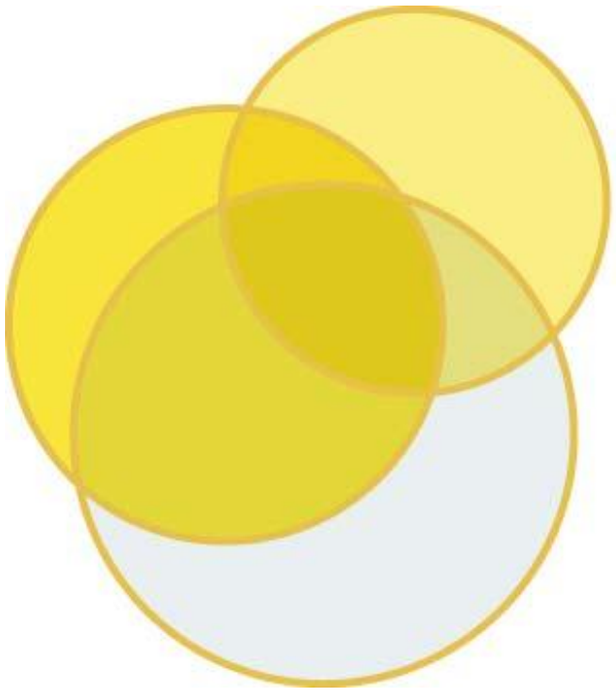


SUNLIGHT
FOUNDATION

TEN PRINCIPLES FOR OPENING UP GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Available as PDF here.

August 11, 2010

In October 2007, 30 open government advocates met in Sebastopol, California to discuss how government could open up electronically-stored government data for public use. Up until that point, the federal and state governments had made some data available to the public, usually inconsistently and incompletely, which had whetted the advocates' appetites for more and better data. The conference, led by Carl Malamud and Tim O'Reilly and funded by a grant from the Sunlight Foundation, resulted in eight principles that, if implemented, would empower the public's use of government-held data.

We have updated and expanded upon the Sebastopol list and identified ten principles that provide a lens to evaluate the extent to which government data is open and accessible to the public. The list is not exhaustive, and

Policy Contact

Call or email the Sunlight Policy team.

John Wonderlich

Policy Director

(202) 742-1520 x234

Data.gov

www.data.gov

An Official Web Site of the United States Government

Monday, June 27, 2011 | Text: A+ A- A | Share

DATA.GOV
EMPOWERING PEOPLE

HOME | DATA | APPS | COMMUNITY | METRICS | OPEN DATA SITES | GALLERY | WHAT'S NEW

HAPPY SECOND ANNIVERSARY DATA.GOV!

Earthquake and Tsunami Datasets and Information

- Worldwide M1+ Earthquakes, Past 7 Days
- RadNet Map Interface for Near-Real-Time Radiation Monitoring Data
- Search other related datasets
- World Earthquake Interactive Map Demo

SEARCH OUR CATALOGS

Search our catalogs..

SEARCH

DATA AND APPS

- 389,730 raw and geospatial datasets
- 1,023 government apps
- 236 citizen-developed apps
- 51 mobile apps

COMMUNITIES

Come explore, discuss, meet others in the same field, and develop the data and apps in the community that you care about. Join in the discussions by going to communities below that interest you.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

Latest News: Japanese Earthquake and Radiation Data

Real-time alerts and data related to the earthquakes off the coast of Japan and radiation levels in US

SUNLIGHT ON SAVE THE DATA

Aug. 19, 2012, 10:40 p.m.

During the budget debate in 2011, the Sunlight Foundation discovered that major cuts were being proposed for Electronic Government Fund - the crucial backbone of many transparency and accountability programs. Data.gov, USASpending.gov, the IT Dashboard and other federal data transparency and government accountability programs faced a cut from their previous $34 million level to just $2 million, despite only being a tiny fraction of the national budget.

