The Value of Open Data

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Short Abstract

Over the past generation the role of data in the public life has shifted. Data was once the domain of government agencies, centralized programs and select private corporations. It has moved from a protected, private commodity to one that is public, 'open', and shared (Tinati , Carr, Halford and Pope, 2012). The emerging open data movement demands proactive release of government data on the Web, free of charge and with minimal constraints on use (Ding, Peristeras, Hausenblas, 2012). With greater availability of data, citizens and developers are actively pursuing new applications and innovations utilizing open data and modern web technologies. Citizens have come to expect their government to be more transparent and there is an aim to provide a platform for citizen-to-government transparency, improved efficiency and economic growth (Tinati et al., 2012). The implications of open data activity are poised to affect all corners of society, as there are numerous user groups involved, such as; the government, the private sector, the developer community, non-governmental organizations and citizens. It is not yet known whether the affects of open data will be entirely positive or whether there will also be negative affects. I will conduct semi-structured interviews with key players in various positions involved in open data initiatives to determine just who the spectrum of stakeholders are involved in open data. From the interviews I will also develop a set of qualitative and quantitative metrics to evaluate the value of open data that can be used by government and other stakeholders alike. Open Data is an evolving phenomenon and there has been little coordinated effort to reflect on and evaluate the value derived from various user groups involved in open data (Feick and Roche, 2012). This research will fill the gap and contribute to the academic discourse of open data as well as having real world applications.

References

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