data Fuels Economic Growth

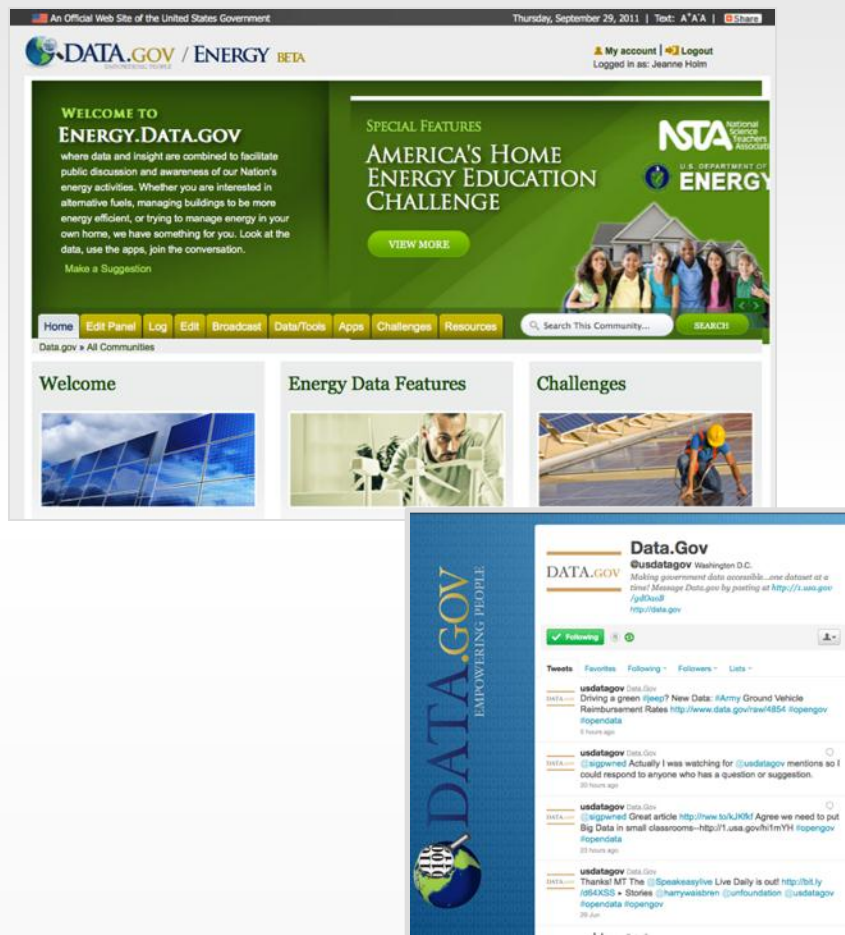Innovative use of open data creates new businesses, products and services

- Department of Defense released satellite data…private industry created affordable GPS devices

- National Weather Service data supports weather-related products, services and businesses

Data.gov Communities Collaborate to Solve Problems

Community	
Restore the Gulf	✓
Open Data	✓
Semantic Web	✓
Health	✓
Law	✓
Energy	✓
Ocean	✓
Education	
Research & Development	
Public Safety	
Human rights	
+ many more…	

Creating Apps that Save Lives: iTriage and Hospital Compare

Creating Apps that Improve Lives: Asthmapolis

Knowledge of where asthma attacks occurred historically reduced incidence of daily attacks by 62% in six months.

Sustainable Facilities Tool

Empowers anyone to identify and prioritize cost-effective green building strategies in small building projects

- Realty Specialists
- Project Managers from Governmental Agencies
- Private Sector Developers
- Facility Managers

http://www.sftool.gov

Challenges Spark Ideas, Data Drives Decisions

- Data.gov communities identify national issues

- Challenge.gov creates structure for problem-solving events

- Unites developers and innovators with government to solve problems

- Resulting apps transform data to help citizens make better decisions

- Cost is lower than paying for traditional development

Creating New Solutions – Challenge.gov

- Crowdsourcing platform for challenges and prizes for solutions to government problems. Many use open data sets.

