Collaborative Policymaking

How technology is making it easier to work together than alone

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(mailto:government@github.com)
ben.balter.com/collaborative-policymaking
(http://ben.balter.com/collaborative-policymaking)
Hello team -

Latest version of the document attached. Please submit edit directly to me by COB tomorrow.
The Olden Days

Creation distinct from publication
High barrier to collaboration
Everyone for themselves
Share as late as possible, if at all
Us/them dichotomy, outsiders as liability
What’s a wheel? :see_no_evil:
Bespoke Collaboration

Discussions happen in private (:e-mail:, hallway)

Changes made opaquely, manually

Organization knowledge stored in people

Low fidelity (memory, :bus: factor, :watch:)

:calendar:, blockers as a sunk cost
A Brief History Of Open Source
Let's Say You're A Lawyer...
Impotent Legal Document

Whereas the parties agree to as follows:

0. Heretofor this agreement is made and entered into as 17 September 2013 (“Effective Date”), by and between Disclosing Party Name, (“the Disclosing Party”) and Recipient Name, (“the Recipient”) (collectively, “the Parties”).

1. Notwithstanding, for purposes of this Agreement, “Confidential Information” shall mean any and all non-public information, including, without limitation, technical, developmental, marketing, sales, operating, performance, cost, know-how, business plans, business methods, and process information, disclosed to the Recipient...
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Then What?

[Icons: box, envelope, printer, phone, windows]
1985 To Now

Server → Publish

You → Consume → Modify → Patch

Contribute → Republish

↓

↑
The Contribution Model

- Inconsistent
- Error prone
- Complex
- Doesn’t scale
How To Contribute To The Linux Kernel
How Open Source Has Changed
Open Source Today

Author Publishes ⇐ Author Reviews

↓

Collaborator Modifies → Community Discusses

↑
Author Publishes

Drupal installation profile powering We The People at petitions.whitehouse.gov https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/
Collaborator Modifies

GitHub repository: https://github.com/WhiteHouse/petitions/pull/3

- **Closed**
  - pborrelli wants to merge 8 commits into WhiteHouse:7.x-1.x from pborrelli:typos

**Discussion**
- pborrelli opened this pull request a year ago

**Fixed few typos**
No one is assigned
No milestone
No description given.

4 participants

- pborrelli added some commits
  - Removed duplicated array key
  - Removed useless assignment
  - Removed old param in PHPDoc
  - Added missing param in PHPDoc
  - Fixed typo in definition of variable
  - Fixed typo in key name
  - Fixed typo in variable name

- christianengco commented
  - 8 years ago
Community Discusses
Hah.

Pull Request #7: Fixed typo in method (BC BREAK)

The changes to govdelivery should be provided as a patch to http://drupal.org/project/govdelivery

Fixed typo

d9ce668

@greggles thanks, i removed all the changes related to govdelivery.

Thanks @pborrei

We cherry-picked your typo commits: a350b5, df42192, a6cd8e8.

As @greggles mentioned, the govdelivery updates should be contributed on the govdelivery project page. We had to fork our own module a little, but we will take your commits under advisement when we update the module on drupal.org

[EDIT: changed commit SHA]

theyman closed the pull request a year ago
Author Reviews

```php
// modules/custom/hp petitions reporting/hp petitions reporting.hourly.inc

// **
// * @todo: figure out what the default variable should be
// + * @todo: figure out what the default variable should be

// function __construct($debug = FALSE) {
//   $this->debug = $debug;

// **
// * update the Drupal var and class attribute marking the last hour for which this ran
// + * update the Drupal var and class attribute marking the last hour for which this ran

// private function updateLastRun($lastRunTS) {
//   variable_set('hp petitions reporting_hourly_last_run_hour', $lastRunTS);

// **
// * Wrapper to handle retrieving data for an hour and writing it to the mongo table
// + * Wrapper to handle retrieving data for an hour and writing it to the mongo table

// public function processHourRecord($hour_start_timestamp, $hour_end_timestamp) {
//   $hourRecordManager::writeHourRecord($hourRecordManager::getHourRecord($hour_start_timestamp, $hour_end_timestamp));

// + * Indicator of whether to get the total values or just the new records in that hour
// + * @return array
```
The Collaboration Model

Simple
Open
Standardized
Scales
How To Contribute To Petitions.whitehouse.gov

Contributing

Anyone is encouraged to contribute to the project by forking [https://help.github.com/articles/fork-a-repo](https://help.github.com/articles/fork-a-repo) and submitting a pull request.

