

ADELPHOI RESPONSE (VIA E-MAIL)

BACKGROUND

We are a growing UK technology group (with over 100 employees worldwide to date) that has established an industry standard data platform for the collection and exchange of metadata for the media industry - including compliance and intellectual property related data sets. This platform is called soundmouse.com.

Our system exchanges large data (billions of objects) that power royalty payments for television and radio worldwide. Our users include the largest media companies such as BSKYB, Channel 4, Discovery, Virgin, ITV and Fox, ABC and Comcast in the USA.

We have recently succeeded in winning 2 competitive tenders to manage information for the PPL and all UK Radio for the PRS which demonstrated our pattern recognition systems as the leading technology of its kind worldwide.

Please see these links:

<http://www.prsformusic.com/aboutus/press/latestpressreleases/Pages/PRSforMusicsigndealwithSoundmouse.aspx>

<http://www.musicweek.com/story.asp?storyCode=1044418§ioncode=1>

OUR INTEREST IN THE OPEN DATA PROPOSAL

Within our technology group, we have been developing a platform for secure data exchange that addresses the needs for large scale data collection and management that is affordable, practical and scalable with structured data and semantic web technology at the core of its design.

Our team have been tasked with making semantic web genuinely useable within real-life, workable contexts and to this affect have been bringing together academic and industry experience to make this possible - for example we are working in consultation with Professor Horrocks and his team at Oxford who specialize in industry applications of semantic web technologies.

We are currently in beta-trials with Imperial (an Imperial NHS project) for the collection and management of patient data targeted at the full lifecycle of patients presenting symptoms of heart attack on arrival at one hospital and following their treatment outcomes across other hospitals in the UK.

This project will demonstrate the ease and practical use of the system, dramatic cost efficiencies in the gathering, analysis and publishing of data (in a coherent and structured manner despite change of context) providing a simple, useable tool-set for working in an open framework.

In reading this proposal we believe that the vision is forward thinking and logically sound and sits at the heart of the technology we are building.

We therefore believe we are in a good position to be a leading participant in the growing linked and open data ecosystem and therefore have much to offer and learn by working together with the government.

Please see our initial responses to the questions below.

Kind wishes

Sophie Taylor
Kirk Zavieh

The contents of this e-mail are intended for the named addressee only. It contains information which may be confidential and which may also be privileged. Unless you are the named addressee (or authorised to receive for the addressee) you may not copy or use it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you received it in error please notify us immediately and then destroy it. Further, we make every effort to keep our network free from viruses. However, you do need to verify that this email and any attachments are free of viruses as we can take no responsibility for any computer virus which might be transferred by way of this e-mail.

Opinions, conclusions and other information in this message that do not relate to the official business of Adelphoi Ltd shall be understood as neither given nor endorsed. Adelphoi Ltd does not accept responsibility for changes made to this message after it was sent. This communication does not create or modify any contract.

OPEN DATA - QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

8.7 FF

How would we establish a stronger presumption in favour of publication than that which currently exists?

We believe the best way to achieve this is in providing that data and showing the public how it can be used.

To that effect we believe that projects with government should be initiated with universities and small development companies that are sponsored to show this data in its most interesting and useful light.

Given industry will take time to understand the use of this data and are still reluctant to embrace these changes - the government is wise to build these technological skill sets in the UK and learn how useful analysis of its own data can be.

Analysis therefore of cost-saving and low build-cost trial projects / applications should be tendered to students, for example.

Is providing an independent body, such as the Information Commissioner, with enhanced powers and scope the most effective option for safeguarding a right to access and a right to data?

Yes an independent body for analysis and recommendations. In time we can understand what powers are necessary. Powers may encourage acting on them too soon and therefore may be counterproductive at this stage. Regulation in time is necessary.

Are existing safeguards to protect personal data and privacy measures adequate to regulate the Open Data agenda?

As above we need more analysis before regulation. Open data itself is largely undefined in any event.

What might the resource implications of an enhanced right to data be for those bodies within its scope? How do we ensure that any additional burden is proportionate to this aim?