- Incentives – monetary or other prizes – are awarded to winners

- Cost-effective – pay only for successful entry/solutions

- Broad engagement – innovative ideas and expertise outside traditional sources

- Partner with private sector to fund or expand prizes
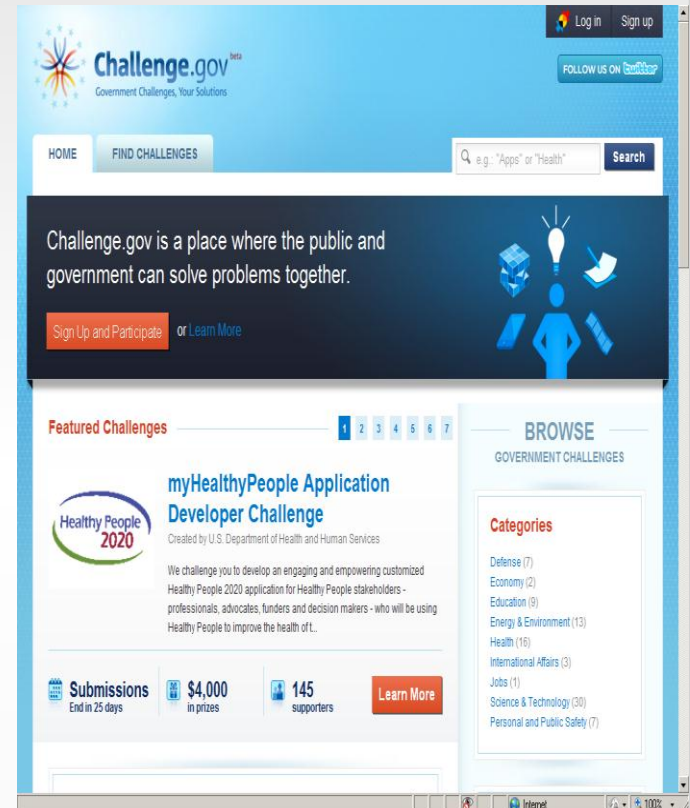
Challenge.gov Benefits

- Proven tool for achieving big breakthroughs

- Social & scientific innovations

- Solvers invent products, write software, design systems, develop mobile apps, create videos and games and more

- Creates social network of people who care about an issue: can follow, vote, and share via email, Facebook, and Twitter

- Builds interest and awareness of critical issues at much lower cost than traditional communications

Apps for the Environment Challenge

• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) challenged the public to use its data in new ways to address environmental issues

• 38 developer teams participated

• Five winning apps help Americans:

  • Switch to energy-efficient light bulbs

  • Compare air quality index, air pollutant levels, and energy consumption of U.S. cities

  • Get directions and carbon footprints for driving, transit, flight, walking and biking transportation options

•Prize was recognition event in Washington DC rather than payment

Department of Labor (DOL) Challenge

- Challenge to create applications to help citizens find jobs, improve skills, and make informed decisions
- $68,000 in prizes for 14 winning apps – compared to typical cost of $40,000 to procure one application
- Winning apps - "Where are the Jobs?" and "Eat, Shop, Sleep"

Top regions in California for Dentists, General

Statewide average salary: $146,760, Number of jobs: 12,120

7. San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA
Average Salary: $138,130
Number of Jobs: 800

Where are the Jobs?

