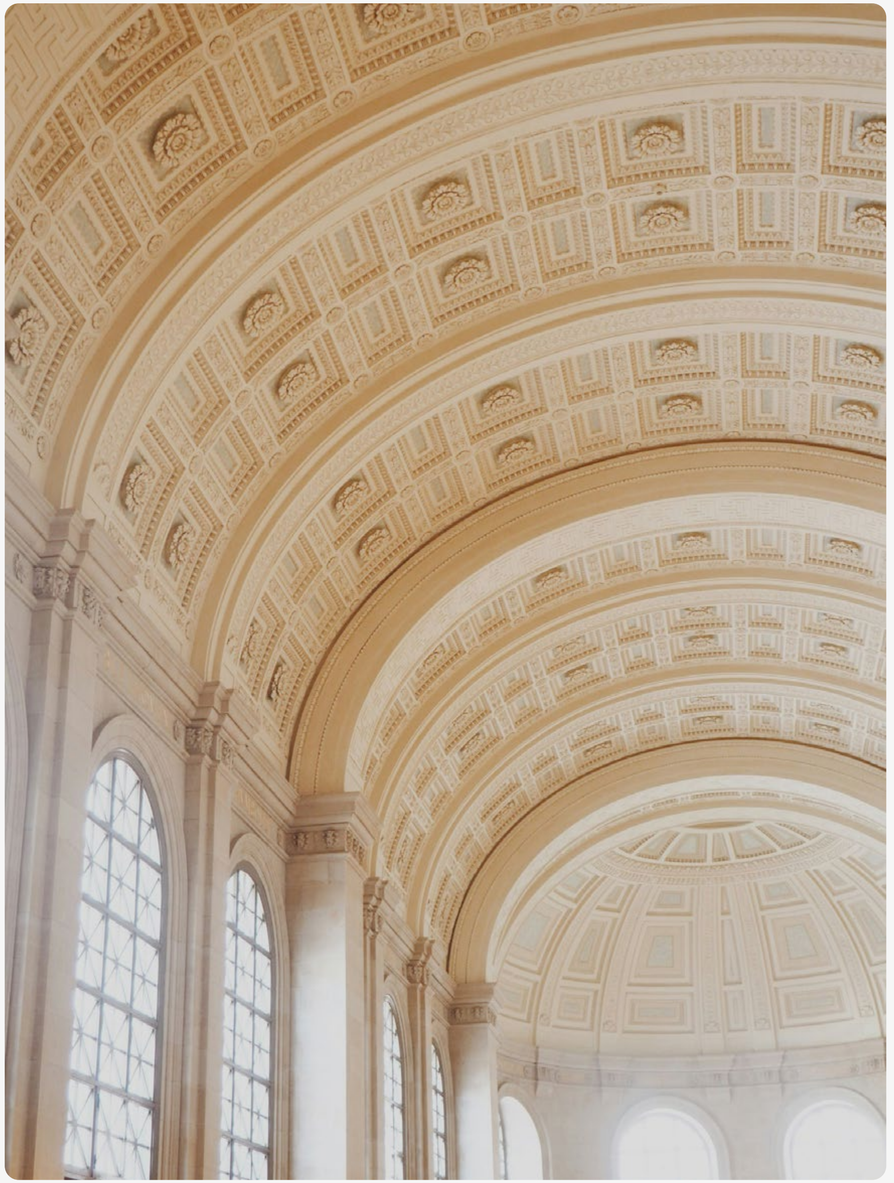
Industry Data For Society PARTNERSHIP

INDUSTRY DATA FOR SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Overview



Our Partners

GitHub

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

LinkedIn

Microsoft

NWG living water

OOKLA

Telefónica Tech

UK Power Networks

As we reflect on our second year, we are proud to share our 2024 Industry Data for Society Partnership (IDSP) Year in Review report, which highlights key activities from the past year. It reflects the partnership's ongoing work to draw attention to the importance of data sharing and collaboration to help society.

This year, we committed to creating practical resources tailored for the private sector, to actively engage in dialogue and collaboration with the broader research community, and to highlight how private sector data can be applied to societal challenges. To achieve our goals, we built on the foundation of our first year, with a focus on building community in year two.

One highlight of this year's work was the opportunity to bring together industry leaders and experts to develop recommendations for advancing private sector data accessibility. These discussions resulted in the formation of a Community of Practice, connecting companies from various sectors to advance data sharing.

Another key milestone was the launch of the Data Dive podcast series, designed to guide companies on their data-sharing journeys and those interested in using private sector data for research to drive innovation. The podcast featured industry guests sharing their reasons for expanding data access, alongside data scientists who explained how they are using this data to advance their work.

We are particularly pleased to welcome Telefónica Tech as a new member of the partnership. Telefónica Tech is active in sharing anonymized mobile data to fight climate change and to aid in support during natural disasters, among other activities.

