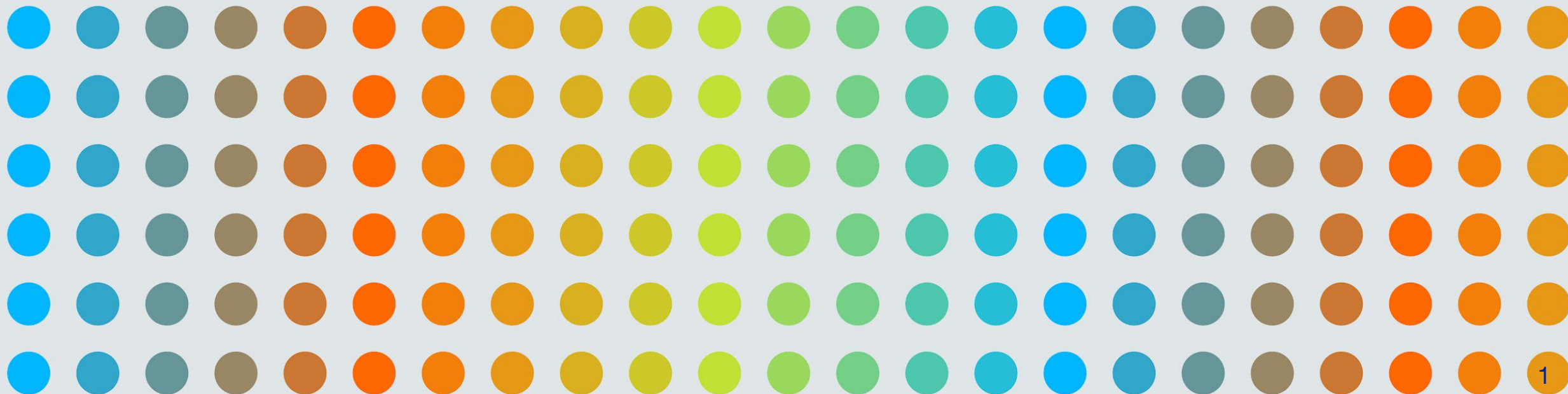