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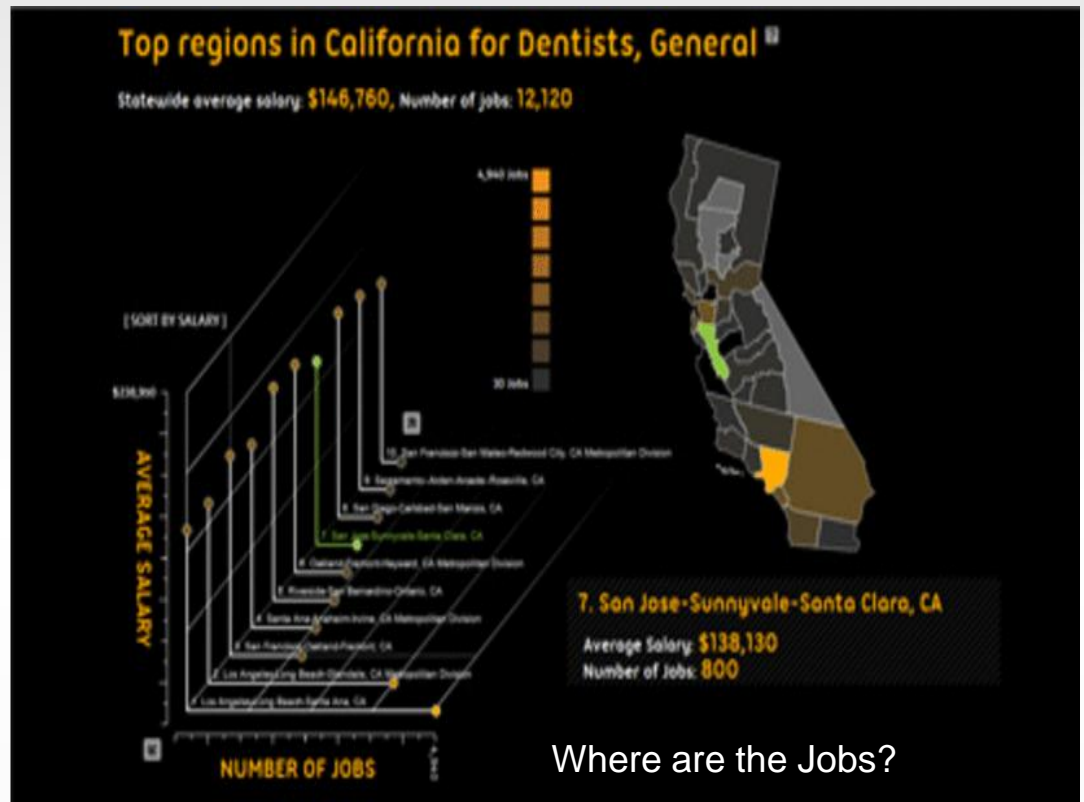
USDA Challenges: Eat Your Vegetables and Food Desert Apps