Additionally, our affiliates, The GovLab and the Open Data Institute, continue to provide support and expertise to help us shape and implement our initiatives. Their thought leadership helps ensure that our efforts align with best practices in data access and sharing, while their connections with the research community helps expand our reach and identify opportunities for partnership and data collaboration.

Over the last year, we've seen countless areas where more open data can be put to work — from disaster response and skills development to energy conservation and broadband accessibility — open datasets can be used to draw insights and identify correlations that help address some of society's most pressing challenges. As we look to the future, we remain committed to highlighting industry's contributions — and leaning in where we still have work to do. We look forward to what we can achieve together in year three.

Abby Rieflin, Senior Corporate Communications Manager, GitHub

Jeff Fougere, Senior Counsel, Data & Innovation, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Casey Weston, Data for Impact Global Lead, LinkedIn

Sonia Cooper, Associate General Counsel, Open Innovation, Intellectual Property Group, Microsoft

Nigel Watson, CIO and Melissa Tallack, Open Data Lead, Northumbrian Water Group

Bridget Erb, Ookla for Good Analyst, Ookla

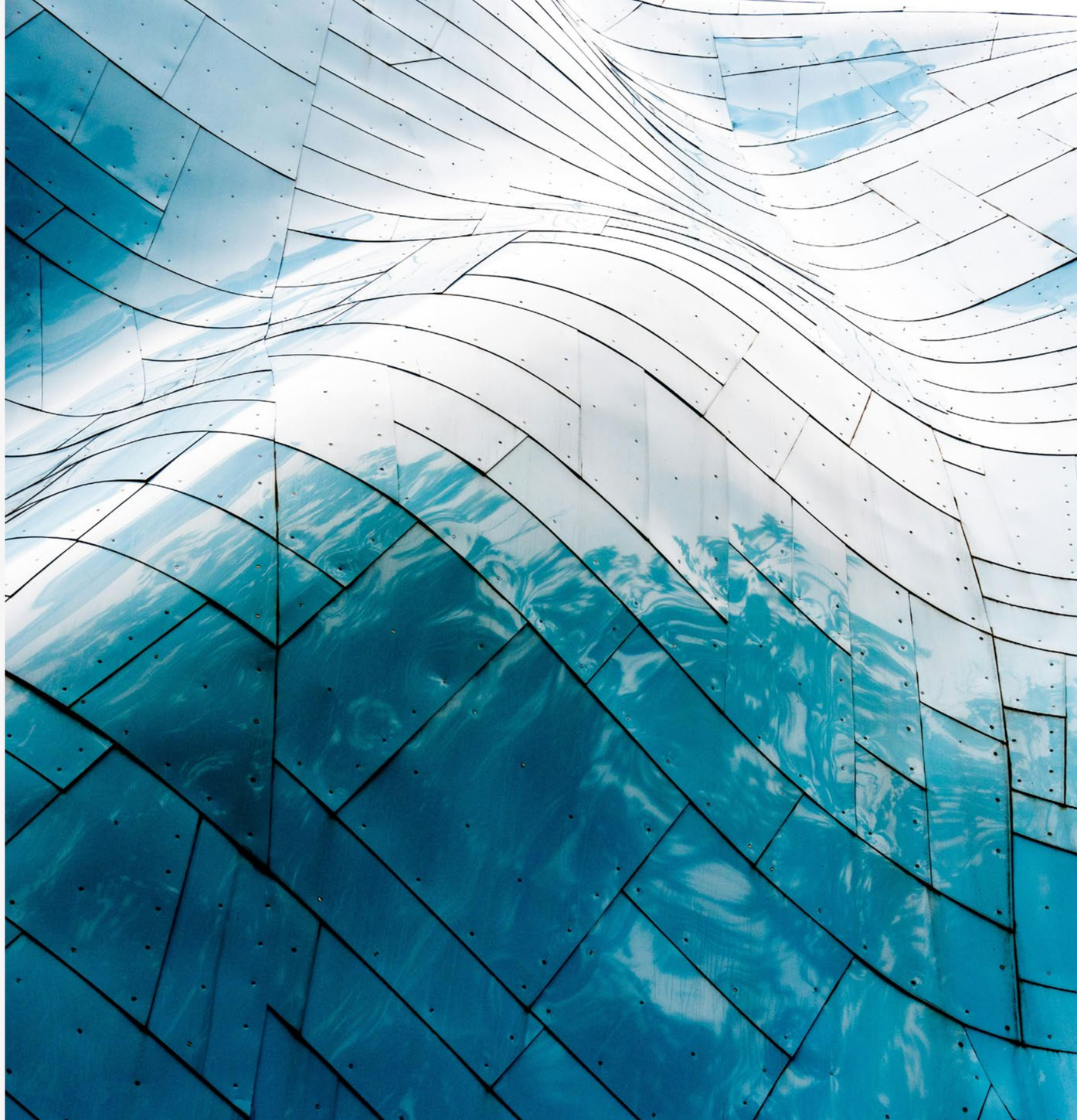
Carlos Martínez Miguel, Global Director, AI & Data Solutions & Services, Telefónica Tech

Matt Webb, CIO and Yiu-Shing Pang, Open Data Manager, UK Power Networks

INITIATIVES AND KEY FINDINGS

In our second year, the IDSP built on the foundation established in the partnership's first year. Early initiatives like the Data for Local Environments Challenge, which showcased how private sector data can support local governments in achieving their net zero goals, and the U.S. Research Data Summit, which fostered relationships between academia and industry, set the stage for future collaboration.