The Sunlight Foundation launched the 'Save the Data' campaign to convince politicians that Americans value these programs. Thousands of citizens voiced their support by signing on to Sunlight's letter, contacting their members of Congress, writing blogs posts or just tweeting #savethedata. In addition to a dozen organizations the Save the Data campaign included civic leaders such as Sir Tim Berners-Lee, creator of the World Wide Web, Tim O'Reilly, publisher and web guru, and Clay Shirky, author and prominent thinker. The successful campaign resulted in acknowledgement from politicians that these programs should be saved and funding was raised to $8 million, though the debate continues.

Dig Deeper Into What Makes Us Tick

- Data Visualizations
- Sunshine Week

DATA About Wild Horse and Burro

explore.data.gov/Other/Wild-Horse-and-Burro/3r3f-38g5/about

An Official Web Site of the United States Government

DATA.GOV
EMPOWERING PEOPLE

HOME | NEXT GENERATION | RAW DATA | APPS | GEODATA | COMMUNITY | METRICS | OPEN DATA

Wild Horse and Burro

Non-summarized population counts of horses and burros located in Herd Management Areas controlled by DOI.

Description

Non-summarized population counts of horses and burros located in Herd Management Areas controlled by DOI.

11:59

Senate Roll No. 231

On the Nomination (Confirmation Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be U.S. Circuit Judge)

DEC 15, 2011

RESULTS 1/2 majority required

Nomination Confirmed

Yea	Nay	Present	No Vote
95	3	0	2

Akaka, Daniel [D-HI]
Yea

Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]
Yea

Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]
Yea

Barrasso, John [R-WY]
Yea

Baucus, Max [D-MT]
Yea

11:56

S. 968

Bill | News | Activity | Votes

Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011

Introduced on May 12, 2011

Sen. Patrick Leahy
D - Vermont

+ 40 more

COMING UP

JAN 23 On the Senate Floor — More

SUMMARY

Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011 or the PROTECT IP Act of 2011 - (Sec. 3) Authorizes the Attorney General (AG) to commence:

(1) an in personam action against a registrant of a nondomestic domain name (NDN) used by an Internet site dedicated to infringing activities (ISDIA) or an owner or operator of an

Capitol Words

capitolwords.org/?terma=global+warming&termb=climate+change

Calendar | Legislators | States

capitolwords

a project of the Sunlight Foundation

*Dig up some data on the **words** our **legislators** use every day.*

TRY IT OUT!

