Open Government
Research and Development
Agenda-Setting Workshop

Using government data to improve the lives of citizens

April 27-28, 2011
Albany, New York
Our purpose

- Expand current discussions among government leaders, funding agencies, foundations, civil society, and research scientists about government data and the potential of that data to improve the lives of everyday citizens.

- Use those discussions to define a research roadmap that looks at the legal, policy, management, and technical questions that must be addressed in using government data to improve the lives of everyday citizens.
Workshop Context

• One of a series of events.
  – NYL, RPI, UPenn
  – Others?

• Contributing to the development of an actionable and relevant multi-year research and development program.

• Today’s focus - the use of government data to improve the lives of citizens.
An Actionable Research Program

- Identify critical needs
- Map needs to potential solutions
- Identify legal and policy barriers
- Explore critical evaluative approaches
- Lay out strategies for attaining future research funding.
Our product

• A workshop report.
• Expanded networks.
• New clarity on key questions facing efforts to use government data to improve the lives of citizens.
Our approach

• Bring together networks in law, policy, and technology to research the effects of open innovation and promote the diffusion of that innovation in the public sector through the study and design of laws, policies, and technologies in support of open government.

• The workshop has been organized around small and large group discussions.

• A summary overview of the Open Government Research and Development Summit held in DC on March 21-22nd.

• A look into a related research agenda.
Our Agenda

• Day One
  – What are the key research questions related to government use of data for improving the lives of citizens?
    • Law, policy, management, technology
    • Academics, practitioners, civil society, private sector

• Day Two
  – How can the agenda be made actionable and relevant?
  – What are the challenges to carrying out this agenda?
  – What is the most critical message to carry forward from this workshop?
Open Government Research and Development Summit

• “The summit will set the foundation for a robust R&D agenda that ensures the benefits of open government are widely realized, with emphasis on how open government can spur economic growth and improve the lives of everyday Americans.

• The President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology noted the importance of establishing an R&D agenda for open government in their recent report.

• This will be the first opportunity for researchers, scholars, and open government professionals to begin a discussion that will continue at academic centers throughout the country over the next few years.”

• http://www.nitrd.gov/opengov/.
Five Big Questions

• U.S. Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra outlined five critical questions for open government research moving forward.
  – Big Data
    • How Do We Strengthen our Capacity to Understand Large Data Sets?
  – New Products
    • What Constitutes “High Value” Data?
  – Open Platforms
    • What are the Policy Implications of Enabling 3rd Party Apps?
  – International Collaboration
    • What Models to Strengthen Democracy Translate Internationally?
  – Digital Norms
    • What Works and What Doesn’t in Public Engagement?
the live bloggers, @bethnoveck & @digiphile, at #opengovRD

Posted by twitter.com/noneck

Comments and faves
Back at the R&D Summit. After dCTO Vein introduced the panel, VA CTO Levin stepped up for his introductory remarks.

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:45:11 AM

Levin: noted challenges of implementing open government at VA, that he'd moved into implementation. Told story of early telephone and the reactions that people had.

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:45:52 AM

Levin: what's going on is about emotion, in terms of understanding the "virtues" of inclusion, participation, transparency, participation

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:46:28 AM

Levin: can measure bandwidth but hard to measure these kinds of outcomes in anything like a predictable, coherent way

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:46:49 AM

Levin: bright spots at VA are about collaboration. bright spots = conspirators, lowering barriers = layups, and scripting the first steps = the same.

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:49:09 AM

Levin: Young people are doing this already. points to Blue Button, Fast Track, Regional offices

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:49:41 AM

Levin: trying to replicate feeling of attachment that people get from PatientsLikeMe that we have for 100,000 Facebook friends - most friended cabinet agency in the federal government

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:51:54 AM

Moving to panel:

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:54:23 AM

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Peter Levin, CTO and Senior Advisor  Remarks
Archon Fung, Harvard University (Policy)  Panel Discussion
James Hamilton, Duke University (Communications)
George Strawn, National Coordination Office (NITRD)
Cary Coglanese, University of Pennsylvania (Law)

by Alexander Howard at Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:54:23 AM
Workshop Agenda and Approach

• “...begin a discussion that will continue at academic centers throughout the country over the next few years.”
  – Agenda
  – Workshop approach
  – Dinner arrangements
  – Other logistics
Introductions

• Name, title, organization, specialization.
• A word on what makes a good research agenda.
Our first exercise

• State a research/researchable question focused on the use of government information to improve the lives of citizens.
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