This section highlights our initiatives and key findings from the past year, reflecting progress in expanding partnerships, driving innovation, and providing actionable insights to help organizations maximize the impact of their data for societal good.



Private Sector Data Sharing Roundtable & Report

On March 26, 2024, the IDSP convened a virtual roundtable on private sector data sharing, bringing together representatives from across the private sector to discuss and identify resource needs or gaps as companies prepare to open and share data. From the discussion, the IDSP aimed to develop a resource to fill one of the identified gaps.

Companies represented at the roundtable included Airbnb, Arup, Bayer, Ford Motor Company, GitHub, HPE, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Northumbrian Water Group, Orange, Ookla, Penguin Randon House, Raven Housing Trust, Roche, Sanofi, Schnieder Electric, Syngenta, Two Sigma, and UK Power Networks, along with IDSP affiliates, The GovLab and Open Data Institute.

To set the stage for the roundtable, Stefaan Verhulst from The GovLab, presented a global perspective on emerging trends and practices that impact data sharing. This included recent developments in the legislative and regulatory landscape, such as the EU Data Act, EU Digital Services Act, the UN's Global Digital Compact, and the U.S. Executive Order on data security and brokers. Verhulst also highlighted the emergence of a "data winter", evidenced by a backsliding or decline of open data practices and availability, especially in the private sector, due to a range of factors, including data monetization, AI and privacy concerns, national security issues, and data hoarding.

A panel discussion and breakouts followed, which drew out common motivations and incentives for data sharing, such as building trust and transparency, enabling innovation, increasing competitive advantage, and driving societal benefit.

The convening made clear that certain approaches to data sharing across industries resonate:

- **Purpose-driven approaches** are a key component for making data accessible. When data is being released in alignment to broader organizational goals, it helps to prepare the data with that purpose in mind; have confidence in the usage of the data; and have a better ability to gauge the impact or outputs that result from the data use.
- **Resource pooling** can be an effective strategy for releasing data, leveraging resources from organizations such as the Open Data Institute, The GovLab, and domain-specific groups.
- **Awareness building through collaborations** was also impactful. Companies discussed collaborating with research universities and training doctoral students to facilitate capacity building within the organization.

However, challenges and gaps remain:

- **A risk-averse culture** is a common barrier across industries that prohibits progress. To overcome this, internal data stewards need to demonstrate the value that can be realized from opening data. Value that is backed by metrics is found to be especially effective. Additionally, demonstrating community engagement and cross-industry collaboration can prompt internal change and encourage a cultural shift.
- **Regulatory and legal uncertainties** can be an added complexity to data sharing. Companies that have clear data sharing agreements in place, alongside established protocols for regulatory compliance are effective at adapting to evolving policy environments and continuing to make data accessible.
- **Privacy and security concerns** similarly slow progress in making data more accessible. Applying privacy enhancing technologies, such as differential privacy and confidential computing, enable companies to release data that otherwise would be kept siloed. Additionally, applied metadata that details the limitations and potential biases of the data are important for responsible release and use of open datasets.
- **Data governance approaches that are not standardized** can add additional complexities. Technical solutions for data management and quality control are critical for establishing process controls and data quality assurance.

As a result of the roundtable, the IDSP established a Community of Practice (CoP) as a forum to host deep-dive discussions on some of the challenges identified and to surface solutions and best practices across companies. The resulting write-ups from the CoP discussions will be published following each session. The full post-event report from the roundtable can be found on the IDSP website.

Private Sector Data Sharing Community of Practice

Launched in the Fall, the Private Sector Data Sharing Community of Practice (CoP) is an output of the partnership's commitment to develop practical resources tailored for the private sector. This initiative was directly informed by the discussions and feedback gathered during the Virtual Roundtable on Private Sector Data Sharing held in March 2024.

Through the CoP, the IDSP aims to create a collaborative environment where industry executives can share knowledge, address common challenges, and develop effective strategies for enhancing data sharing practices within the private sector. The CoP consists of quarterly sessions hosted by a member of the IDSP, focusing on data sharing topics that emerged from the roundtable discussion:

- Legal Considerations
- Business Models
- Case Studies and Success Stories
- Technological Solutions

In October 2024, Jeff Fougere, Senior Counsel for Data & Innovation at HPE led the first session, which explored legal aspects of data sharing. The discussion covered legal considerations, tools, and techniques for responsible and effective data sharing.

Summaries for CoP sessions will be hosted on the IDSP website.

