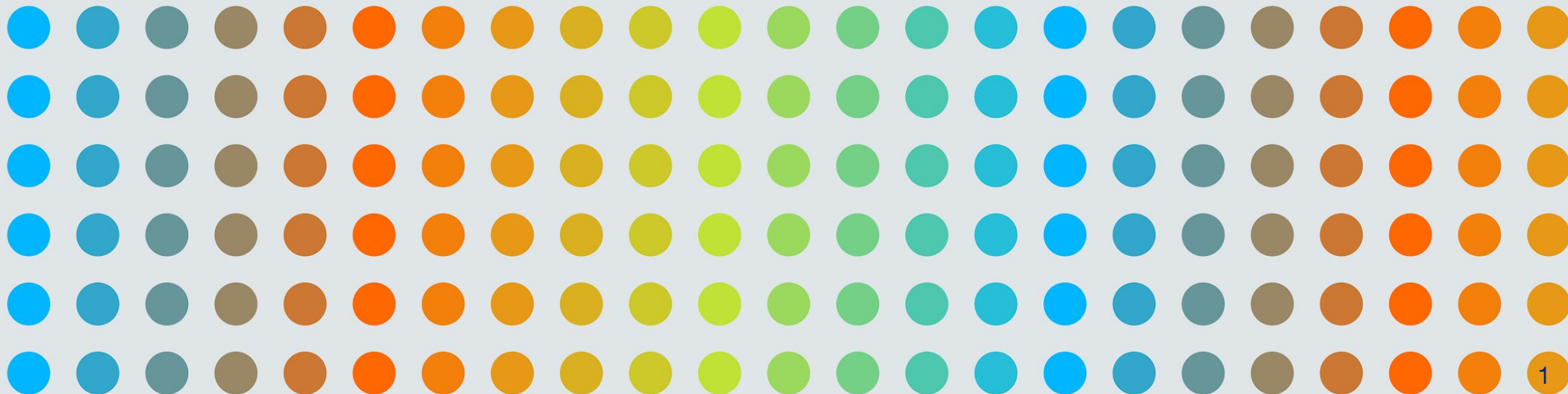




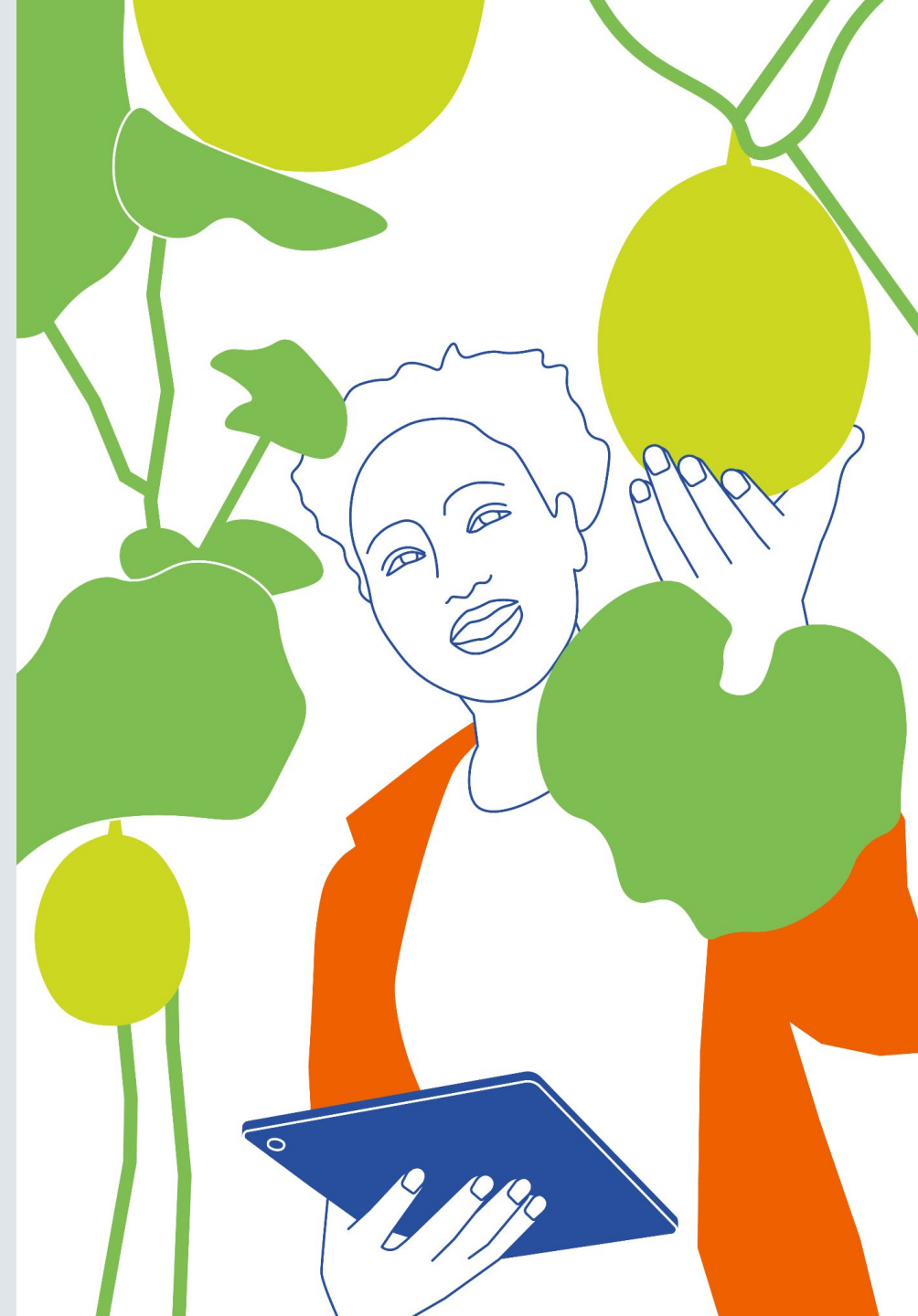
Volunteering Data Standards Working Group

Andrew Newman, 25 November 2025



Contents

1. Welcome
2. Project overview
3. Data model update
4. Q&A
5. Workshop: Data access requirements
6. Workshop: Considering open data



Welcome

Introductions

We will use Miro today...

- Free, no sign up required, works in most browsers and most organisations.
- Big screen is better.
- We will walk you through the activities.

Welcome

This meeting will be recorded..

Chatham House Rule - please don't use note-taking apps.

Inform the chair or secretariat if you think there is a risk of:

1. Conflicts of Interest: A personal or professional interest that might have undue or improper influence on a decision made in this meeting.
2. Engaging in anti-competitive activities: We must not discuss pricing, market sharing, or other matters that could be perceived to restrict competition.
3. Misuse of Intellectual Property: Concerns about how your contributions or ideas are being or could be used.

Working together

1. Every voice matters.
2. Please join the conversation, we don't want this to be one way.
3. If you're happy to, keep your camera on.
4. Please raise your hand if you want to come in, or drop your ideas in the chat.
5. Respect the diverse viewpoints in the room, assume positive intent and remain open to different perspectives and experiences.
6. We will be using Miro to support our discussions today.

Project Overview

Project Team



Sector technology partners



Funded by



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Real world testing (Beta)



Plus the
thousands of
organisations
that work with
volunteers!

Why is ODI interested in volunteering?



Image generated by Gemini

We can transform the volunteer experience by improving data infrastructure.

