

## POSITION PAPER

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### Open Data Approach and Innovation in Brazil

W3C Brazil (the World Wide Web Consortium Brazilian Office) has been the open data leading organization in Brazil since Tim Berners-Lee first approach the theme in our soil during a conference in Brazil in 2008 [1].

That time, it was clear that open data strategy had the potential to change the e-government initiatives dramatically. Moving the axe of e-government from government itself to the citizen, open data would empower the citizen to play a crucial role as the protagonist of e-government initiatives.

The only way to do that is providing a smooth running of the Open Data Value Chain by the means of getting together different actors of the chain.

W3C Brazil has great interest in attend this Workshop to share the Open Data Value Chain as its view on Open data strategy and to present its innovative approach to the theme.

#### The view – the Open Data Value Chain

We understood quite early that Open Data has a value chain that has to be very well articulated to operate smoothly. The figure 1 below shows how the Open Data Value Chain runs smoothly.

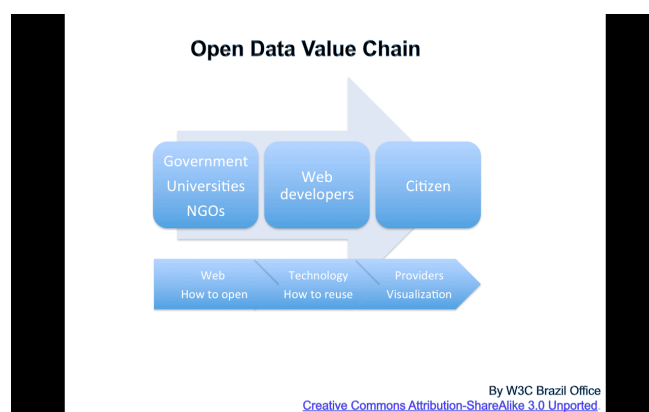


Figure 1 – The Open Data Value Chain

At on side we find those who are the guardians of data, government in general, but might be universities, NGOs, or even private owned companies. In the capacity of guardians of data, organizations develop their own culture, fears, walls, procedures, and security measures. On the other hand we find the citizen/users who want to consume the data timely, according their own interest and convenience. In order to make it work, two other players in the value chain have to play an importante role. For many reasons they are left behind during the project design and, sometimes, they are invited to come aboard in the last minute. They are the open data technology provider and the web developer community. The first will provide the proper technologies to make data in a real open format, ready to be reused. The later will develop applications according to the users needs.

Very soon we learned that to put data in a open format and reuse them to publish is not a trivial task to accomplish. Experts are needed since the begining of any open data initiative. Another lesson learnt is that timing is seen differently for both ends of the chain. Therefore, the dialogue is assynchronous and needs intermediation.

### **Our approach – innovation**

#### *Covenant*

Having that in mind, the intermediation is needed, we get together government officers, technology providers, web developers, and many diferente potential users of open data to define a broad open data covenant in which it is set what data user wants and what data government is likely to open. The basic idea behind of this covenant is to reach a consensus and respect for the user demand and government capacity of offering.

The outcome is an agenda that defines a group of data sets will be avilable until the end of this year.

#### *Apps supporting*

W3C Brazil supports some development of Open Data apps based on the principle of data reusing, sharing and collaboration aiming at to build show cases that reveals the strength of citizen's participation. One of this show case is "Where does it happen" [2], apps that reuse the State of Rio Grande do Sul Police Department incident report to allow citizen easily identify crimes or violence occurrences by region and also link the data with the Region's Human Development Index.

Another show case supported by W3C is the Brazilian version for "Where does my Money go?" which reuses the English code for data visualization and reuse data from both Federal Government Portal of Transparency [3] and Federal Government and State of Sao Paulo data catalog [4]. It is ready to be use to any other state in Brazil.

In both cases, W3C Brazil articulates and promote the encounter of web developers and those governments which have the data. Sometimes we just set meetings, sometimes we offer training on how to publish and reuse data.

What is new herein is the intemediation process as a fundamental block of the open data strategy. So far, many government agencies have been building up data catalog and releasing as much data as they can. No matter whether data has been demanded or has been reused. That means a lot of time and resource consuming.

Doing so, a lot of resources are saved because data not demanded will not be open and the consensus reached reached by the group brings more trust in the relationship.

[1] Tim Berners-Lee's video talk on Open Government Data, <http://www.w3c.br/2008/lancamento/tbl-egov20080530-480x240-pt.mp4>

[2] "Where does it happen?" website, in Portuguese - <http://ondeacontece.com.br/seguranca/RS>

[3] The Brazilian Portal of Transparency website in Portuguese, <http://www.portaldatransparencia.gov.br/sobre/Origem.asp>,

[4] The State of Sao Paulo data catalog website in Portuguese, <http://www.governoaberto.sp.gov.br/view/index.php>,