search

or

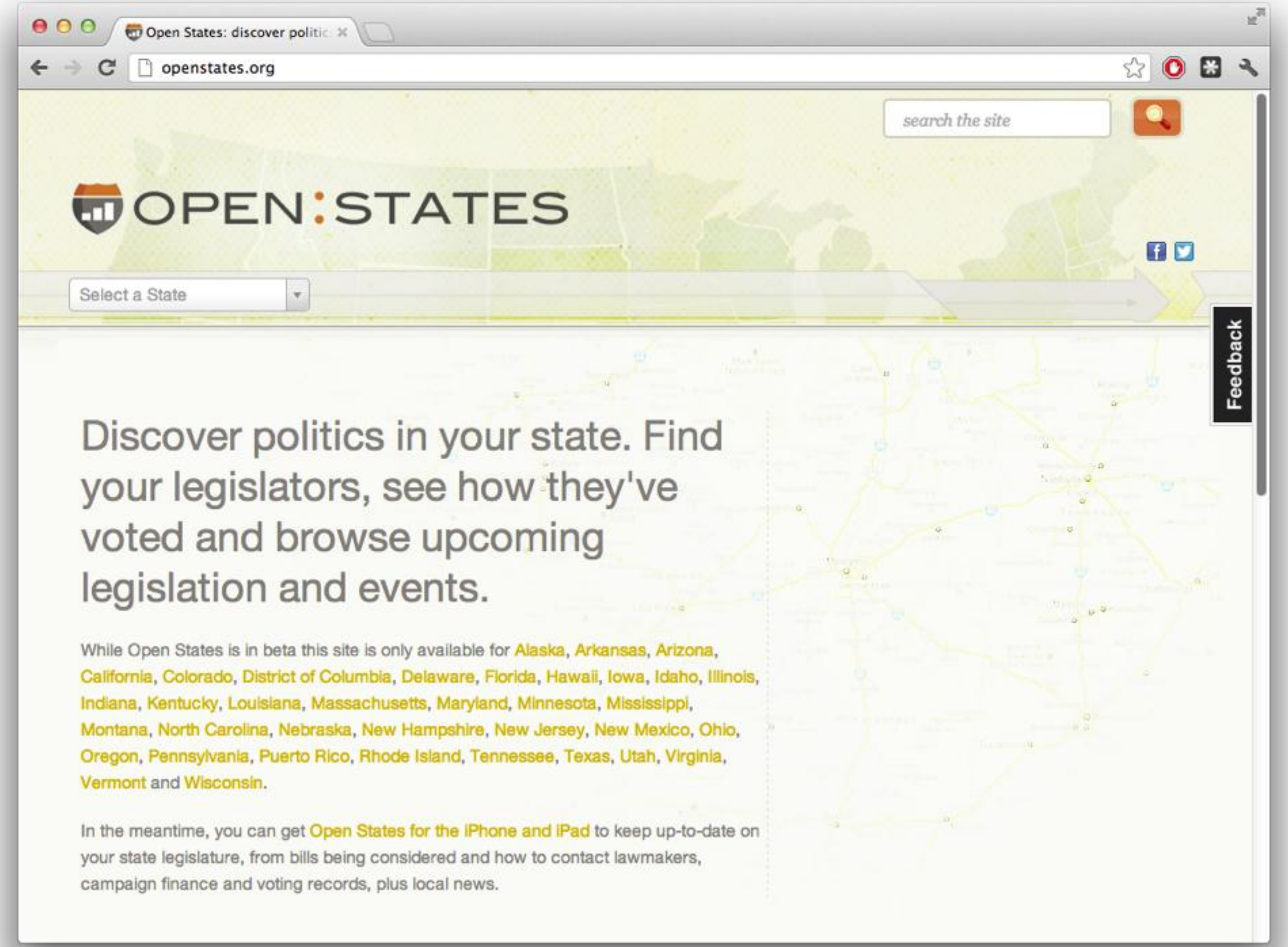
compare congressional words and/or phrases

Comparing *global warming* [All states, All Parties] *and* *climate change* [All states, All Parties]

</> embed

Democrats *50%* Republicans *44%*

Democrats *55%* Republicans *41%*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OPEN:STATES
Select a State
Feedback
Discover politics in your state. Find your legislators, see how they've voted and browse upcoming legislation and events.
While Open States is in beta this site is only available for Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont and Wisconsin.
In the meantime, you can get Open States for the iPhone and iPad to keep up-to-date on your state legislature, from bills being considered and how to contact lawmakers, campaign finance and voting records, plus local news.

Ad Hawk from the Sunlight F

adhawk.sunlightfoundation.com

Popular Ads About Contact SUNLIGHT FOUNDATION

AD HAWK

Search ads by sponsor or title Search

Home in on Political Ads with Sunlight's Ad Hawk

Ad Hawk is a free mobile app that allows you to identify political ads as they air and immediately learn about who is behind them. Want to know who is spending money to influence your vote? The app provides valuable contextual information about the candidate, super PAC and issues ads airing on TV and radio this election year.