(If you are new to GitHub, you might start with a basic tutorial [https://help.github.com/articles/set-up-git](https://help.github.com/articles/set-up-git).)
The White House Open Data Policy
PROJECT OPEN DATA

Open Data Policy – Managing Information as an Asset

1. Background

Data is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset to the U.S. Government, its partners, and the public. Managing this data as an asset and making it available, discoverable, and usable – in a word, open – not only strengthens our democracy and promotes efficiency and effectiveness in government, but also has the potential to create economic opportunity and improve citizens’ quality of life.

For example, when the U.S. Government released weather and GPS data to the public, it fueled an industry that today is valued at tens of billions of dollars per year. Now, weather and mapping tools are ubiquitous and help everyday Americans navigate their lives.

The ultimate value of data can often not be predicted. That’s why the U.S. Government released a policy that instructs agencies to manage their data, and information more generally, as an asset from the start and, wherever possible, release it to the public in a way that makes it open, discoverable, and usable.

The White House developed Project Open Data – this collection of code, tools, and case studies – to help agencies adopt the Open Data Policy and unlock the potential of government data. Project Open Data will evolve over time as a community resource to facilitate broader adoption of open data practices in government. Anyone – government employees, contractors, developers, the general public – can view and contribute. Learn more about Project Open Data Governance and dive right in and help to build a better world through the power of open data.
Data is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset to the U.S. Government, its partners, and the public. Managing this data as an asset and making it available, discoverable, and usable — [in a word, open](principles/) — not only strengthens our democracy and promotes efficiency and effectiveness in government, but also has the potential to create economic opportunity and improve citizens’ quality of life.
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Changelog
The Results
The Project's Pulse

March 17 2013 - September 17 2013

Overview

72 active pull requests

59 merged pull requests

13 proposed pull requests

45 active issues

33 closed issues

12 new issues

52 authors have pushed 182 commits to all branches, excluding merges. On master, 48 files have changed and there have been 3,570 additions and 1,030 deletions.
### Merged Pull Requests

59 Pull Requests merged by 34 people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>merged</th>
<th>#129 linking to footnotes, with some formatting 12 days ago</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#128 updated FGDC/ISO mapping to DCAT 23 days ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#122 Added DataYizWiz Drupal module. a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#112 Update governance.md a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#123 fix the rendering of the unordered list under Short Description a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#124 Fixing links to memo and schema a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#120 Use kramdown as the markdown engine a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#119 Updatedindex a month ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#118 Implementation guidance a month ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#113 Rename keyword field to &quot;keywords&quot; a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#114 :fire: the size field a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#115 Drop granularity a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#110 Updating the implementation guidance to include Socrata. Since, Socrata now offers built-in support for data.json a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#81 Include a blurb for using Socrata. a month ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#87 Use RDFa Lite 1.1 property attribute a month ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>merged</td>
<td>#48 Change URLs to not include <a href="http://project-open-data.github.io">http://project-open-data.github.io</a> (just use e.g. /schema/) a month ago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An Example

jnavidad opened this pull request 4 months ago

**Added W3C Cookbook for Open Government Linked Data**

No one is assigned

The W3C Cookbook was drafted by the W3C Government Linked Data Working Group

19 participants

jnavidad added some commits

- **jnavidad** Added that CKAN supports DCAT out-of-the-box
- **jnavidad** Added W3C Cookbook for Open Government Linked Data
- **jnavidad** Revert "Added W3C Cookbook for Open Government Linked Data"
- **jnavidad** Added W3C Cookbook for Open Government Linked Data

4 months ago
The Diff

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</table>

```plaintext
... 156,6 +156,7 Collect or create information (data) in a way that supports downstream information.
156 156  
157 157  
158 158  
159 159  
159 160  
160 161  
161 162  

**W3C Cookbook for Open Government Linked Data**
```
The discussion
The Merge

@benbarker

haleyvandyck commented

Thank you to everyone on this thread for the very interesting conversation. @benbarker said it best—this is exactly why we are excited about Project Open Data, and the opportunity this provides for continual iteration and improvement.

Looks like there is agreement on adding @jqnatividad suggested link. ✌️ Merging now.

Thank you all for contributing and we're looking forward to many more discussions and pull requests to come.

- Haley, Senior Adviser at the White House

haleyvandyck referenced this pull request from a commit

haleyvandyck Merge pull request #21 from jqnatividad/LinkedDataCook

haleyvandyck merged commit 029e68e into project-open-data:master from jqnatividad:LinkedDataCook

Closed haleyvandyck closed the pull request 4 months ago