Develop a modern, open, data infrastructure for volunteering to:

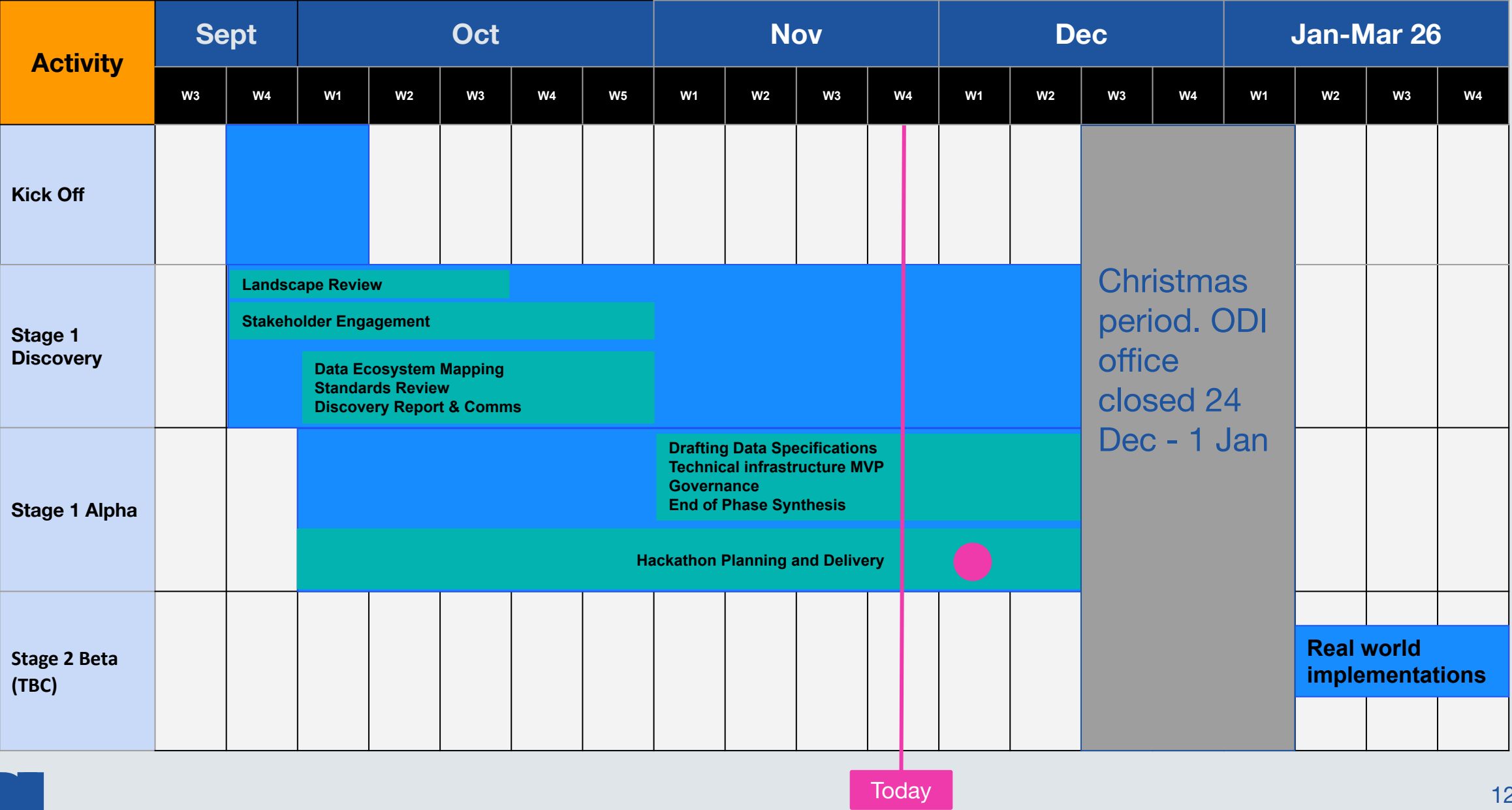


**Power
Innovation
& increase
impact**

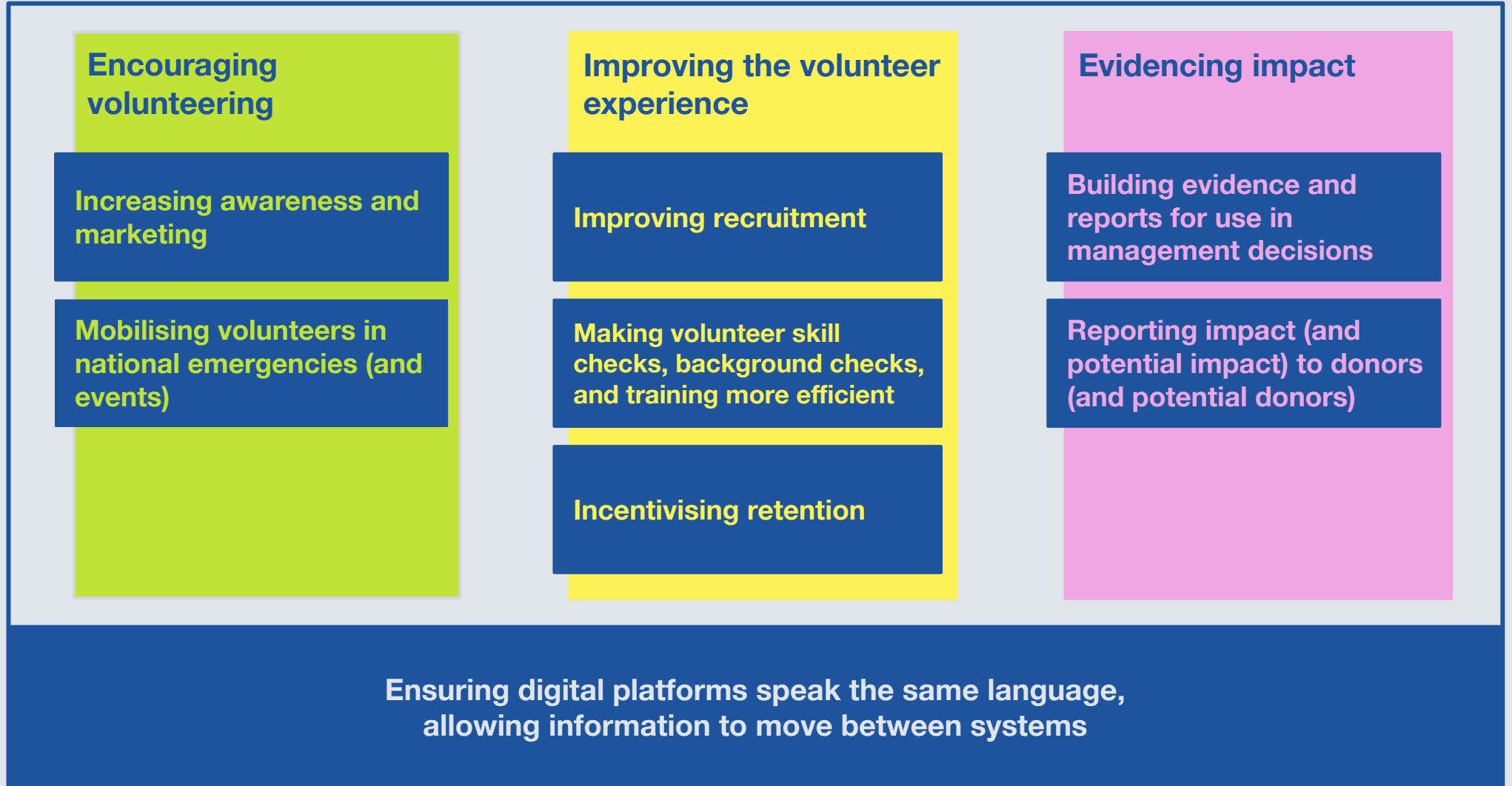
**Enable data
sharing**

**Build a data
culture**

Timeline



Use Cases

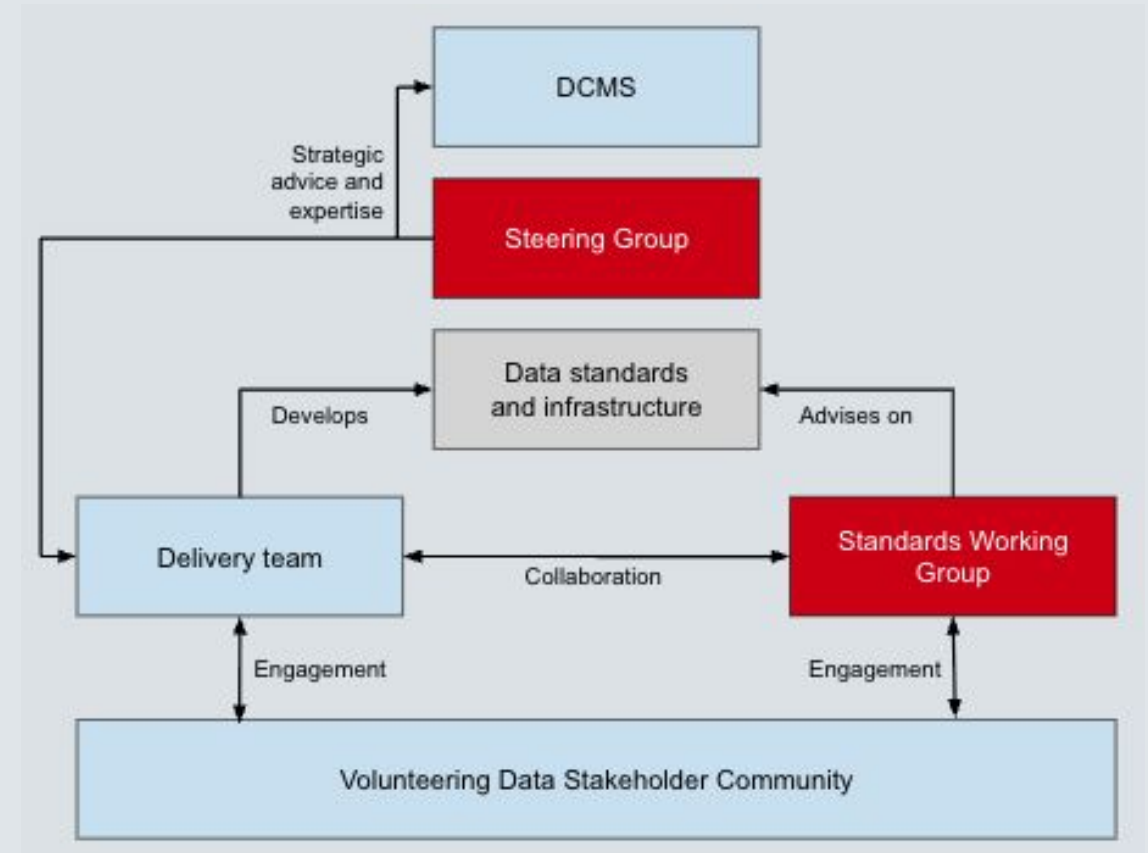


The Standards Working Group

A community of subject matter experts including: Thematic experts, data experts and software providers collaborating to agree standards.

Ensuring standards and infrastructure are developed that meet the needs of all stakeholders.

[Terms of Reference](#)



Alpha

November - December

Purpose