In our opinion, one must be very careful about creating rights in this context. Data is fluid and ownership or any rights relating to that data is problematic.

At this stage we would encourage merely “advised guidelines , procedures and methods” for open systems in respect of content, permissions and security.

How will we ensure that Open Data standards are embedded in new ICT contracts?

This is easier to do as it can be specified as a requirement for export or availability via API access-type methods.

The standards themselves however should be carefully honed as if they are too burdensome - they will be ignored - as with any standard it is best when there is genuine ease of adoption.

8.11 FF

What is the best way to achieve compliance on high and common standards to allow usability and interoperability?

Simplicity and clarity.

An experienced well-mandated leader in data architecture who can make sure that the team who review the standards are practical and well-balanced.

Good technology partners.

Incentives with each tender.

Is there a role for government to establish consistent standards for collecting user experience across public services?

Yes.

Should we consider a scheme for accreditation of information intermediaries, and if so how might that best work?

Yes - although this itself must be open.

SECTION 8.12 FF

How would we ensure that public service providers in their day to day decision- making honour a commitment to Open Data, while respecting privacy and security considerations.

Strict guidelines for defining what is private and secure.

Each tender should define in a specification template what is secure and private (at a data element level) and what is open.

The guidelines can then be used to review the specification.

Proper well-planned insurance.

What could personal responsibility at Board-level do to ensure the right to data is being met include? Should the same person be responsible for ensuring that personal data is properly protected and that privacy issues are met?

This is best done with clear guidelines, detailed and templated specification and review.

Personal responsibility and interpretation should be minimised and made objective - just as the open data standards themselves hope to achieve.

Would we need to have a sanctions framework to enforce a right to data?

Not a this stage.

Failure to comply with clearly defined specifications of data transparency should be part of the balance of any normal job requirement.

What other sectors would benefit from having a dedicated Sector Transparency Board?

Banking is a consideration.

SECTION 8.15 FF

How should public services make use of data inventories? What is the optimal way to develop and operate this?

We believe that authentication and permissioning is a particularly thorny area of standards and is still in its infancy.

Therefore this area should be the primary area of analysis and consensus as knowing what data is available, to whom and when it is available and if it is reliable is key.

FOAF addresses some of this but it an agreed schema for the the govt. open data topic list (if it does not already exist) and ranking of resources should be at the heart of the plan.

How should data be prioritised for inclusion in an inventory? How is value to be established?

As above this needs analysis - FOAF is a good start.

In what areas would you expect government to collect and publish data routinely?

- Health
- Transport
- Summary Economic Expenditure
- Council expenditure
- Ecology
- Waste
- Energy
- Telecoms

4. What data is collected „unnecessarily“? How should these datasets be identified? Should collection be stopped?

This suggests that an evaluation of data types is made which may be problematic. Linked data is all about related long tail information.

8.16 FF

How should government approach the release of existing data for policy and research purposes: should this be held in a central portal or held on departmental portals?

Departmental.

The system needs to work in distributed / nodal service clusters - as the internet.

What factors should inform prioritisation of datasets for publication, at national, local or sector level?

Cost saving for government.

Public interest

Which is more important: for government to prioritise publishing a broader set of data, or existing data at a more detailed level?

Publish existing data.

Build systems / engage with providers who can allow scaleable, detailed metadata capture going forward.

8.22 FF

Is there a role for government to stimulate innovation in the use of Open Data? If so, what is the best way to achieve this?

Yes.

TENDERS

As stated provide incentives for companies engaging in providing this as part of their tender.

BUDGET - SPONSORSHIP

Set aside budgets to create small but meaningful sponsorship programmes, competitions or awards for students (or other developers) in computer science to show useful and interesting applications of the data.

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Create proper scholarships / grants for universities engaging in semantic work in OWL / RDF / SPARQL and encourage partnerships in industry to bring the technical work to real use in the market.

FUNDING / VCT TYPE INVESTMENT

Co-fund / work with VCs and startups or existing companies wishing to create offshoots to specialise in open data applications.

Sophie Taylor