Following is a selection of legal frameworks and practical guidance for navigating the legal complexities of responsible data sharing:

- **Open Licenses by Yiu-Shing Pang, UK Power Networks:** Practical guidance on why and how to license open data
- **Open Data and the Law by Yiu-Shing Pang, UK Power Networks:** Legal considerations for regulated utilities
- **Open Data Policy Lab's Tools to Guide Data Sharing Agreements:** Moving from Idea to Practice: Three Resources to Streamline the Creation of Data Sharing Agreements
- **Legal Frameworks from Microsoft:** Data use agreements to govern data sharing, particularly in the context of training AI models
- **Handbook for Safeguarding Sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII) by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security:** How to identify and protect PII and SPII in different contexts and formats
- **Data Triage from Stream, a group of 16 water companies:** A process to identify and mitigate issues limiting a dataset's openness
- **Leverage Existing Licenses:** For example, Creative Commons developed a license chooser to help guide users through understanding and applying existing licenses or crafting their own.

Data Dive Podcast Series

One of the year's key achievements was the launch of the Data Dive podcast series, produced in collaboration with the Open Data Institute (ODI). The podcast aims to inspire companies to share their data while providing practical insights to researchers and practitioners on how to leverage this information for innovative solutions.

Consisting of five episodes, the series features industry leaders discussing their reasons for expanding data access, alongside data scientists explaining how they use this data to advance their work. The guests offered practical tips and strategies for organizations seeking to make their data available and for researchers looking to create social impact with private sector data. All podcast episodes are now available on the IDSP website.

Episode Overview

1 **Cultivating the Data Landscape — Part One**

Experts from Microsoft, GitHub, and the ODI outlined the challenges and rewards of opening up data and the impact it can create.

2 **Cultivating the Data Landscape — Part Two**

Northumbrian Water, UK Power Networks, and the ODI shared insights into how private companies can make their data accessible to help address global challenges.

3 **Building Bridges — Part One**

Representatives from LinkedIn, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and the ODI explored the benefits for researchers when they gain access to private sector data.

4 **Building Bridges — Part Two**

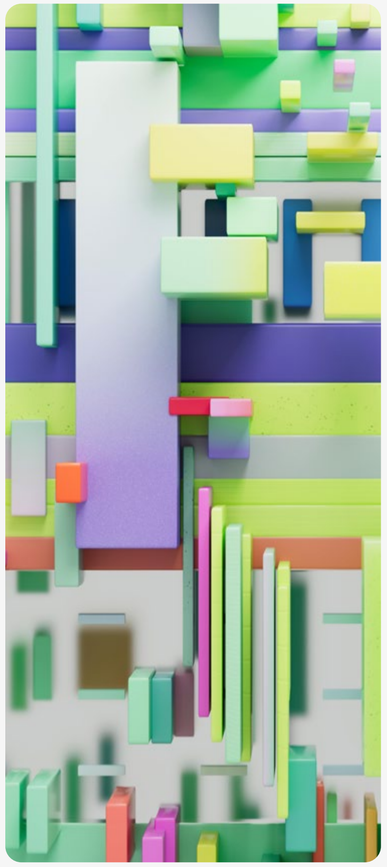
This episode featured experts from Microsoft, Ookla, and the ODI discussing how industry data has fueled new ideas and societal impact.

5 **Engineering the Future**

Experts from Hewlett Packard Enterprise, GitHub, and the ODI shared practical tips for data scientists and innovation teams on accessing and sharing private sector data.

For a deep-dive on each episode, visit the Perspectives from the Open Data Institute section found on page 22 of this report.

Lessons Learned from Hosting a Podcast Series



To highlight how private sector data can be applied to societal challenges, the IDSP developed a podcast aimed at breaking down common hurdles to releasing open data, and drawing a connection between the data produced and the end use. Through the process, it became clear that launching a successful podcast involves careful planning, expert production, and strategic promotion.

Below are the four key phases of the IDSP's podcast development process, highlighting lessons learned and providing a step-by-step guide for those looking to produce their own podcast. By following these phases, organizations across sectors—from civil society to academia—can create podcasts that deliver meaningful content, reach the right audience, and drive real impact.

Phase 1

Production Partner Selection

Phase 2

Podcast Structure and Content Development

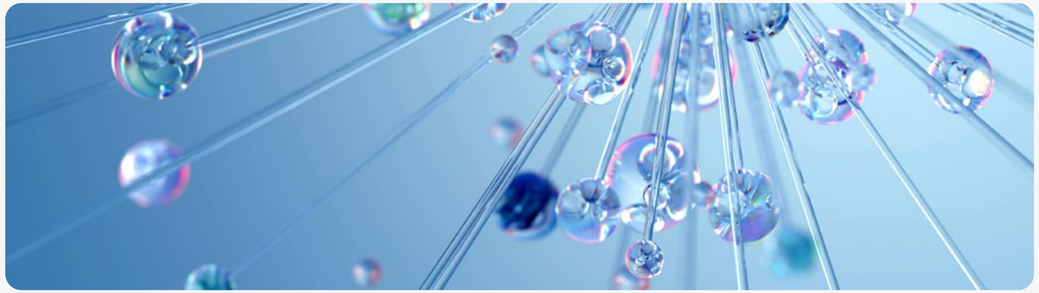
Phase 3

Production and Technical Setup

Phase 4

Promotion and Distribution

Lessons Learned from Hosting a Podcast Series



Phase 1: Production Partner Selection

Selecting a partner with a deep understanding of both the subject matter and podcast production is a key consideration when developing a podcast. The IDSP partnered with the ODI because of their deep knowledge in data sharing topics and their experience with podcast production.