To test the feasibility of introducing a common open data standard for volunteering opportunities.

Objectives

- Design a draft open data standard to support interoperability between volunteering platforms, leveraging existing solutions where relevant to enhance sustainability.
- Develop a minimum viable technical infrastructure to enable data collection, sharing and use.
- Test the data standard and infrastructure through collaborative experimentation and feedback.
- Begin to establish the early governance model, stewardship options and stakeholder alignment.

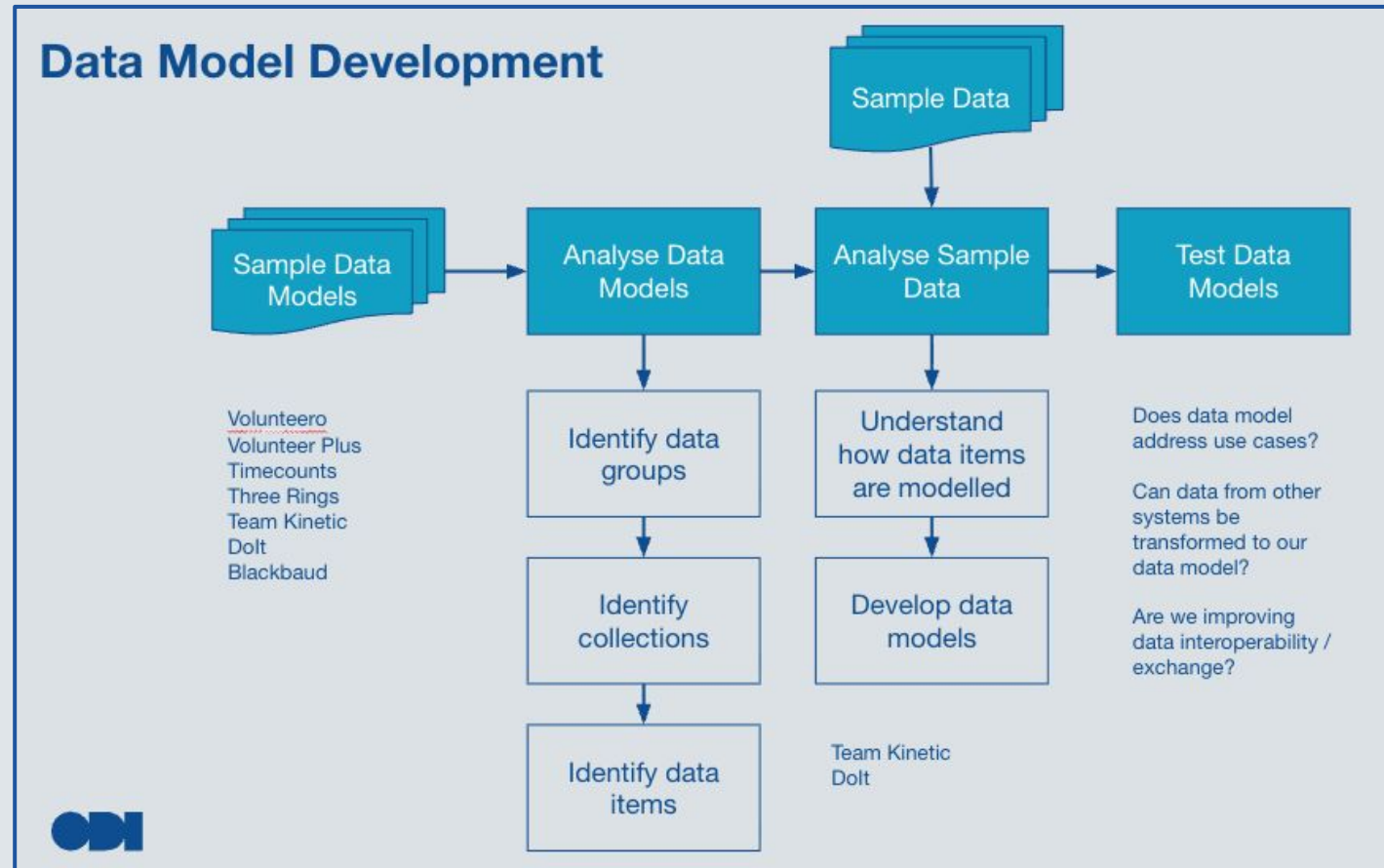
Alpha is where you try out different solutions to the problems you learnt about during discovery.



