

Open (Public) Data: What, Why, How

Forum Virium - Open Up the City - Helsinki

Rufus Pollock
[Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge]
[Open Knowledge Foundation]
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About the Foundation



Founded 2004 / Not-for-profit

Promoting, Creating Disseminating Open Knowledge

<http://www.okfn.org/vision/>

What?

What is 'Open'?

OPEN DATA

OPEN CONTENT

OPEN KNOWLEDGE

Open = Freedom to Use / Re-use / Redistribute

<http://www.opendefinition.org/>

What Data?



Transport, Geodata, Statistics, Electoral-Legal ...

Why?

The Holy Trinity: Innovation, Efficiency, Transparency

AKA: Jobs and Growth, Community and Governance

£5 Billion UK, €27 billion for EU



Information is Special: Non-Rivalrous

Very cheaply copied ~ zero cost

Giving me a 'copy' of your car is a problem, giving me a copy of your data isn't

The Many Minds Principle

The Best Thing to do With Your Data will be Thought of by Someone Else

Fixing is Faster with Open Data (And You Don't Repeat Yourself)

To many eyes all bugs are shallow

One department can find and use another's data

Scaling (Closed Data Doesn't Scale!)



We're Weaving Data Together

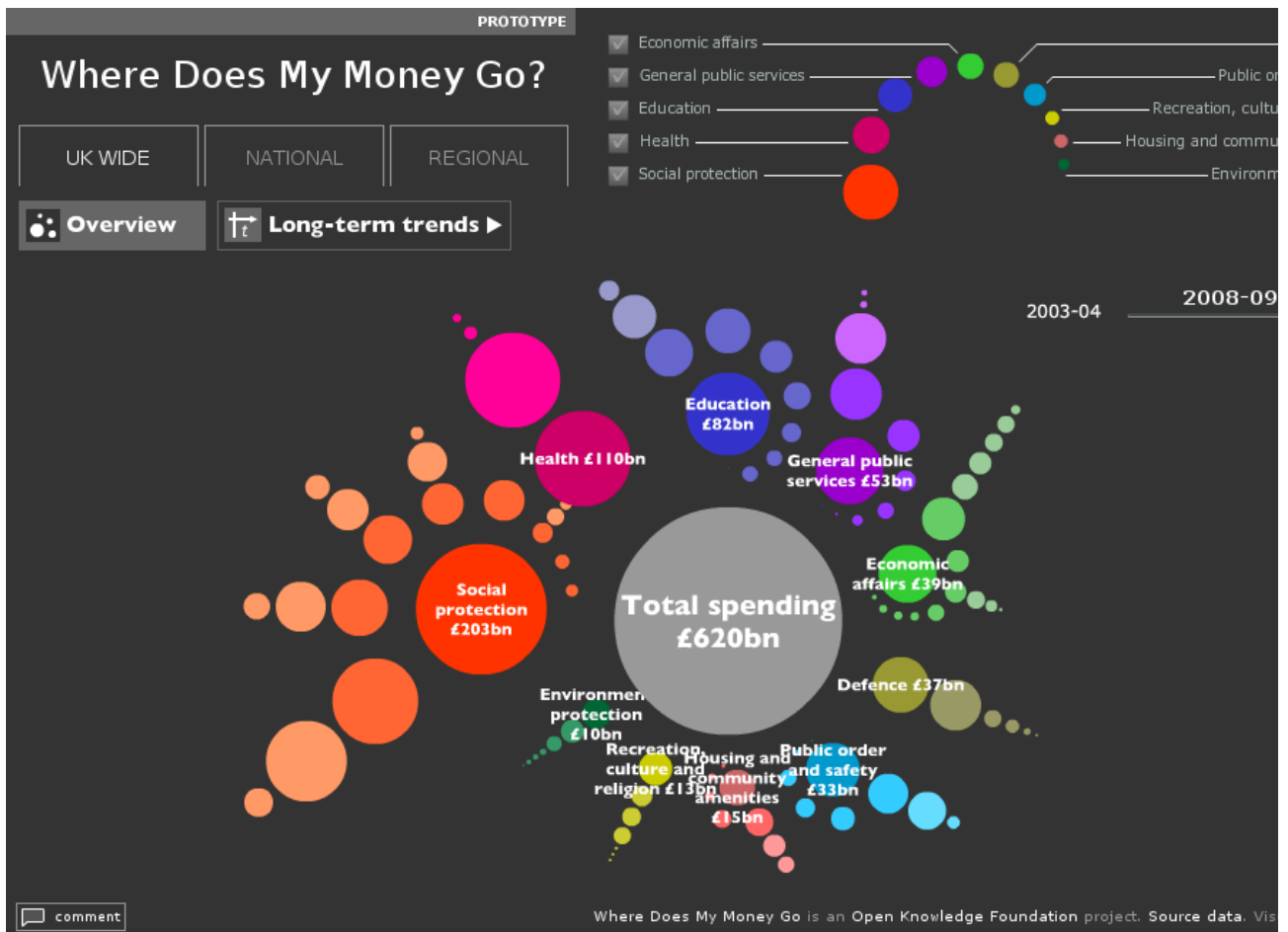


To Scale We Need to Componentize



But We Need to Put Humpty-Dumpty Together Again -
Not Possible if Closed

Where Does My Money Go?



Transparency, Efficiency, Innovation ...

Enabling a Read/Write Culture

Open data allows citizens to 'write' back - adding, commenting and updating whether to their own copy or the 'original'

This is *the* Radical Change

How?

Get Started:

Fast, Small and Simple

Remember: KISS

Address Common Fears and Misunderstandings

Misuse, blame, services versus data, formats ...


Deal with Licensing

It's boring - but without it nothing else works ...

<http://www.opendatacommons.org/>
Legal Solutions for Open Data

Have a Catalogue

Login via [OpenID](#)



comprehensive knowledge archive network