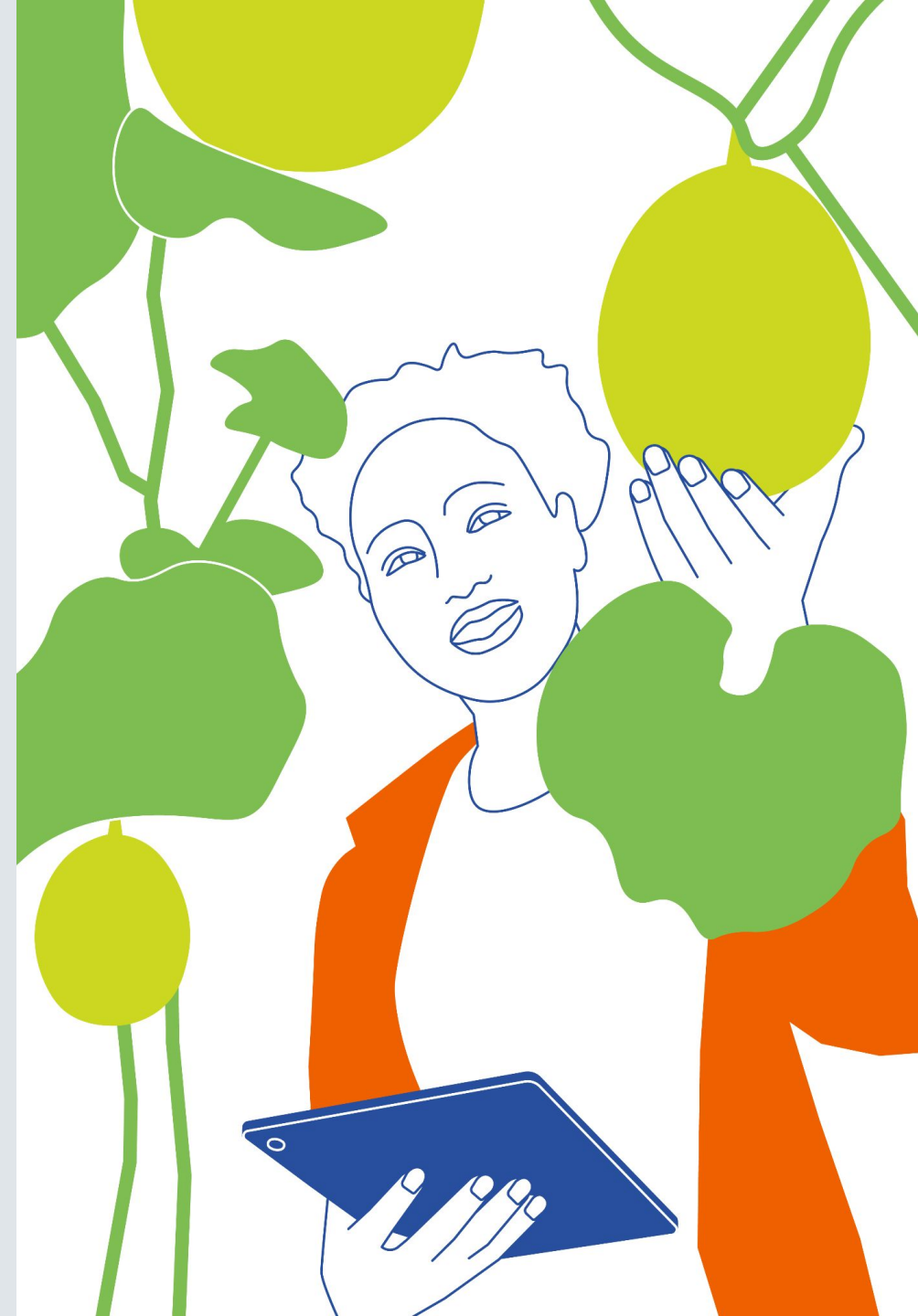
Volunteering Data Standards Working Group