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Available on the App Store

Tweet 364 Like 390

Upwardly Mobile
upwardly.us
COMPARE or BROWSE
UPWARDLY MOBILE
A COMMUNITY
COST COMPARISON
COMPARE THE COST OF LIVING AND AVERAGE SALARIES BETWEEN AREAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
Upwardly Mobile lets you find out where in the country it's best to live by comparing various types of salary, living and employment data and ranking it based on your preferences. Now go ahead, start moving up!
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FEEDBACK
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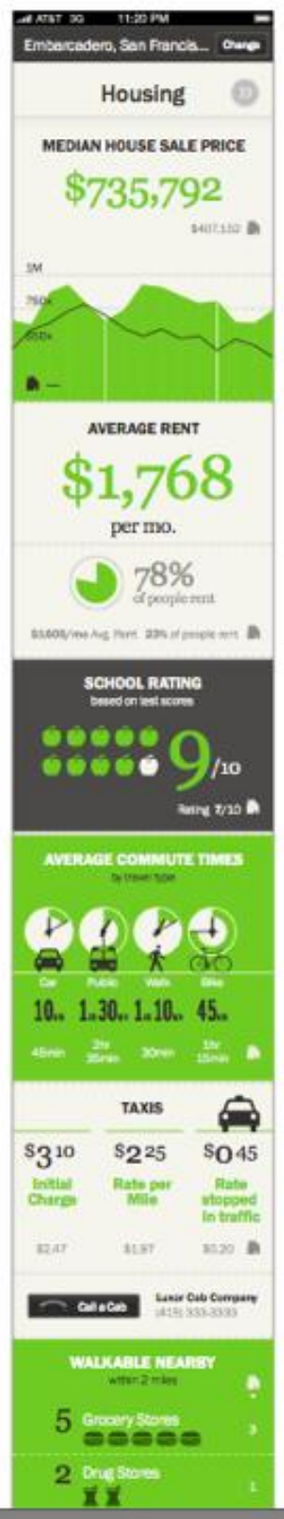
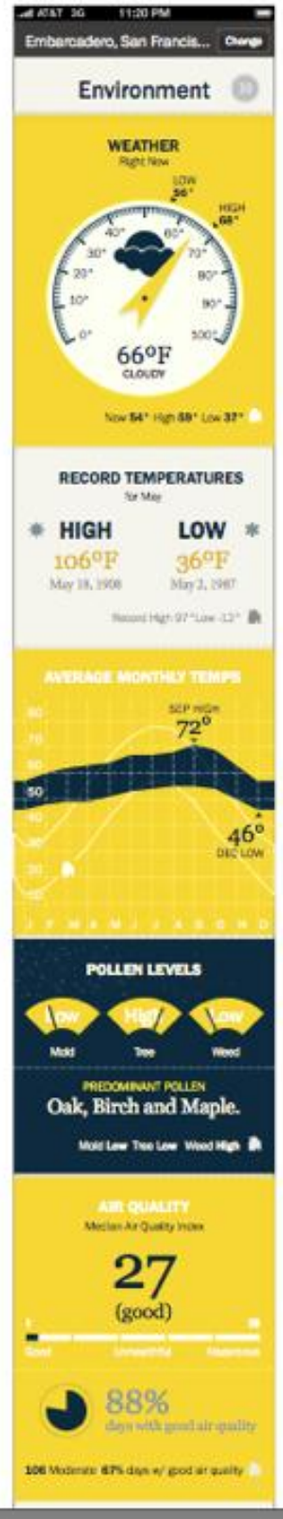
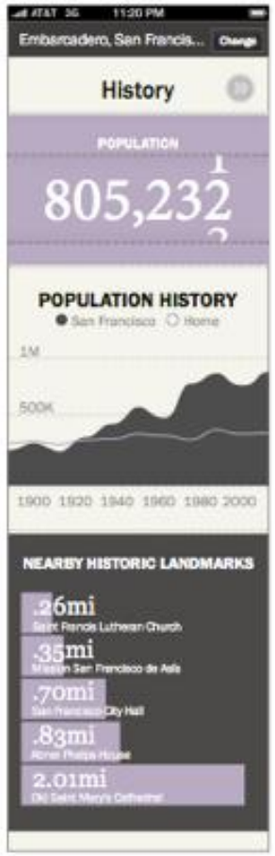
Informed, engaged communities.
Founded in 2006, the Sunlight Foundation is a non-partisan non-profit that uses cutting-edge technology and ideas to make government transparent and accountable. Visit SunlightFoundation.com to learn more.

ideoSunlight (1).pdf (1 page)