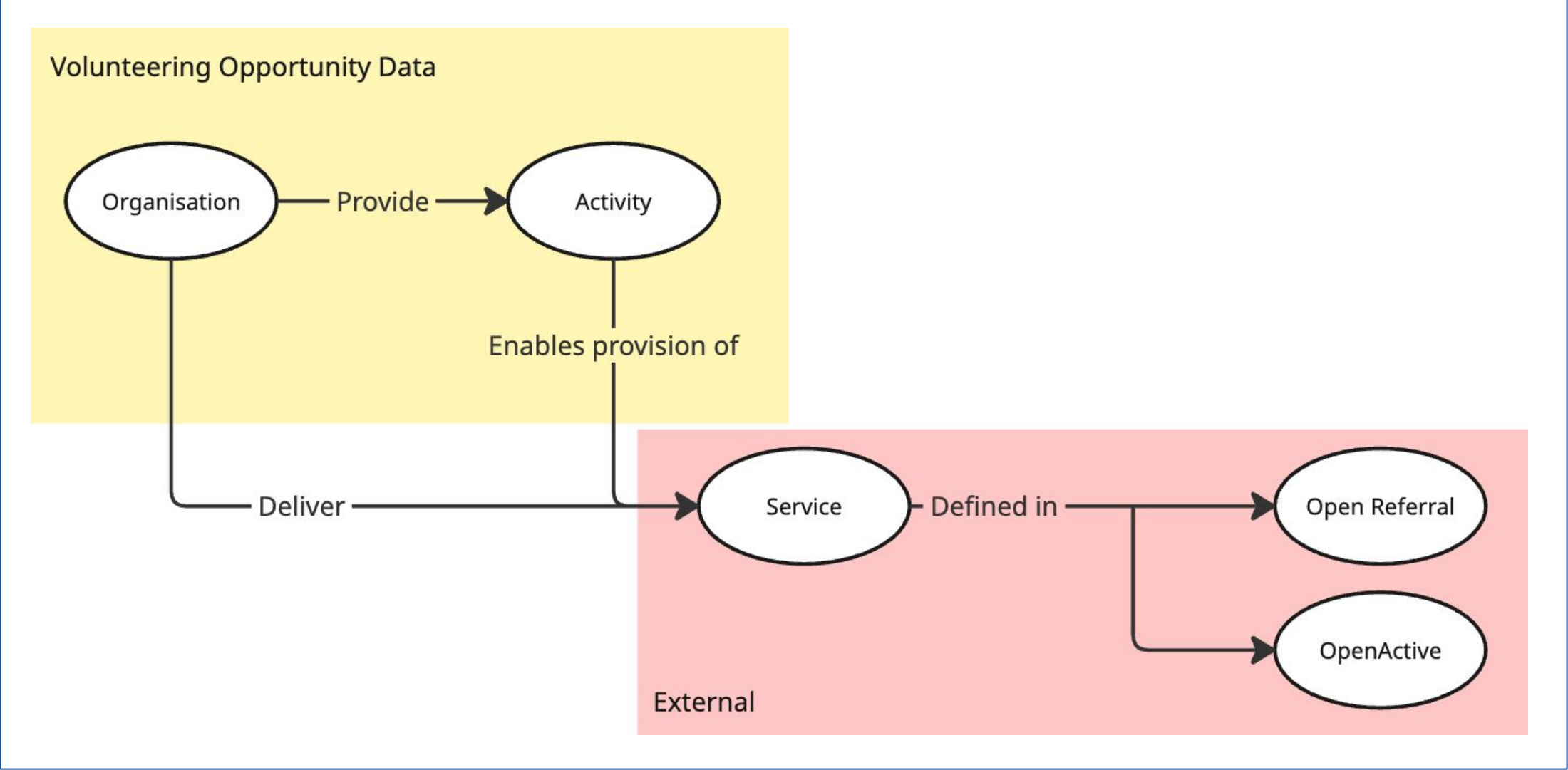
Data Model Update

Initial Data Model

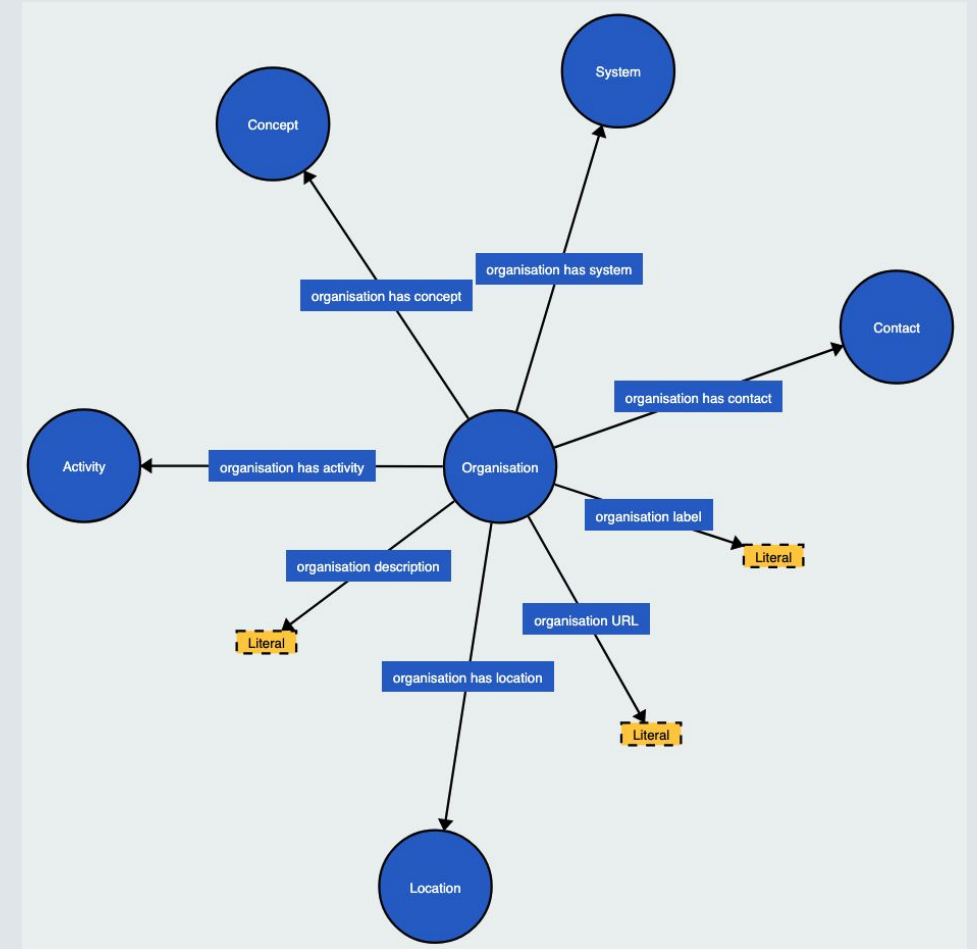
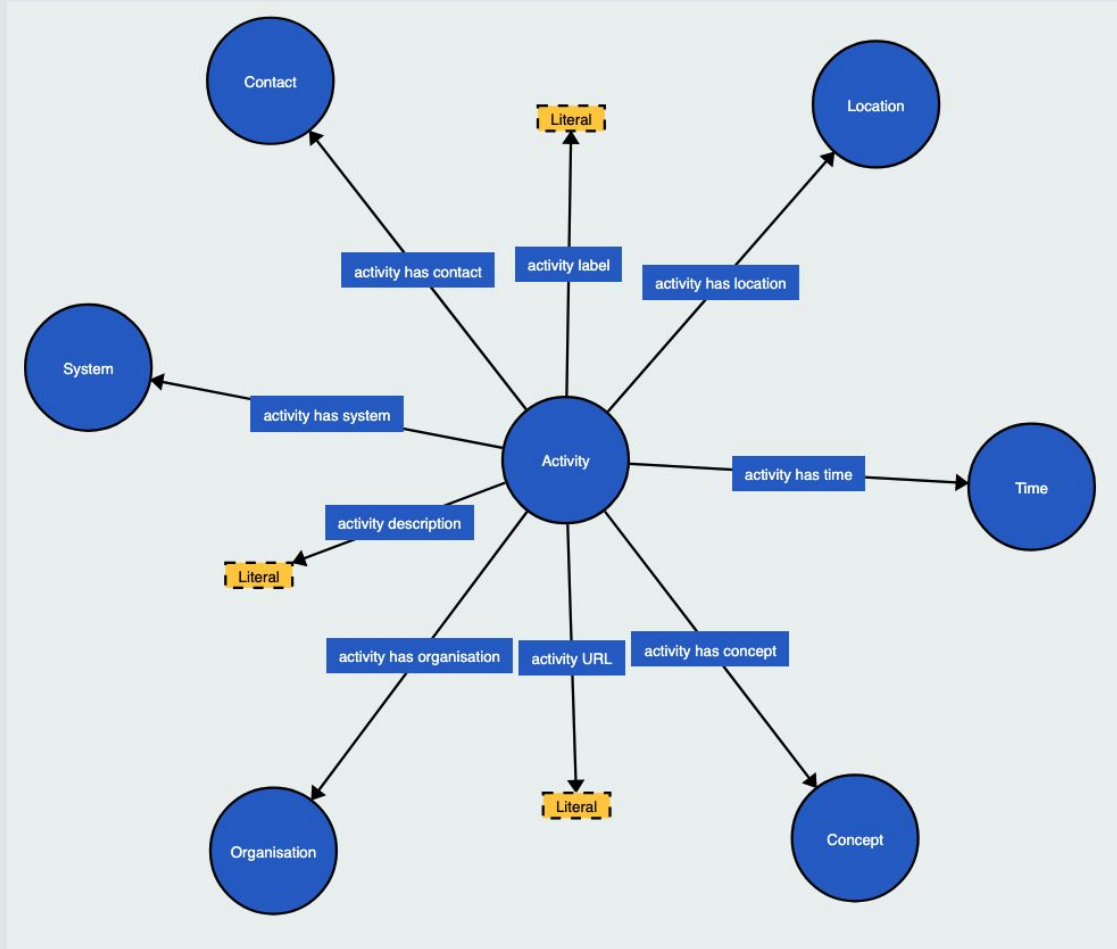
- Prove an open data standard can enable interoperability between volunteering platforms.
- Focus on opportunities to volunteer and the organisations that provide these opportunities.
- Have sample data ready for participants in the hackathon week commencing 1 December.