Andrew Newman, 14 November 2025



Contents

1. Welcome
2. Introducing the project
 - The ODI & volunteering
 - Our hypothesis and focus
 - What is a Standards Working Group?
3. Initial data model



Introductions

We will use Miro today...

Miro board link: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVJrEfNMw=

Password: GreatWork

- Your Organisation
- Your Role
- Do you volunteer?
- What do you want to achieve today?

Things to be aware of

This meeting will be recorded. 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.

Some Definitions...

Data infrastructure

The data.

The policies and standards that define and control the data.

The technical infrastructure that provides access to the data.

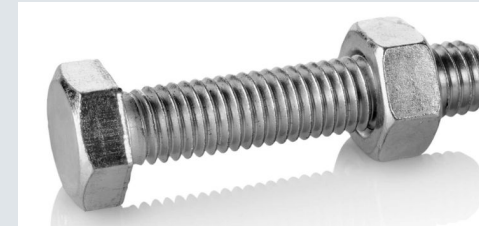
The organisations and people that contribute to, and steward, these things.

Open data standards

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

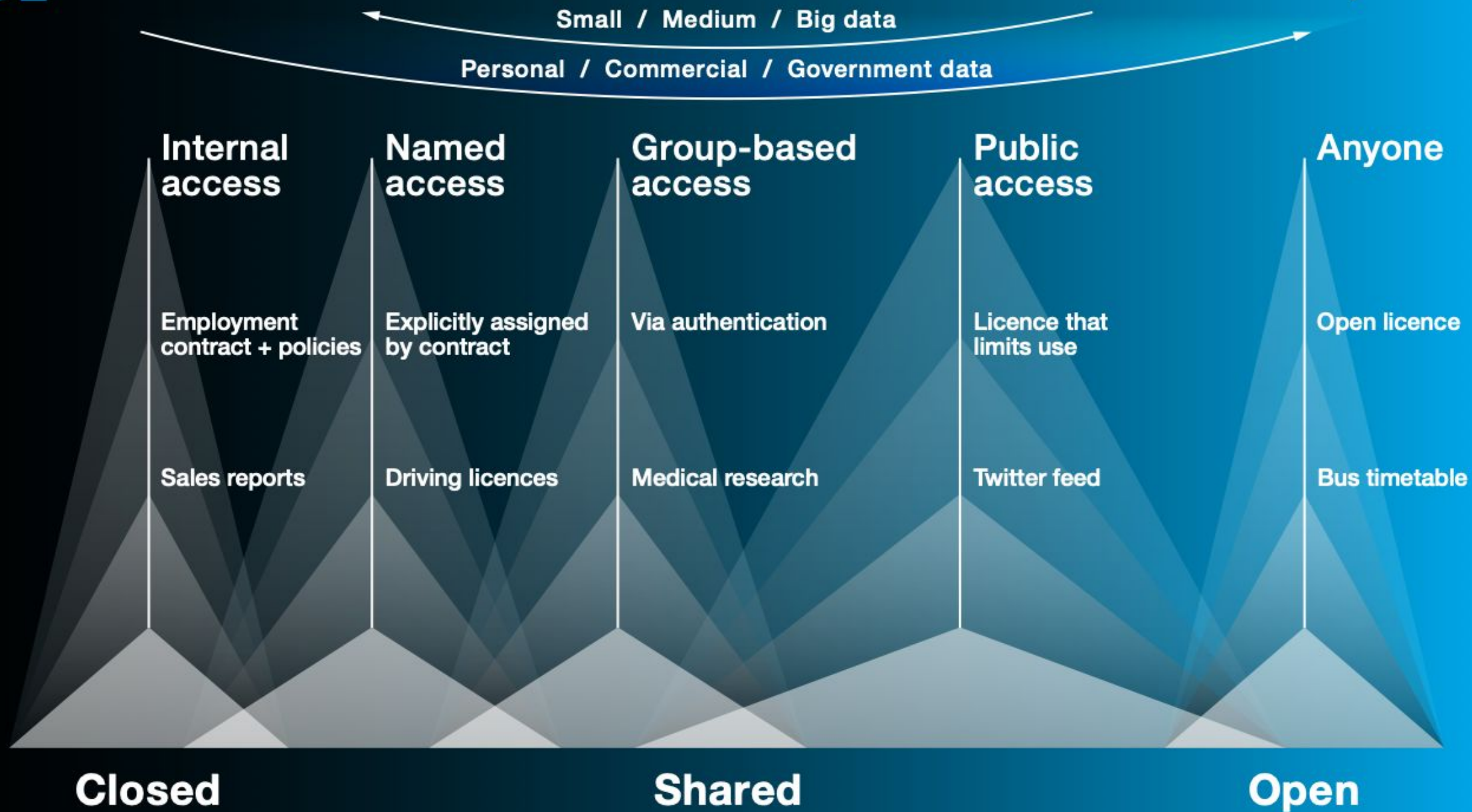
An open standards are available for anyone to access, use and share, they are developed using open processes.

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 $\frac{1}{299\,792\,458}$ of a second (BIPM.ORG)