APIs

services.sunlightlabs.com

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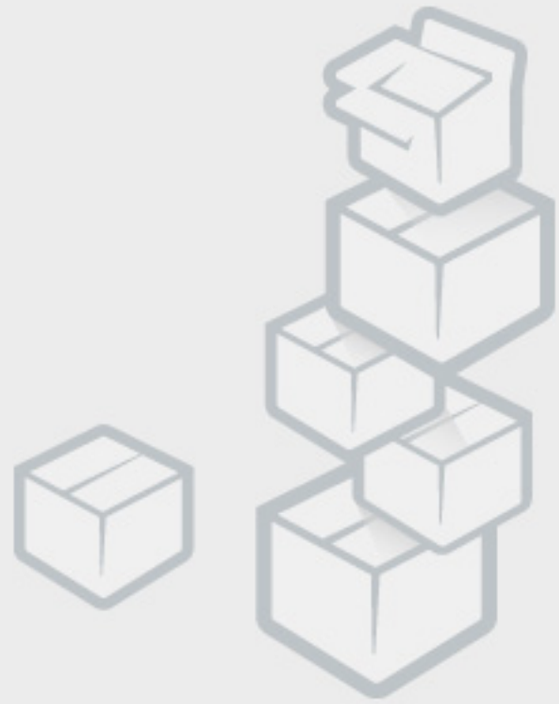
Sunlight services LABS

Sunlight Labs takes ***data inside and about government and transforms it into services developers can use***. We do it for free because we think that if people can see what's going on, it makes the country better. It might not sound like the most glamourous life ever, but ***it's pretty great for us, as long as you make use of it.***

Grab an API key and start getting your hands dirty. We can't wait to see what you come up with! ***One key gets you access to all our data.***



sign up »

#	Owner(s)	Milestone Actions	Timeframe (months)			
			1	3	6	12
2.1	Agencies	Engage with customers to identify at least two existing major customer-facing services that contain high-value data or content as first-move candidates to make compliant with new open data, content, and web API policy.		•		
2.2	Agencies	Make high-value data and content in at least two existing major customer-facing systems available through web APIs, apply metadata tagging and publish a plan to transition additional high-value systems. *[Within 6 months of release of open data policy – see milestone 1.1].*				•
2.3	GSA	Expand Data.gov to include a web API catalog that centrally aggregates web APIs posted on agencies'/developer pages.				•

APIs - US Census Bureau

www.census.gov/developers/

U.S. Department of Commerce

United States Census Bureau

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You are here: Census.gov › APIs - US Census Bureau

Access Data with Census APIs

Main | Data Sets | Geography | App Gallery

Developer Forum

Join our Developer Forum to submit questions, provide feedback, and share ideas to help the Census Bureau as it makes data available through APIs.

Using the API

- Examples and Supported Geography [PDF]
- SF1 Examples and Supported Geography
- ACS Examples and Supported Geography
- Request a Key

Download Data

To download full data sets, visit our FTP Server

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Census Bureau APIs

To improve access to data and encourage innovation, the Census Bureau has begun to provide API access to some data sets, beginning with the 2010 Census Summary File 1 and the 2010 American Community Survey (five year data). We invite developers to use these APIs, join our Developer Forum, and provide feedback to help us move forward with continued API development.

Please read the Terms of Service for using the API.

Note on URL base: Please note the the URL of the API has changed to api.census.gov. The former URL will remain active until August 6th. Please update your calls to reflect the new URL.

Accessing Data

Data are accessible to software developers through a stateless HTTP GET request. In order to access data, you will need to insert a key into the request URL in order for query results to be returned. If you do not have a key assigned to you, you will be directed to the Request a Key page where you can register for one.

1) Example of the request URL for 2010 Census SF1 data that has an assigned key inserted:

http://api.census.gov/data/2010/sf1?key=b48301d897146e8f8efd9bef3c6eb1fcb864cf&get=P0010001,NAME&for=state:*

2) Example of the request URL for ACS 2010 5 Year data for Total Population for California and New York:

http://api.census.gov/data/2010/acs5?key=b48301d897146e8f8efd9bef3c6eb1fcb864cf&get=B02001_001E,NAME&for=state:06,36

3) Example of the request URL for ACS 2010 5 Year data for Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household

Identifiers

Six Degrees of Corporations

sunlightfoundation.com/sixdegrees/

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6 degrees of corporations

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- Existing Identifer Systems
- Case Study
- Resources
- Contact

Fingerprinting the Private Sector

Currently there is no effective unique identifier system for companies that operate within the U.S. This has huge implications for corporate accountability, disclosure in political giving, evaluation of systemic risk in financial markets, oversight of government contracts and more.