Alpha - Initial Data Model - Services

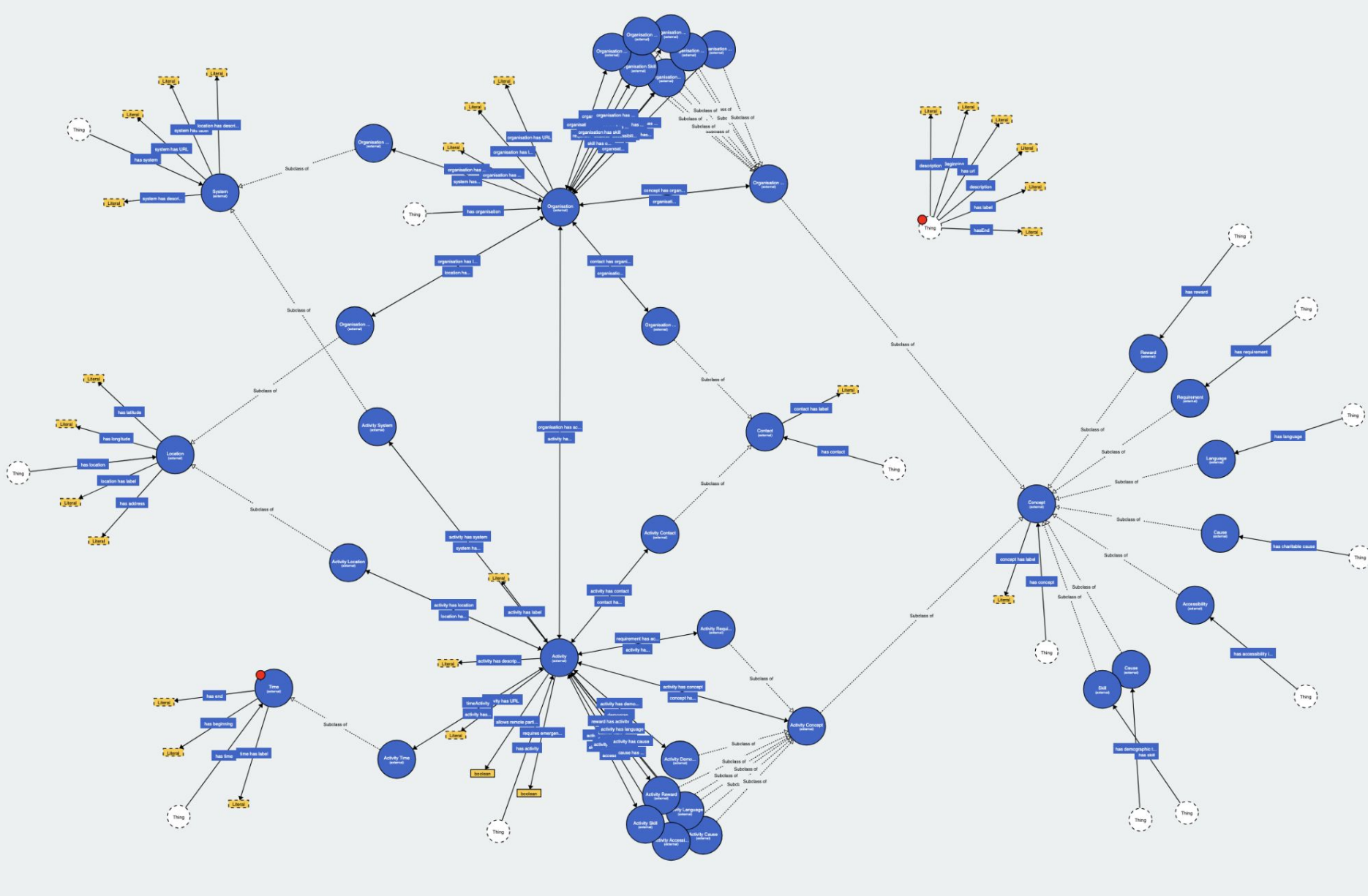


Last time we met...

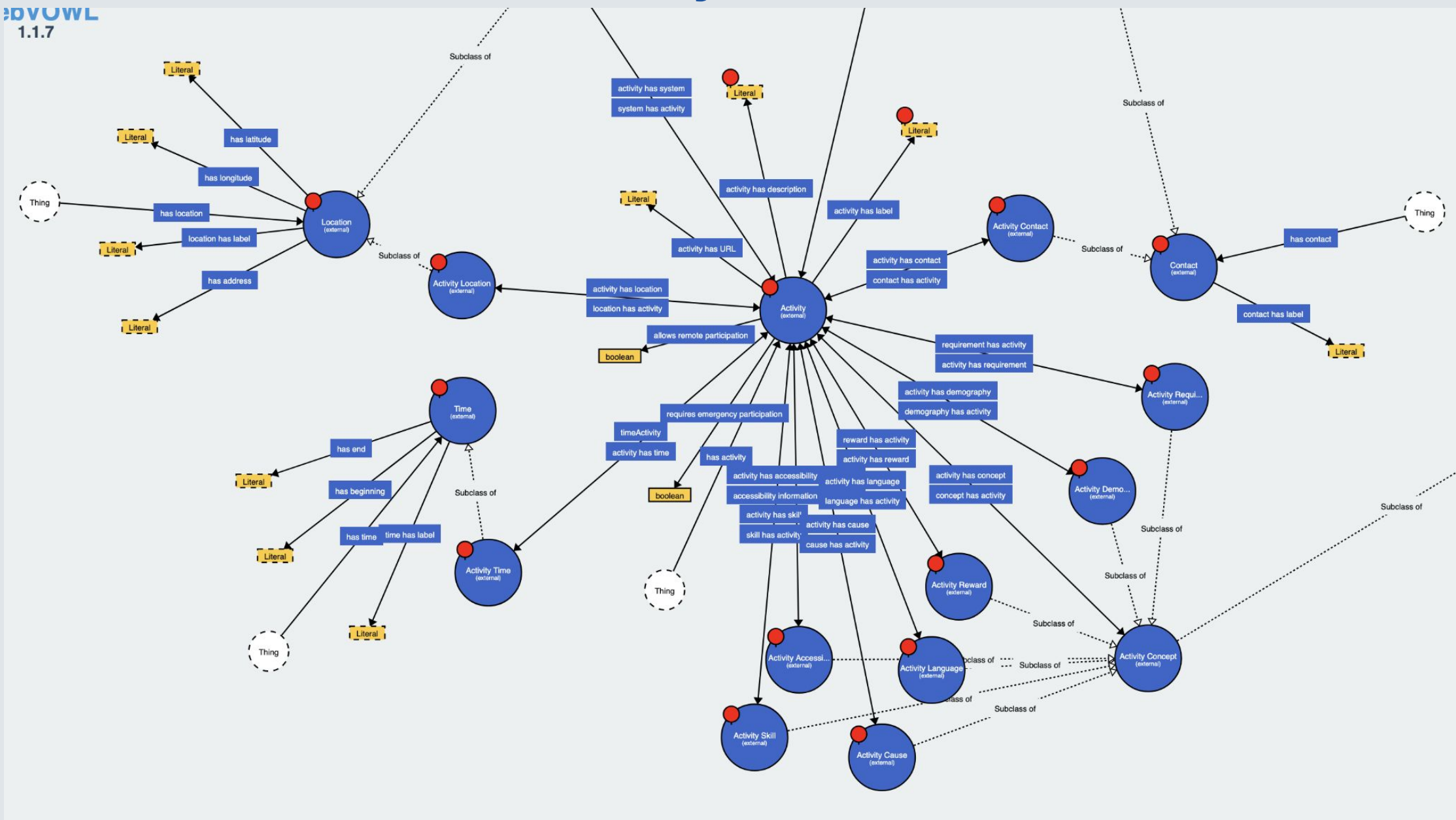


Alpha is where you try out different solutions to the problems you learnt about during discovery.