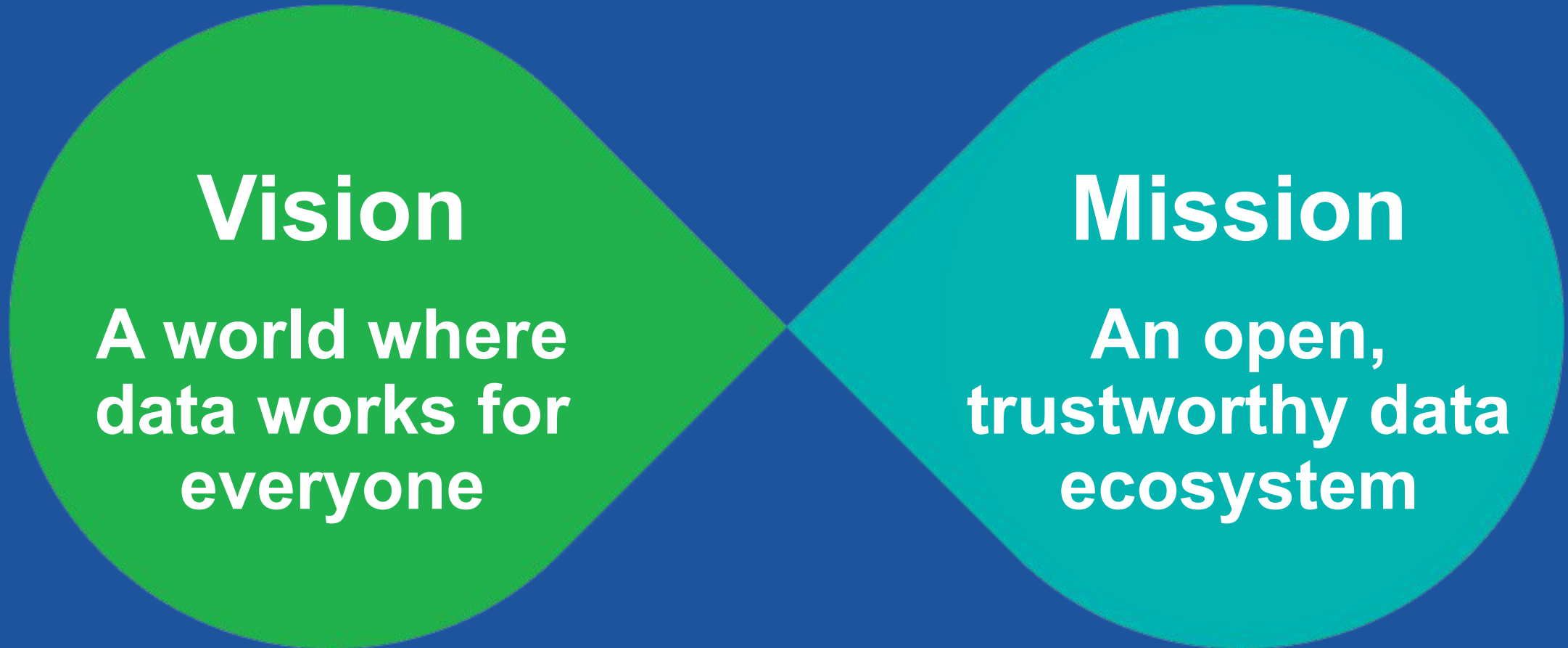
API (*Application Programming Interface*)

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.



Introducing the project



Why is ODI interested in volunteering?



Image generated by Gemini

“The ODI team has a wealth of expertise, particularly on the technical aspects in collaboratively creating and maintaining open data standards and tooling. They have worked hard to help improve the sector’s understanding of what open data is, through developing e-learning and courses, as well as helping partners to explore how this open data could benefit the sector.”

— Allison Savich, Strategic Lead
for Innovation & Digital, [Sport England](#)



Can we 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**

Now we
need to
prove our
hypothesis!

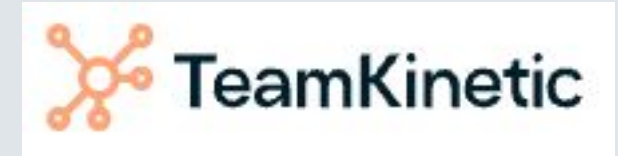


Image generated by Gemini

Partners/Stakeholders



Sector technology partners



Funded by



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Real world testing (Beta)



Plus the
thousands of
organisations
that work with
volunteers!

Project Aim

To co-design, test, and prove the value of a modern, open data infrastructure for volunteering in England.

Our goal is to deliver a modern, open, and sustainable volunteering data infrastructure: one that makes opportunities more discoverable, ensures equitable access for small and grassroots organisations, and establishes the governance and stewardship models needed to secure trust and adoption.

Timeline

Activity	Sept		Oct					Nov				Dec				Jan-Mar 26			
	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4
Kick Off														Christmas period. ODI office closed 24 Dec - 1 Jan					
Stage 1 Discovery																			
Stage 1 Alpha																			
Stage 2 Beta (TBC)																			