Key Insights

- **Subject matter expertise and industry knowledge are essential**
  A production partner who understands the subject matter ensures the content relevance and credibility. The IDSP benefited from ODI's expertise in data sharing, which allowed the partnership to create a podcast series that aligned with our goals of advancing open data.
- **Comprehensive technical production capabilities are necessary**
  Selecting a partner with end-to-end production expertise streamlines the podcast creation process. ODI managed all technical aspects, including guest coordination, script development, and sound editing, ensuring a smooth and professional production experience for the IDSP.

Partner Selection Checklist

- ☑ Identify a partner with relevant subject matter expertise to ensure they understand the podcast's goals, target audience, and overall mission.
- ☑ Choose a partner with a proven track record in producing podcasts.
- ☑ Look for a partner that communicates and collaborates effectively with your team.
- ☑ Select a partner with experience in promoting and distributing podcasts to maximize reach and audience engagement.

Phase 2: Podcast Structure and Content Development

Creating a successful podcast begins with a clear purpose, a well-defined target audience, and thoughtfully crafted content. This phase focuses on shaping the overall structure of the podcast to ensure it resonates with listeners and delivers value through engaging, well-organized episodes

Key Insights

- **Defining purpose and the audience informs the content**
  Clearly defining the podcast's purpose and understanding the target audience are critical for creating content that resonates. The IDSP's purpose here was to inspire private sector organizations to share their data for societal and business benefits. Understanding the audience — which in this case were business leaders, researchers, and policymakers — helped shape the tone, depth, and scope of the episodes, ensuring they addressed the audience needs and interests.
- **Effective story arcs and episode length keep listeners engaged**
  Establishing a cohesive story arc and a consistent episode structure is key to maintaining listener engagement across multiple episodes. The IDSP worked with the ODI to plan a series of five episodes, each building on the previous one while offering distinct content for specific audiences. Deciding on a 30-minute length per episode, based on research, helped to optimize audience retention without overwhelming listeners.

Structure Checklist

- ☑ Identify the purpose of the podcast and clearly define its goals.
- ☑ Identify the primary audience for the podcast and understand the audience's needs, interests, and pain points to tailor content effectively.
- ☑ Outline episodes that build on each other while providing distinct content, ensuring logical flow and engagement.
- ☑ Develop descriptions for the episodes to inform the development of the detailed scripts.
- ☑ Brainstorm potential titles for the podcast series and its episodes that convey the podcast's focus. Once determined, check for existing podcasts or other communication platforms with similar names to avoid conflicts.

Content Checklist

- ☑ Choose a host who can effectively engage listeners and facilitate discussions. Consider previous experience in journalism and podcasting.
- ☑ Leverage networks to find and select guests who provide subject matter expertise and can engage the audience effectively. When selecting guests, prioritize a balanced slate to ensure diversity in opinions and experiences, including gender, cultural identities, and other backgrounds.
- ☑ Research optimal episode length for your topic and audience, and develop content with that length in mind.
- ☑ Ensure each episode's consistency in tone, depth, and structure to create a cohesive experience for listeners. Every episode should feel like part of the broader series.

Lessons Learned from Hosting a Podcast Series

Phase 3: Prodcution and Technical Setup

Once the podcast structure is established, the next phase involves production and technical considerations. This phase focuses on managing the guest invitations, coordinating the recording sessions, holding briefings, and ensuring a high-quality podcast recording. The IDSP's production partner, the ODI, managed this phase.

Key Insights

- **Clear communication during production ensures smooth operations**
  Regular check-ins and feedback sessions between the IDSP and ODI were crucial in addressing any production challenges early on. This proactive approach ensured that once the episodes were recorded, the next steps were clearly defined and assigned. In this case, the IDSP provided episode feedback and final approval, while the ODI managed recording, editing, and finalization of the episodes.
- **Effective coordination of guest invitations and recording sessions**
  Managing guest invitations, coordinating recording sessions, and holding briefings were essential to ensure a high-quality podcast recording.

Production Checklist

- ☑ Send guest invitations and schedule recording sessions.
- ☑ Hold briefing sessions before recording to provide guests with an outline of the episode's objectives, key questions, and relevant background information.
- ☑ Review the recorded sessions and provide feedback.
- ☑ Give final approval to upload the episode to the hosting platform.