Play with the visualization below to see how messy our current system is, read an overview of the major federal systems or find a case study of one country that has successfully overcome this problem.

Find a Company

The main corporate identifier that the federal government uses for grants and contracting is the DUNS number. There are several problems with DUNS numbers, but one issue is that their usage by the federal

Open Data's Midlife Crisis

Out of the
CROOKED TIMBER
Of humanity, no straight thing was ever made.

Open Data Seminar

by HENRY *on* JULY 17, 2012

For those who wanted a more print-friendly version of the open data seminar that we've been running, here's a PDF (bog-standard memoir class document I'm afraid – I don't have John H.'s design skills). It's available under a Creative Commons non-commercial license – those who want to do their own remixes may want the underlying LaTeX file, which is available here. Below, links to the various posts, in order of publication:

Tom Slee draws connections between James Scott and the awkward relationship between open data and actual empowerment.

Victoria Stodden suggests that people interested in the political aspects of open data should learn from the efforts of computational scientists to preserve the step-by-step process through which final results were produced.

Steven Berlin Johnson argues that open data platforms can attract, empower and even create people interested in solving complex problems.

Matthew Yglesias makes the case that open data is crucial to journalism, and that there is often a case for government to produce it

Recent Comments

Phil on The white working class

Phil on The white working class

Shelley on The white working class

Theophylact on New Books in SF and Fantasy

Metatone on The white working class

Contributors

Chris Bertram ∞

Michael Bérubé ∞

Harry Brighouse ∞

Daniel Davies ∞

Henry Farrell ∞

Maria Farrell ∞

Eszter Hargittai ∞

Niamh Hardiman ∞

USAspending.gov

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Monday, June 27, 2011 Text A+ A- A

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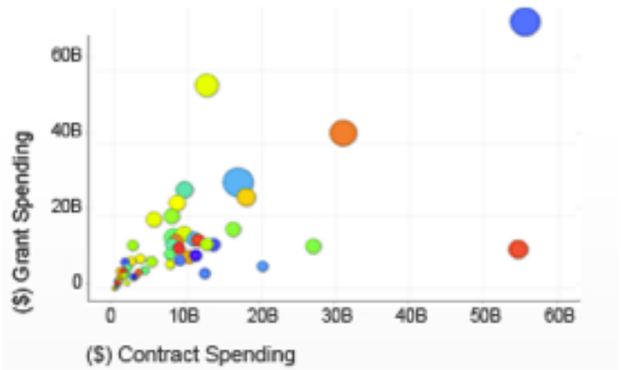
Popular Requests

- Gulf Oil Spill Contracts
- Construction Contracts
- Housing Assistance
- Student Assistance
- Research and Development Contracts
- Higher Education Grants

Spending Trends



See Federal Spending on Grants and Contracts over time

What's new

Find out what new features have been recently added to the site.

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Now tracking sub-award data

Includes sub-contract and sub-grant data.

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MAKING SENSE of the FEDERAL CHECKBOOK

Updated for 2011!

SUMMARY SCORECARD BACKGROUND RESULTS METHODOLOGY MEDIA RESOURCES FEEDBACK

$1,306,120,795,761

Broken Spending Reporting in 2010

HOW RELIABLE IS USASPENDING.GOV?

We've taken data from other federal reporting systems and compared it with the data found in USASpending.gov across three categories: **Consistency**, **Completeness** and **Timeliness**. How close are the reported dollar amounts to the yearly estimates? How many of the required fields are filled out in each record? And how long did it take the agency to report the money once it was allocated to a project?

RESULTS SUMMARY

How Does The Federal Government Report Its Spending?

The flow of federal spending reporting can get complicated. We've tried to simplify it for you with a **step-**

Top Programs

The following are some of the top programs that report well across all three metrics:

- **Violence Against Women Act Court Training and Improvement Grants**
- **Special Education Grants for Infants and Families**

Thanks

tlee@sunlightfoundation.com
@tjl