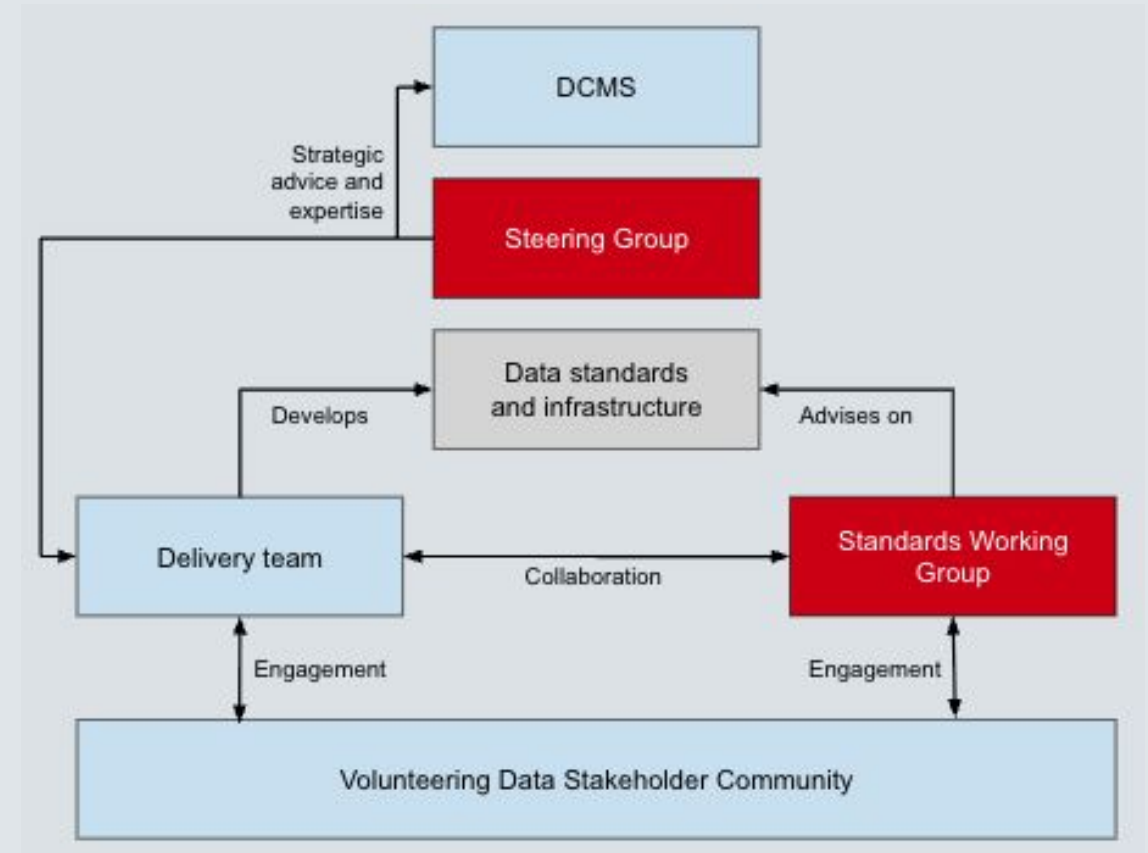
Today

What is a 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](#)



Understand the problem that needs to be solved.