Phase 4: Promotion and Distribution

Once the IDSP reached the promotion and distribution phase, attention shifted to selecting the right platforms and developing an effective promotional strategy. The goal in this phase was to reach a wide audience, maximize the podcast's visibility, and maintain a professional presence, all while keeping costs in budget.

Key Insights

- **Selecting the right distribution platforms ensures reach and accessibility**
  As the IDSP moved into the distribution phase, choosing the right platforms was a key priority. The ODI's expertise helped identify platforms such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Spreaker, which offer wide accessibility. The IDSP selected Spreaker as the primary platform, which automatically distributed the episodes to Apple Podcasts and Spotify, ensuring the podcast reached a broad audience across multiple popular platforms.
- **Leveraging partner networks maximizes reach with minimal budget**
  With a limited promotional budget, the IDSP leveraged partner networks for organic promotion. To assist partners in promoting the podcast on their social media channels (LinkedIn, Facebook, and X), the ODI provided ready-made copy, making it easier for members to post regularly. The evergreen content allowed for ongoing promotion, helping the IDSP reach a wide audience without relying on paid advertising.

Promotion Checklist

- ☑ Consider free hosting platforms that provide wide distribution without incurring additional costs.
- ☑ Leverage partner networks for cost-effective promotion and provide pre-drafted content snippets to encourage posting.
- ☑ Identify existing communication channels, such as newsletters and social media, to promote the podcast.
- ☑ Track key metrics like downloads and listens to measure the podcast's success and adjust promotional efforts if necessary.
- ☑ Re-promote episodes as part of future campaigns, initiatives, or relevant events, ensuring the podcast remains relevant and visible over time.

Community Engagement

The IDSP is committed to sharing our knowledge, experience, and perspectives with the global research community, public sector, intergovernmental organizations, and other industry leaders. In the past year, we've participated in events and authored publications that showcase our work and vision for the future of open and accessible data in the private sector. Below are highlights of our activities, which underscore the partnership's commitment to fostering collaboration across sectors for societal benefit.

Community Engagment

Data for Policy Conference 2024

In July 2024, members of the IDSP participated in the Data for Policy 2024 Annual Conference at Imperial College London. The conference brought together policymakers, academia, and researchers.

Throughout the conference, industry leaders discussed approaches to opening and sharing data and the collaborative efforts needed among industry, governments, and academia to harness data for societal good and business benefit. IDSP members and affiliates contributed to two main panels:

- **Exploring Open Data with Leaders in Industry**

Chaired by Jennifer Hansen (Microsoft, IDSP member), this panel featured industry leaders who discussed the challenges and opportunities of open data. The session emphasized how transparency can build public trust and drive innovation, with examples from Telefonica's urban mobility partnerships and UK Power Networks' energy data-sharing initiatives.

Panelists: Afua van Haasteren (Roche), Carlos Martínez Miguel (Telefónica Tech, IDSP member), Yiu-Shing Pang (UK Power Networks, IDSP member)

- **At a Time of Rapid Advances in AI, Are We Instead Entering a Data Winter?**

Chaired by Stefaan Verhulst (The GovLab, IDSP affiliate), this session focused on the implications of rapid AI advancements on data accessibility, exploring regulatory challenges, privacy concerns, and the importance of strong data governance frameworks.

Panelists: Barbara Ubaldi (OECD), Elena Simperl (Open Data Institute, IDSP affiliate), Gina Neff (University of Cambridge), Sonia Cooper (Microsoft, IDSP member)

A Data for Policy 2024 Book of Abstracts is available.

State of Open Con 2024

The State of Open Con 24 (SOOCON24) was held in London from February 6-7, 2024, and focused on Open Technology, including open-source software, open hardware, open data, open innovation, and open standards. The event highlighted the value that the open community brings to the UK and its digital economy. This conference featured diverse topics and speakers, emphasizing the importance of open technology in driving innovation and collaboration.

The IDSP participated in a panel session which included Yiu-Shing Pang (UK Power Networks), Melissa Tallack (Northumbrian Water), and Sonia Cooper (Microsoft), and was moderated by Josh D'Addario (Open Data Institute).

Key takeaways from the panel session included:

1. **Open Data and Innovation:** The panel emphasized the critical role of open data in fostering innovation and collaboration across sectors. Panelists discussed how open data initiatives can lead to significant advancements in technology and societal benefits.