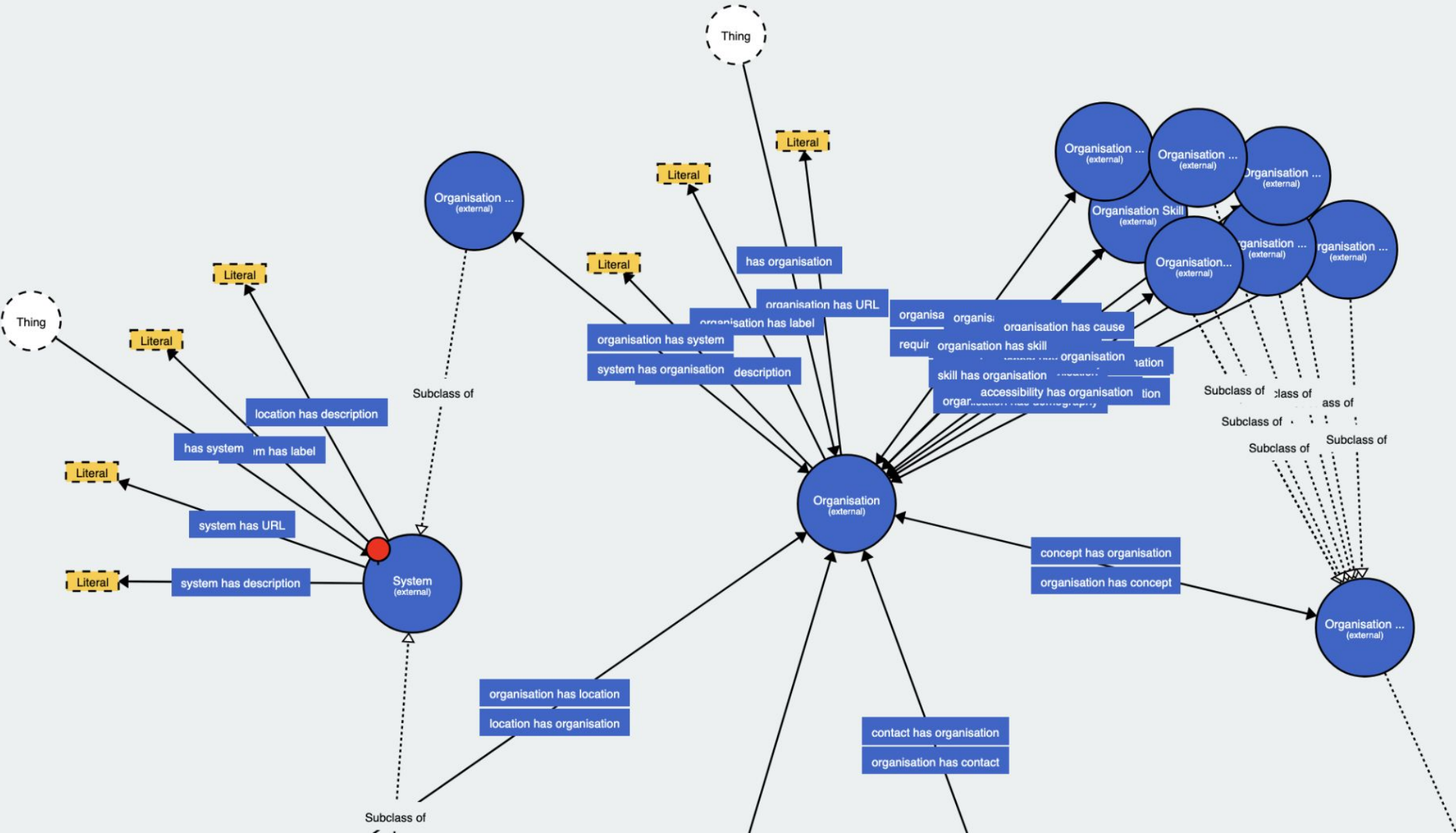
Alpha - Initial Data Model



Alpha - Initial Data Model - Activity



Alpha - Initial Data Model - Organisation



Mandation

Nothing is mandatory except...

An organisation must have:

- Label
- Activity

An activity must have:

- Label
- Description
- Organisation

Design Decision

- Should it be possible to publish data about an organisation without linking the organisation to a specific activity?

Alpha - Initial Data Model - Next Steps

- Present and test the data model and sample data at next week's hackathon.
- Develop and open a human-readable data specification for review and feedback.
- Identify requirements for and develop controlled vocabularies.
- Resolve licencing queries.
- Develop a backlog of outstanding suggestions and issues to guide further model development.
- Build tools to enable data sharing, cataloguing, and testing/validation.

Questions & Answers

Data Access Requirements

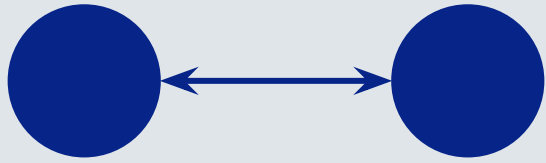
API (*Application Programming Interface*)

An API is a digital messenger that allows one piece of software to talk to another piece of software securely and efficiently.

It defines as a set of rules that defines how you can **request** information or a service from another system, and how that system will **respond** with the result.

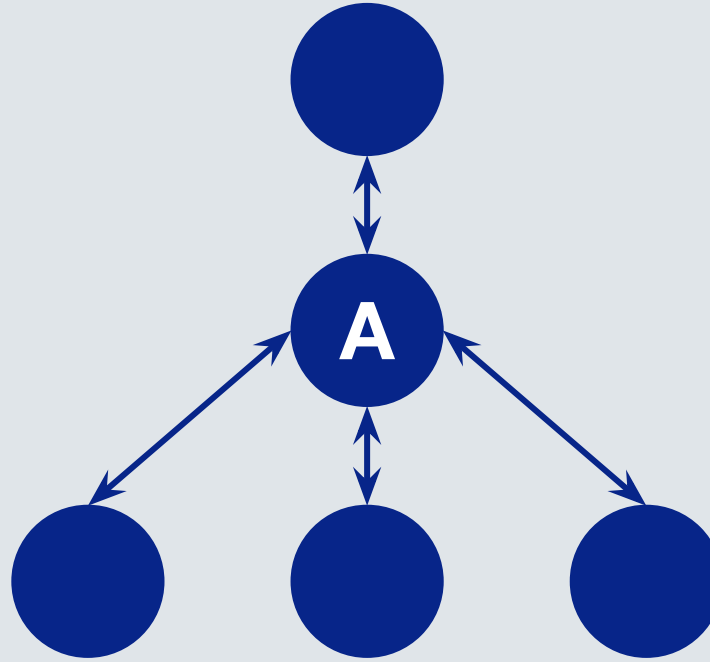


Data Access Paradigms



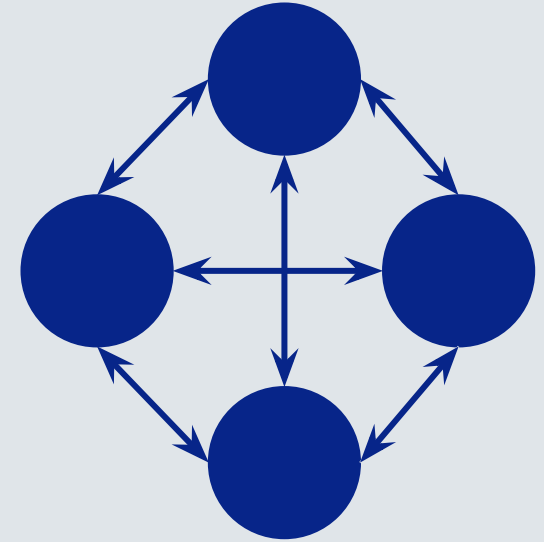
Point to point

- Messaging - do you have.
- Subscription - tell me when.



Aggregation

- Aggregators collect data and make it available in different forms for end users.



Distributed

- Agreed rules for data format and structure
- Catalogues enables discovery
- Queries can be federated across the infrastructure

Querying Opportunity Data

What questions should a volunteering opportunities API be able to answer?