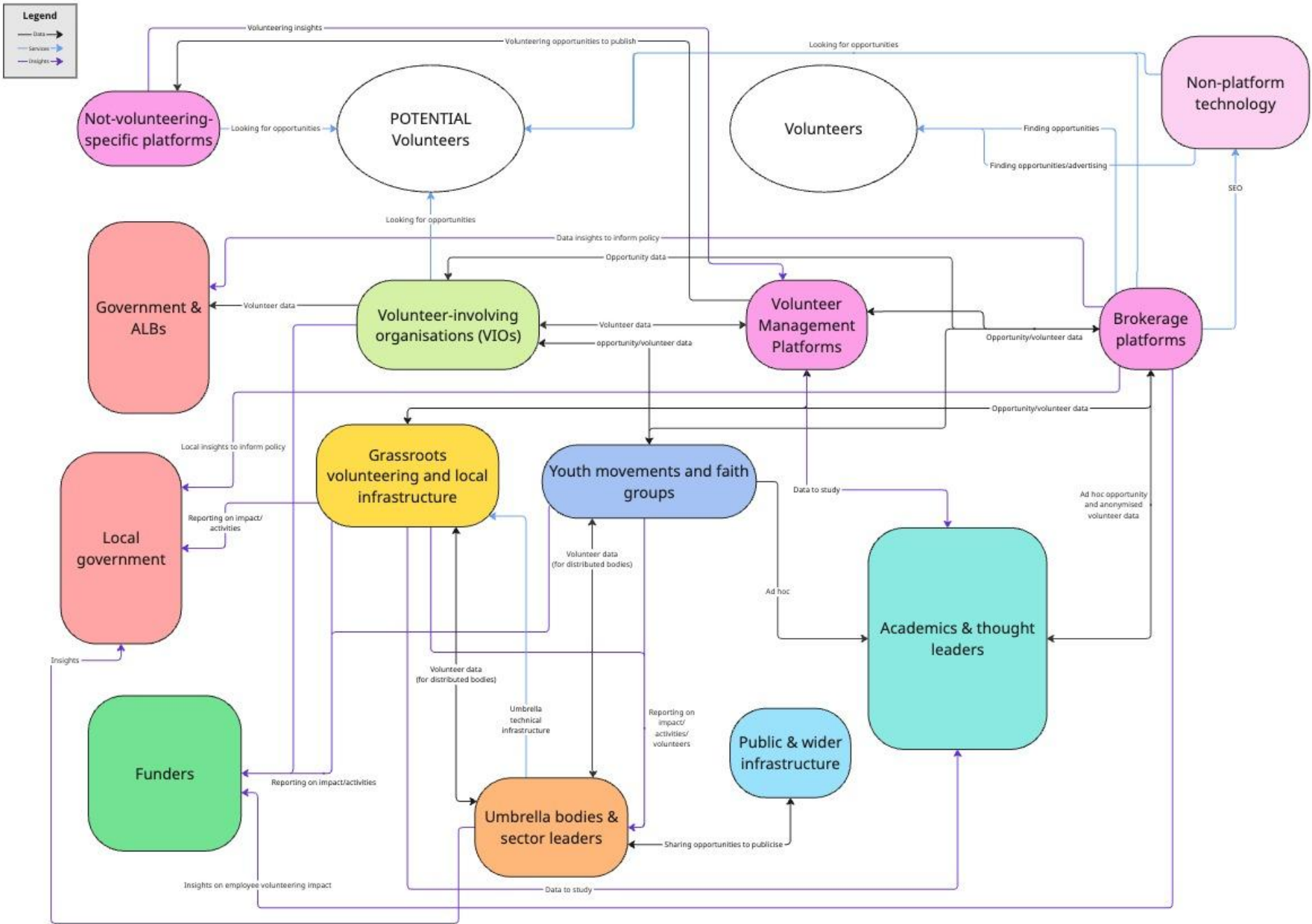
Discovery



Discovery

Use case	Infrastructural solutions
a. Improving recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data standard to describe the persona or profile of a volunteer and a potential volunteer • A data standard to describe a volunteering opportunity • A means to match personas / profiles to opportunities (brokerage)
b. Incentivising retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data standard to describe a volunteer's current and previous work in an organisation or across organisations
c. Increasing awareness and marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data standard to describe a volunteering opportunity and the personal or social outcomes it has, portable between advertising systems
d. Making volunteer skill checks, background checks, and training more efficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A portable data standard to describe a volunteer's current and previous work, training, and accreditations from previous organisations
e. Mobilising volunteers in national emergencies (and events)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data standard for volunteers and opportunities that is interoperable between national-scale calls for volunteering and local-level recruitment and management
f. Building evidence and reports for use in management decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data standard to describe a volunteer's work in an organisation that is aggregable and suited to management needs • A means to interpret aggregate data that suits the skills and time constraints of the sector
g. Reporting impact (and potential impact) to donors (and potential donors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data standard to describe an organisation's work and the social benefit it provides • Controlled, standardised procurement requirements for funders to use
h. Ensuring digital platforms speak the same language, allowing information to move between systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring there is consensus amongst digital tool providers on a data standard and widespread adoption afterwards.