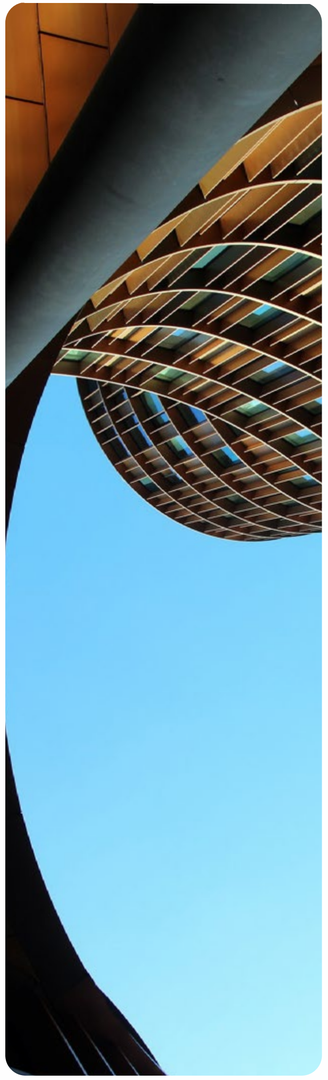
2. **Industry Collaboration:** Members of the IDSP highlighted the importance of industry collaboration in leveraging open data to address societal challenges. The panel discussed successful case studies and ongoing projects that demonstrate the impact of such collaborations.

3. **Open Data Standards and Best Practices:** The panel underscored the need for establishing and adhering to open data standards and best practices. This ensures data quality, interoperability, and accessibility, which are essential for maximizing the value of open data.

4. **Challenges and Opportunities:** The panel also addressed the challenges associated with open data, such as data privacy, security, and ethical considerations. Panelists explored potential solutions and opportunities to overcome these challenges and enhance the positive impact of open data initiatives.

The IDSP was delighted to participate in the SOOCON24, where we could highlight the importance of open data in driving innovation and the value of industry collaboration.

Community Engagment



Leveraging Privately-Sourced Datasets Webinar

In collaboration with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, members of the IDSP hosted an online training on March 21, 2024, to explore the role of private sector data to address global workforce challenges. In the webinar, Leveraging Privately-Sourced Industry Datasets for the Future of Work, LinkedIn, Ookla, and GitHub demonstrated how non-traditional data sources can inform public policy and foster equitable, sustainable employment worldwide.

LinkedIn presented insights from its Economic Graph, a tool that aggregates employment trends, skills development, and industry insights across demographics, offering governments a real-time view of labor market dynamics to inform targeted workforce and education initiatives. Ookla demonstrated the significance of its Speedtest Global Index in highlighting the role of internet access and digital infrastructure for workforce inclusivity, particularly in underserved areas. GitHub showcased its Innovation Graph, which analyzes trends in global software development and cross-economy collaboration, providing insight into developer networks across economies.

The interactive break-out sessions gave policymakers hands-on experience with the datasets, enabling them to integrate private sector data into their decision-making processes. These sessions fostered discussions on navigating issues like data privacy, representativeness, and interoperability.

Through this event, IDSP members emphasized the value of partnership-driven strategies in addressing workforce-related challenges, illustrating the impact of private sector data in reducing workforce inequities, supporting policy innovation, and advancing sustainable development.

Strengthening Connections with the U.S. National Academy of Sciences

In August 2024, IDSP member Jeff Fougere, Senior Counsel of Data & Innovation at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, presented to the U.S. National Committee (USNC) of the National Academy of Sciences, which represents the Committee on Data (CODATA) at the national level. The USNC/CODATA connects the United States with international efforts to improve the quality, reliability, and accessibility of scientific and technical data across all areas of science and technology.

During the presentation, Fougere provided an overview of the IDSP's recent initiatives, including the Private Sector Data Sharing Roundtable Report and the IDSP's Data Dive podcast series. He emphasized the importance of data sharing between the private and public sectors to support sustainable development and enhance public services.

Building on the partnership established during the planning of the U.S. Research Data Summit, which was held in October 2023, the presentation helped strengthen the IDSP's relationship with the U.S. National Committee for CODATA. This engagement not only highlighted the value of data sharing but also showed how partnerships can drive meaningful change. By keeping each other informed of activities, we can continue to build strong connections and work together towards a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient future.

G20 Data Gaps Initiative Workshop

The International Monetary Fund hosted the virtual G20 Data Gaps Initiative Phase 3 (DGI-3) Workshop on Recommendation 13 - Access to Private and Administrative Data, on January 16, 2024. Representing the IDSP, Casey Weston, Senior Manager of Public Policy & Economic Graph at LinkedIn, engaged with key stakeholders from organizations like the IMF, European Space Agency, Eurostat, INSEE (France), Banque de France, Central Banks of Türkiye and Indonesia, African Development Bank, and Smart Nation Group, Singapore.

In his presentation, Weston highlighted LinkedIn's Economic Graph, which provides detailed, real-time data across industries, gender, and occupations, offering granular insights to support economic opportunity. Emphasizing LinkedIn's commitment to equitable, sustainable, and resilient futures, he discussed examples of successful partnerships, trust-building strategies, and socializing the data-sharing objective. Weston also addressed challenges in data privacy, coverage, and representativeness, exploring solutions like differential privacy and data clean rooms.

The workshop underscored the role of private sector data as a supplement—not a replacement—for official data sources, opening avenues for meaningful private-public partnerships. Weston's practical insights and real-world examples illustrated how private sector data can contribute to sustainable development and enhance public services.

