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Unravelling the mystery of Open Government Data (OGD) Apps

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USING OPEN DATA POLICY MODELING, CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT, DATA JOURNALISM
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Enabling networked knowledge

There's a lot of discussion around the development of open government data apps.

But how many of us know what is really available out there?





- App catalogues and directories of national and local OGD portals, e.g. data.gov, data.co.uk and Ottawa city.
- Journalism & Media sites, e.g. the Guardian Open Platform.
- Open data portals of large non-governmental organizations that publish OGD, e.g. World Bank and Eurostat.
- On individual websites.

- More than 350 apps collected so far.
- Major OGD publishers such as Ottawa, Toronto, New York, Seattle, Colorado, Dublin, London, Rennes, Berlin, Stockholm, Singapore and the World Bank organize contests to bootstrap the use of their data.
- 13 categories of apps identified: health & safety, entertainment, sports, transportation, city services, real estate, environment, education, public safety & law enforcement, food & dining, development, business & finance, government & civics.

Who is developing OGD apps?

- The vast majority of OGD apps have been developed by individual developers, freelancers and researchers.
- The business community seems to be not yet convinced about the business and economic potential of OGD.



- Currently over 90% of OGD apps are available for free.
- Few of them (found in App Store and in Android Market) require a monthly subscription fee.

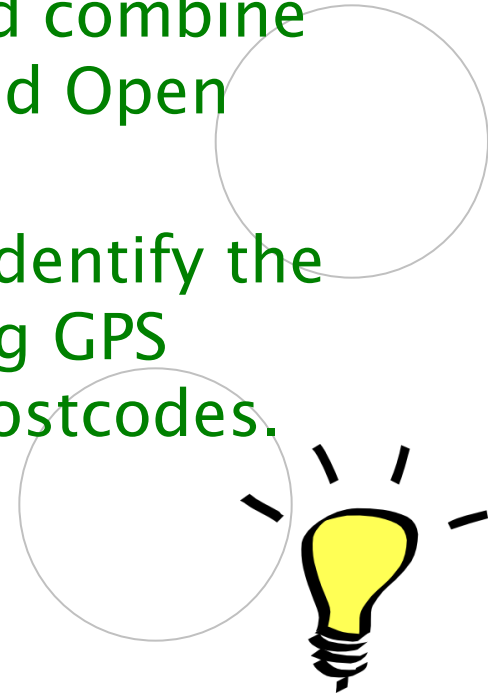


dreamstime.com

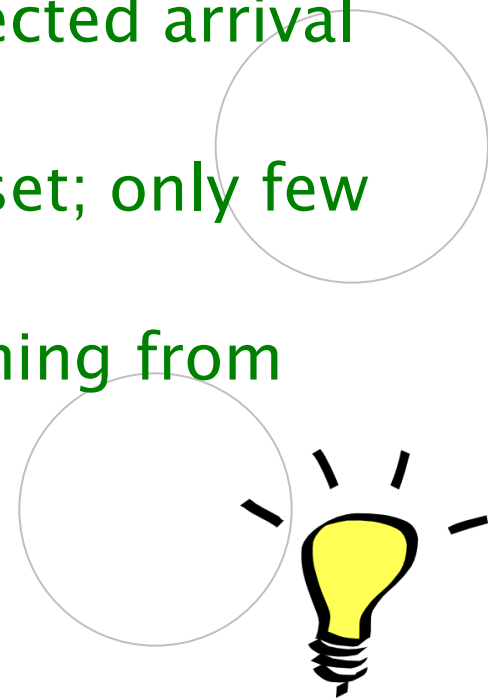
- Most of the apps are Web-based.
- Some apps have been developed on proprietary mobile frameworks, mainly iOS, Android and Windows Mobile.
- Some apps can be deployed on different platforms.



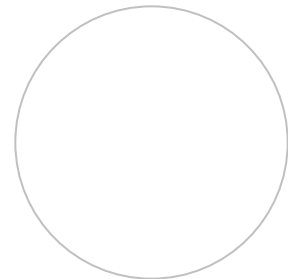
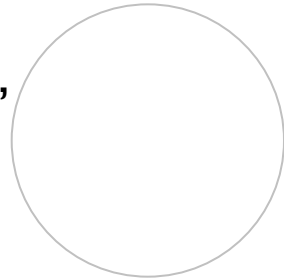
- OGD apps are all about data visualization. Different ways of visualizing data are come across, e.g. using graphs, maps, tables etc.
- Approximately 90% of the apps surveyed combine OGD with maps, mainly Google Maps and Open Street Map.
- Many apps are context-aware, i.e. they identify the exact location of the user either by using GPS coordinates or by searching based on postcodes.



- Most of the apps rely on static datasets.
- Few of them consume real-time OGD, e.g. apps under transportation visualize traffic information on city maps or inform the user on expected arrival times of busses and trains.
- The majority of apps uses a single dataset; only few ones integrate more than one datasets.
- Some apps integrate OGD with data coming from the Social Web.



- Fulfilling the vision of open public sector information.
 - To what extent do existing OGD apps contribute towards:
 - promoting transparency,
 - fostering collaboration across government and beyond,
 - allowing the creation of new, innovative, added-value services, and
 - improving the quality of decision-making.



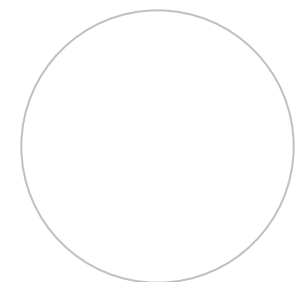
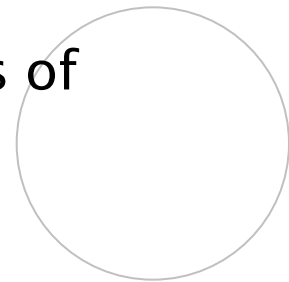
- Finding available OGD apps is often an adventure.
 - OGD apps are published in catalogues or may be available anywhere on the Web just as well.
 - How can one find the app she needs?

A common metadata model for describing OGD apps and lightweight semantics can facilitate OGD app discovery.

- Supporting the integration of OGD.
 - Integration of datasets is currently not the prevalent trend in OGD apps.
 - Data integration will unveil the real value of OGD.

Semantics and Linked Data technologies to the rescue!

- Studying business models for OGD apps.
 - OGD apps can be made available following different exploitations roots (from commercial applications to free and/or open-source ones).
 - Can traditional business model fulfil the peculiarities of OGD apps?
 - What will the role of Data Markets?



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■ Full paper available at:

http://www.w3.org/2012/06/pmod/pmod2012_submission_11.pdf



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