Discovery



Discovery

Initial
Focus

Group	Collection	Attributes
People	Descriptors	"Title", "First name", "Last name"
	Personal info	"Date of Birth", "Ethnicity", "Gender"
	Contact	"Email", "Phone"
	Work	"Employment", "Roles"
	Abilities	"Language", "Skills"
	Availability	"Availability"
	Location	"Address line 1", "Postcode"
	Extra info	"Custom field(s)", "Notes"
Organisations	Descriptors	"Name", "Description", "Mission / Purpose", "Link to website"
	Contact	"Email", "Phone"
	Location	"Address line 1", "Postcode"
Opportunities	Descriptors	"Title", "Name", "Description", "Link to info", "Categories", "Tags / Keywords", "Is indoors", "Is virtual"
	Associated organisation	"Associated organisation name", "Associated organisation link to website"
	Creator	"Creator name", "Creator email"
	Application	"Link to apply"
	Prerequisites	"Requirements/skills to participate"
	Evaluation	"Measurement unit (e.g. hours logged)", "Measurement target"
	Participants	"Min. team size", "Max. number of volunteers"
	Location	"Address line 1", "Postcode"
	Timing	"Date campaign start", "Date registration end"
Registrations	Participant	"Team ID", "Volunteer ID", "Guest first name"
	Opportunity	"Opportunity ID"
	Status	"Application status (e.g. pending, approved, rejected)", "Is on waitlist"
	Timing	"Date of confirmation", "Hours logged"

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.



Questions & Answers

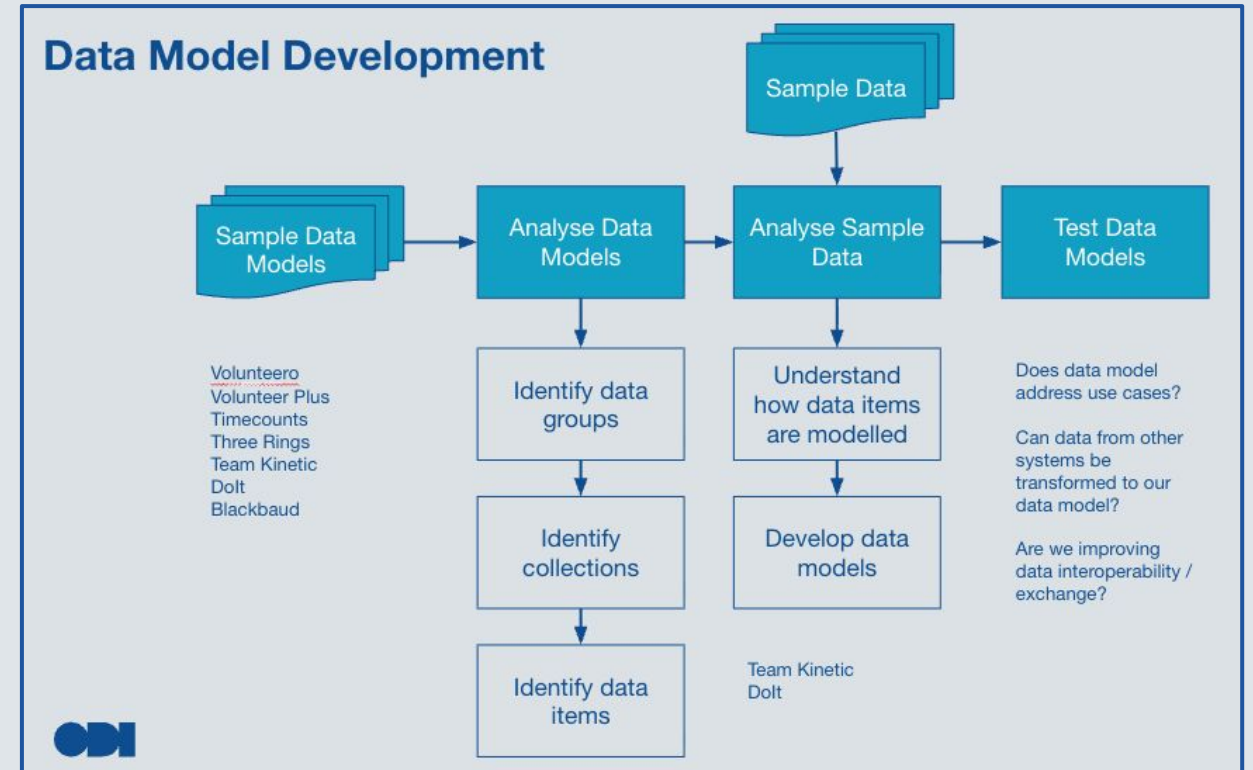
Initial Data Model

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.

Sprint 1 27/10/2025 to 7/11/2025

- Secure sample data to generate a data model for volunteering opportunities.
- Establish technical infrastructure to enable standards development.
- Develop version 0.1 data model for volunteering opportunities



Let's explore the data model

Over in Miro...