- Eat Your Vegetables uses government data and shows obesity rates by county
- Food Deserts shows areas without access to fresh food
- Combined use of apps can inform cities and citizens how to change their behavior
- Apps for Healthy Kids Challenge sponsored by First Lady Michelle Obama
- Games like Hungry Hiker help kids make better choices
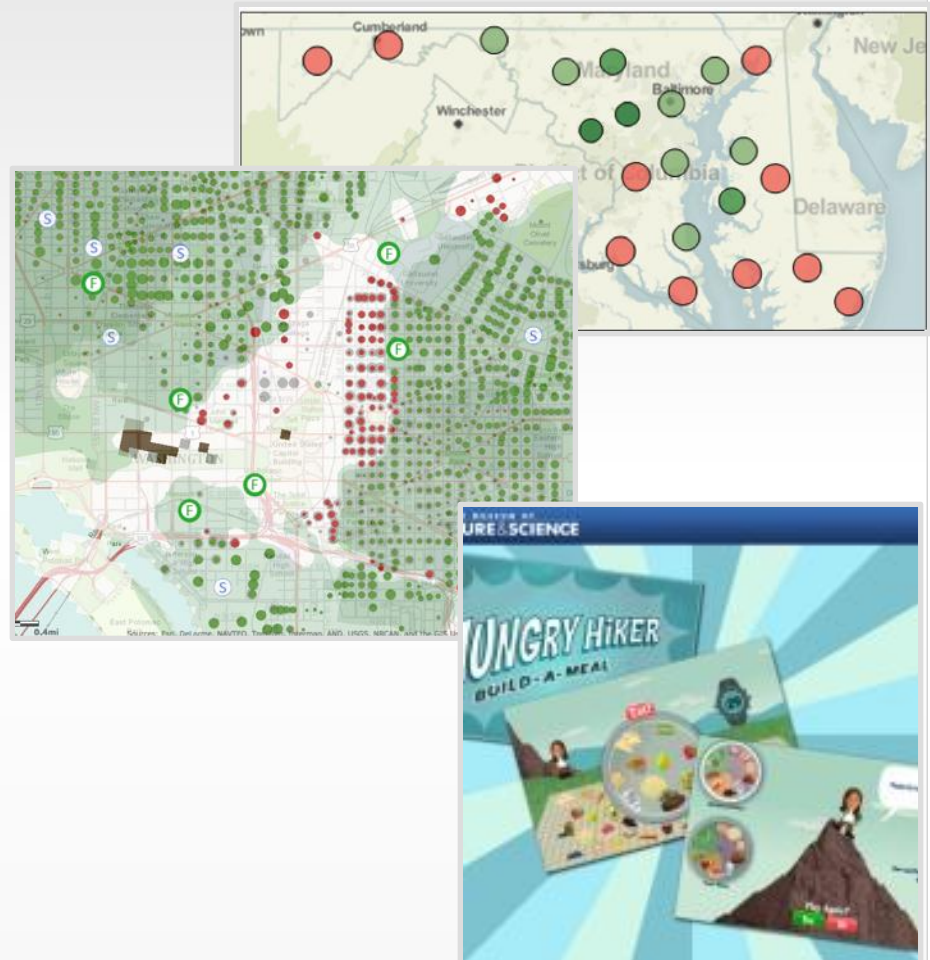
Future Direction – National Action Plan

THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

- President Obama announced the Open Government Partnership and US National Action Plan at the UN General Assembly in September
  - 50 countries around the globe participating
- Contribute Data.gov as a platform
  - India and U.S. creating open source platform for use by any country or city
- Foster communities on Data.gov
  - Health, energy, and law plus education, research, and safety
- Launch International Space Apps Challenge
  - NASA and other space agencies will gather scientists and citizens
  - Use data for global challenges: weather impacts on global economy and depletion of ocean resources

Future Direction - Open Government Platform

US and India developing open source platform for global adoption

- Bilateral strategic dialogue to open source data.gov and India's document portal
- Technical teams currently working on code (Drupal based)
- Anticipate completion in 2012
- Will allow any government, at any level, to launch its own open data site
- Expands impact of data.gov - 28 countries have open government data sites
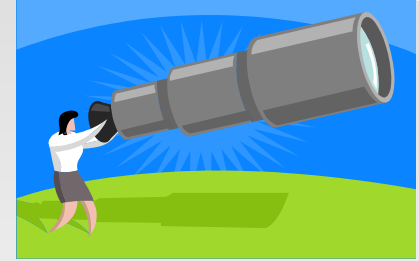
http://www.data.gov/opengovplatform

Future Direction

- Continued engagement of stakeholders (agencies, the public)

- Making data more accessible and usable

  - Impact vs. quantity

- Focus on data value to create new solutions that improve services and drive economic growth

- Sustainability

  - Data currency

  - Increase use of APIs (application programming interfaces)

- Unify communities around common objectives and mission needs

Critical Success Factors

- Executive level support is essential - not just at start

- Sunshine is the best policy - transparency improves data quality

- Link open government to agency mission - help agencies fulfill their purpose

- ***Key is liberating data to achieve value - rather than focusing on the data itself***

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www.gsa.gov/OCSIT

www.gsa.gov/Open

www.whitehouse.gov/Open

www.data.gov

www.challenge.gov