- The 5 W's: Who, What, When, Where, Why
- For each of our use case groups
- Focus on the nuances

**Encouraging
volunteering**

Steps

1. Individually capture your W's.
2. Voting: Which W's are most important?

**Improving the volunteer
experience**

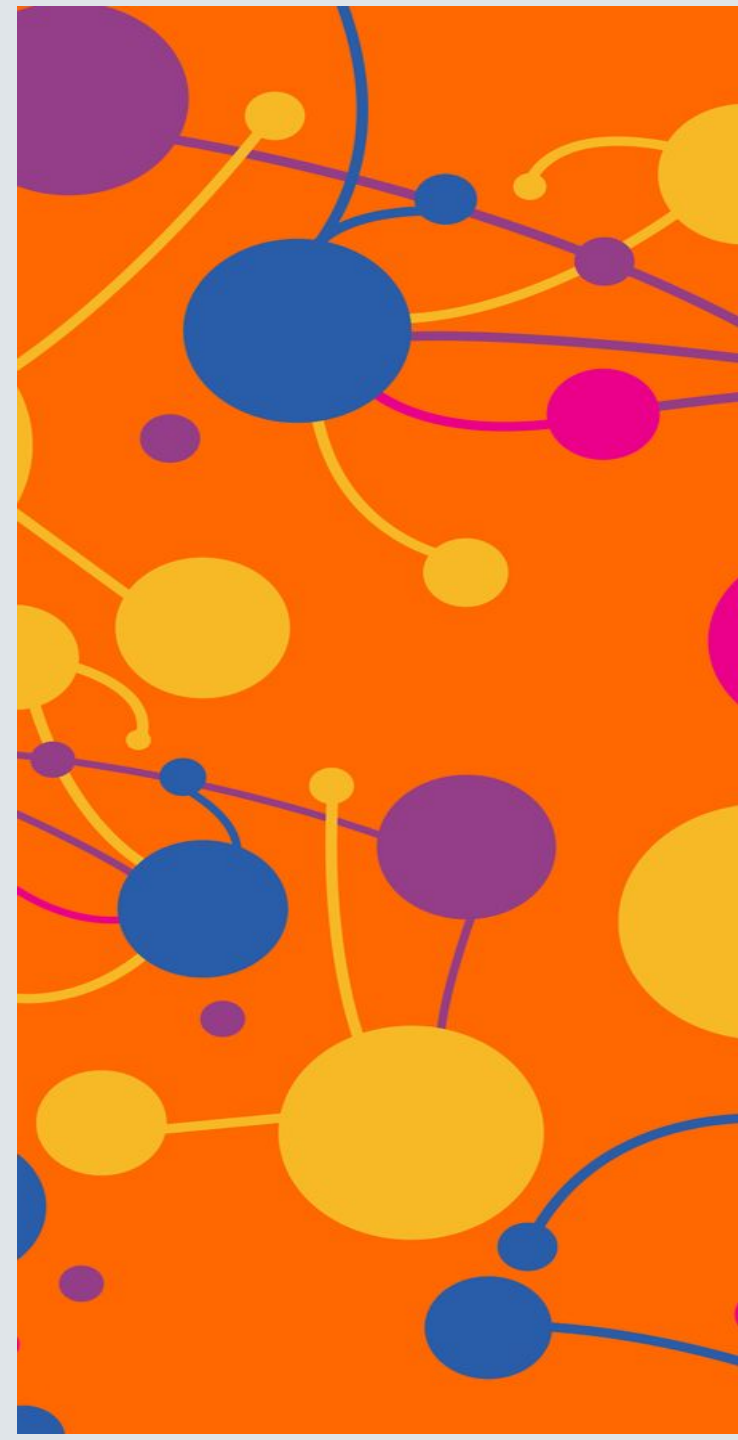
Miro:

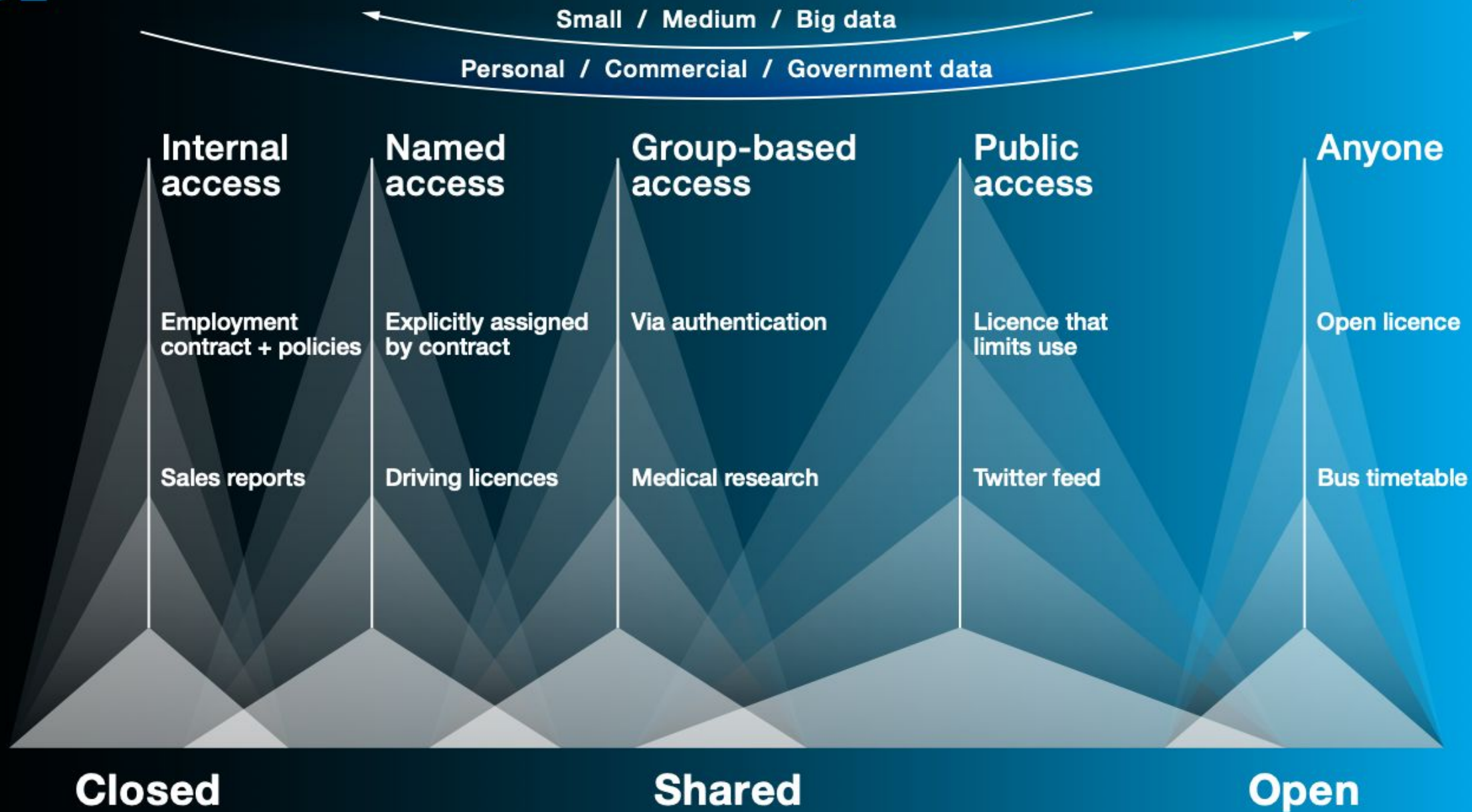
https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVJldYfOU=