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What's Next?

Current Sprint 10/11/2025 to 21/11/2025

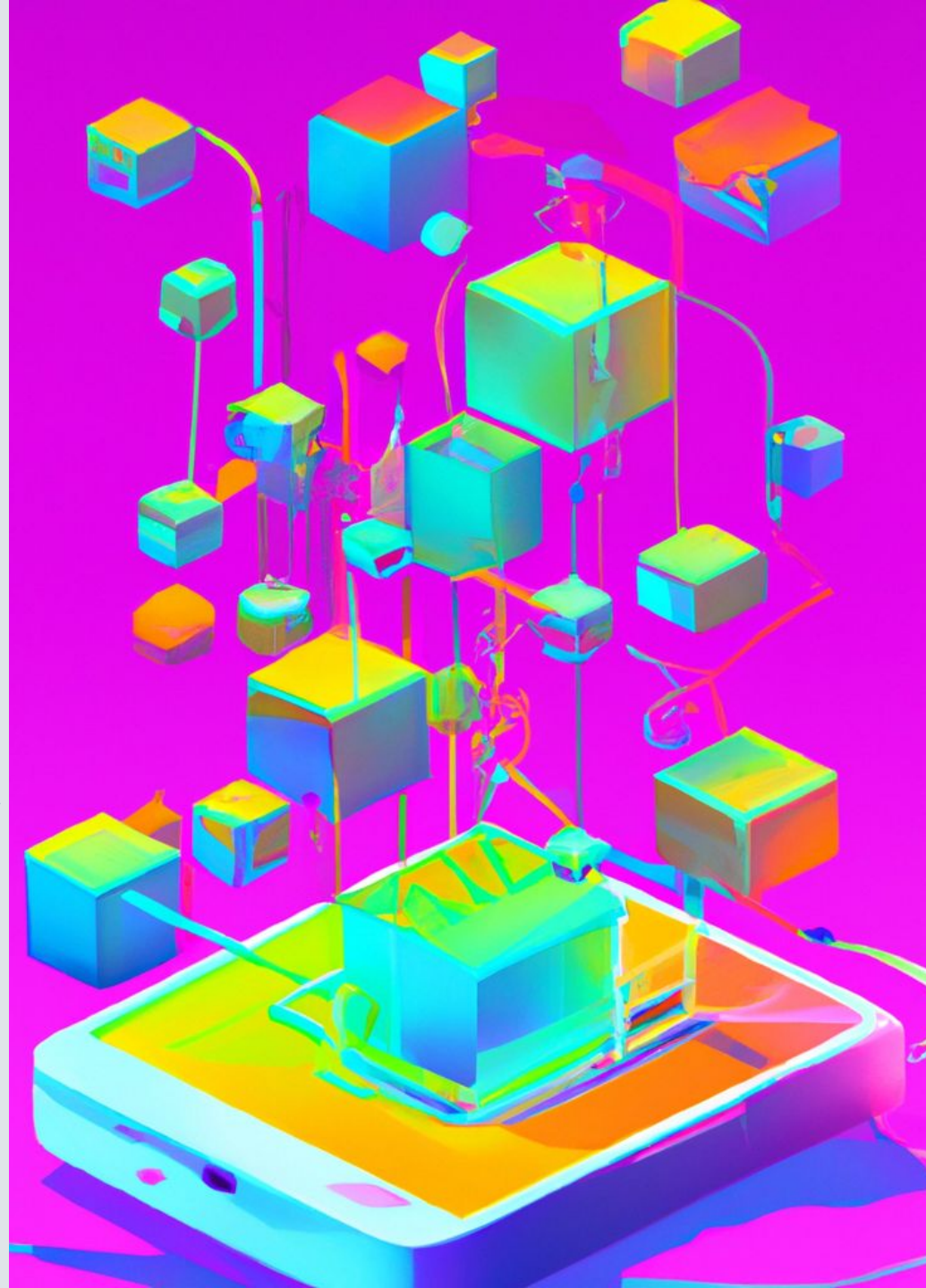
- Development of data sharing mechanisms including:
 - A simple API that can respond to predetermined queries
 - Transform data from format to format
- Use feedback from today's session to improve the data model

Sprint 3 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



Thank you

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