Home Packages Tags Groups Recent Changes API About

766 registered packages available.

E.g. 'geo', 'shakespeare', 'science'

only openly licensed packages only downloadable packages

Recently Changed

[usa_bls_employment](#) @ 2009-12-28 15:47:57 **by** <http://www.rufuspollock.org/>
[uk-national-lottery-grants](#) @ 2009-12-28 02:25:03 **by** <http://jonathangray.org/>
[uk-local-spending-report](#) @ 2009-12-27 18:54:23 **by** <http://jonathangray.org/>
[wdmmg](#) @ 2009-12-27 18:09:49 **by** <http://jonathangray.org/>
[ukgov-finances-cra](#) @ 2009-12-23 20:10:50 **by** 86.26.8.30
[nisociety](#) @ 2009-12-23 13:11:38 **by** <http://www.rufuspollock.org/>
[uk-metoffice-lscrs](#) @ 2009-12-23 11:13:27 **by** <http://jonathangray.org/>
[uk-metoffice-hadcrut3](#) @ 2009-12-20 23:40:42 **by** <http://irl.styx.org/id/www/>
[uk-metoffice-lscrs](#) @ 2009-12-20 23:40:36 **by** <http://irl.styx.org/id/www/>

About CKAN

CKAN is a **registry of open data and content packages**. CKAN makes it easy to **find, share and reuse open content and data**, especially in ways that are **machine automatable**.

[About »](#) [FAQ and Guide »](#)

CKAN - powering CKAN.net, data.gov.uk and many more

Separate Storage - Support Write



Be Distributed

It's Not One Ring to Rule them All

Small Pieces, Loosely Joined



Engage Citizens and Developers

Openness Isn't An End In Itself - Data Has No Value If It Isn't Used

Manage Expectations

We Won't Get There Tomorrow (But Maybe the Day After)

And Remember Faraday's Response to Gladstone: "What's the Use of a Baby?"

Conclusion

Open Data for a Read/Write City



We Want the Data Raw And We Want the Data Now

<http://blog.okfn.org/2007/11/07/give-us-the-data-raw-and-give-it-to-us-now/>

Thank-You

Rufus Pollock
rufus.pollock [at] okfn [dot] org

Credits

Images

tolkein_ring.jpg: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ringinscription.jpg>
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city_icon.png: <http://www.openclipart.org/detail/20145>