Evidencing impact

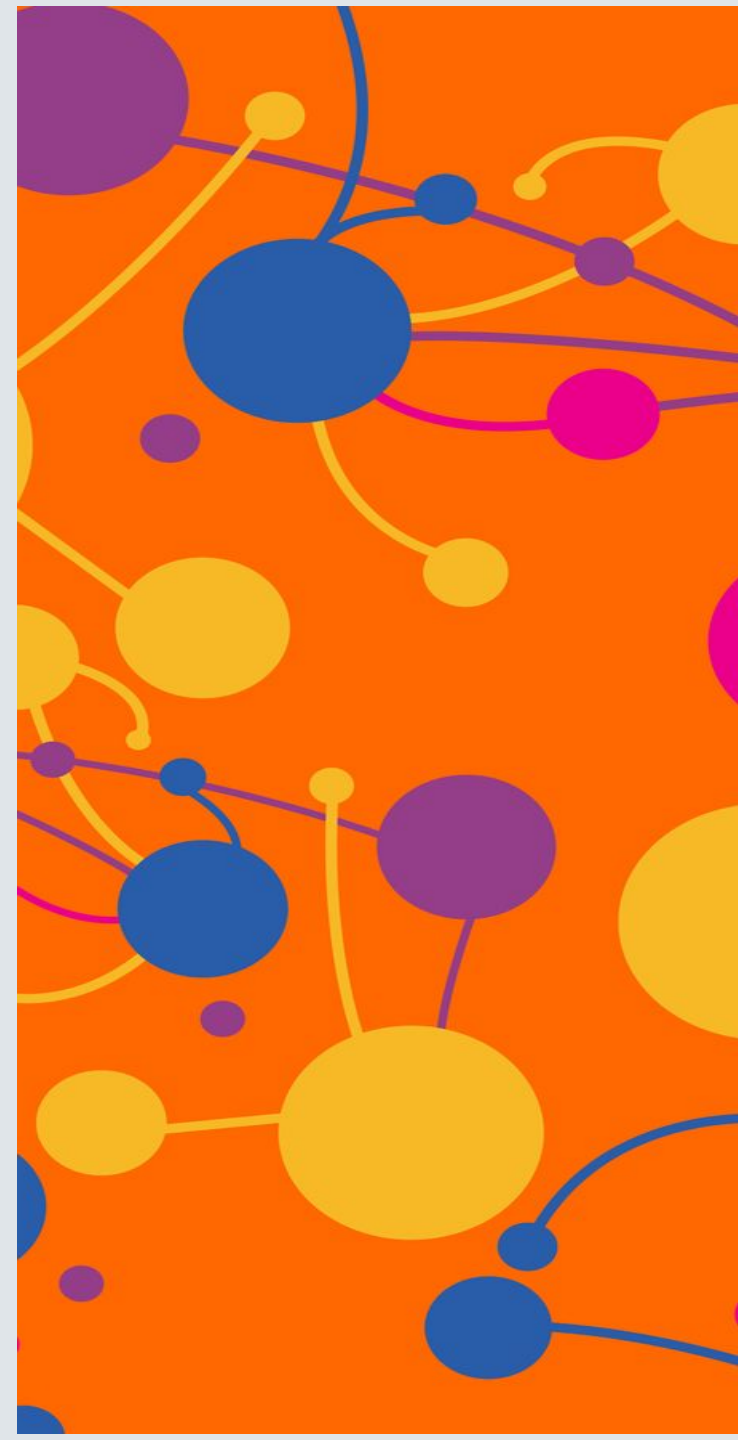
Considering open data

Open data is data
that anyone can
access, use or
share.





Assumption:
Volunteering opportunity data
should be open data.



Let's explore open data

Force Field Analysis

Driving Forces: What pushes you toward Open Data?

- Benefits, innovation, reach

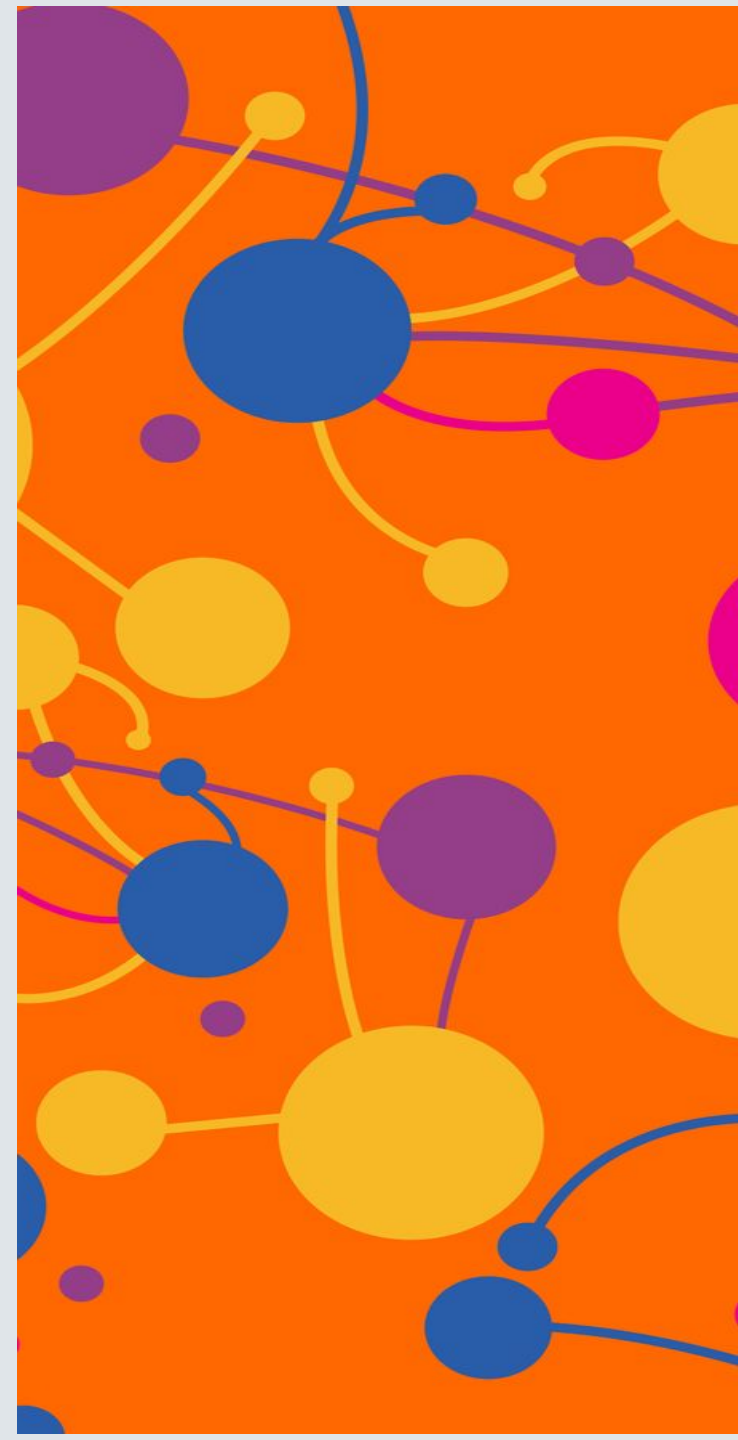
Restricting Forces: What holds you back?

- Privacy fears, technical debt, competition, business outcomes

1. Individually capture the forces that pull you towards and push you away from an open data approach.
2. Voting: Which restricting forces do you believe are the most critical to solve?
3. How might we address the top 3 restricting forces?

Miro:

https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVJldYfOU=



Next Steps

What's Next?

Current Sprint 24/11/2025 to 5/12/2025

- Second meeting of Standards Working Group to discuss data sharing mechanisms
- Preparation of documentation & resources for hackathon
- Hackathon

Sprint 4 8/12/25 to 19/12/2025

- Third meeting of Standards Working Group to review outcomes from hackathon
- Updates to data model and data sharing mechanisms based on learning from hackathon

Christmas break

Beta Phase - Real world pilots

Hackathon

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

When: 3/4 December

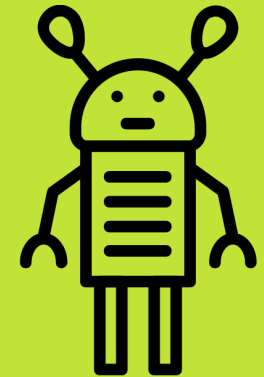
Where: London

Who: A mix of subject matter experts, data professionals & developers.

Why: An opportunity to:

- **Test ideas.**
- **Build prototypes.**
- **Meet colleagues.**
- **Direct future work.**
- **Win prizes.**
- **Eat free food.**

Bookoing link in the meeting chat...



Thank you

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Additional Information

(not presented)

Data infrastructure

The data.

The policies and standards that define and control the data.

The technical infrastructure that provides access to the data.

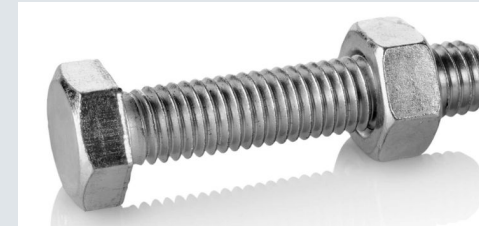
The organisations and people that contribute to, and steward, these things.

Open data standards

Standards are documented, reusable agreements that solve a specific set of problems or meet clearly defined needs.

An open standards are available for anyone to access, use and share, they are developed using open processes.

Open standards for data help us publish, access, share and use better quality data.



One metre is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval with duration of $1/299\,792\,458$ of a second (BIPM.ORG)