Partner Insights and Impact

In addition to our collective initatives, each member company is committed to leveraging data for social good through their independent projects.

Microsoft Partners with AJSOCAL to Fight API Hate

In response to the surge of anti-Asian hate incidents in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic, Microsoft initiated a three-year project with Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL) to develop the Asian Resource Hub, a digital platform aimed at tackling API hate.

Launched in February 2024, the Hub aggregates publicly available data from multiple sources to identify patterns, gaps, and opportunities for intervention. This initiative is designed to empower community organizations, policymakers, and government entities to address hate incidents and advocate for stronger protections for the API community.

Key insights from the Hub

- **Policy Gaps:** Seventeen states, including Colorado and North Carolina, lack laws requiring hate crime data collection, underscoring the need for stronger protections.
- **Resource Needs:** The Midwest, historically underserved, saw an average AAPI population growth of 56%, with North Dakota experiencing a 108% increase, highlighting the need for more resources in these areas.
- **Data Discrepancies:** From 2019 to 2021, FBI data reported 1,500 anti-Asian hate crimes, while community trackers logged over 10,000 incidents, emphasizing the need for diverse data sources.

Demonstrating that greater access to data enables social change

- **Open data promotes transparency and holds entities accountable.** Accessible data allows communities to scrutinize actions, track progress, and hold entities accountable. Data analysts were able to uncover that seventeen states did not have requirements to report hate crime data, stressing the need for legislative changes.
- **Access to data empowers marginalized communities by providing them with the tools to advocate for their rights.** Community organizations can leverage data to highlight issues, rally support, and push for necessary changes. The significant discrepancy between FBI reports and community tracker data on anti-Asian hate incidents demonstrates the importance of multiple data sources in capturing the full scope of the problem.
- **Open data fosters collaboration among stakeholders.** When data is shared, different organizations can work together to address common challenges. The Asian Resource Hub exemplifies this by consolidating data from multiple sources, facilitating a coordinated response to API hate incidents.
- **Data-driven insights are essential for effective resource distribution.** By analyzing data, organizations can identify underserved areas and allocate resources where they are most needed. The Asian Resource Hub revealed significant AAPI population growth in the Midwest, guiding efforts to channel resources to these communities.

The Asian Resource Hub exemplifies how equitable access to data is crucial for driving social change. When data is open and available to all, it empowers communities, policymakers, and organizations to make informed decisions and address pressing issues effectively.

Telefónica Tech's Collaboration with National Statistics Offices

Unlocking Mobility Insights and Open Data for the Public

Telefónica Tech, Telefónica's digital business unit, has forged key partnerships with National Statistical Offices (NSO) in different countries, such as in the UK and Spain. The primary goal of these collaborations is to provide anonymized, aggregated mobile phone data to better understand population mobility. However, a significant outcome of this initiative is the creation of new datasets based on telco-driven behaviors, which are made available to the public, researchers, and investigators as open data resources. These efforts are fostering a culture of transparency and innovation.

In Spain and the UK, Telefónica Tech's collaboration with local NSOs leverages mobile data to monitor tourism patterns, daily travel, commuting, and transport behaviors, providing a comprehensive view of national and international movement within urban spaces. This data, crucial for better understanding local and regional mobility, enables authorities to map population shifts and respond effectively to evolving needs. By complementing traditional census information, these insights are vital for urban planning, public health responses, and economic monitoring, offering policymakers timely updates for more informed decision-making.

Telco-Driven Insights for Open-Source Use and Its Broader Impact

While the primary purpose of using mobile phone data is to enhance insights into population mobility, an important consequence is the creation of new datasets that are openly available to the public and researchers offering a rich source of information for various fields of study illustrating how populations interact with urban spaces, public areas, and transport networks. This data has proven essential during crises by helping authorities assess and respond to population shifts in real time. The broader implications of these open-access datasets span business optimization, environmental research, and policy innovation, enabling new, data-driven strategies that support sustainable and adaptive governance.

By making these behavioral datasets available to the public, Telefónica Tech and NSOs unlock new opportunities for research, development, and policy innovation.

Promoting an Open Data Ecosystem

One of the major outcomes of these collaborations is the creation of an open data environment where the insights derived from mobile phone data are accessible to all.

Researchers, academics, private companies, and even individual developers can leverage this open data to create new solutions and applications: startups working on urban mobility solutions, public health monitoring, or environmental sustainability can use this data to design more effective, data-driven products. Moreover, citizens can access this data to gain a better understanding of how their communities' function and evolve over time.

Conclusion

Telefónica Tech's collaboration with NSOs highlights the potential of anonymized mobile phone data in improving our understanding of population mobility. While the primary goal is to produce more accurate and timely insights, the secondary outcome—creating open-source datasets for public use—helps stimulate innovation and transparency while protecting individuals' privacy. These efforts not only benefit government agencies and policy makers but also contribute to a broader culture of open data, where researchers, businesses, and the public can all play a role in shaping more informed, data-driven societies.

The Ookla for Good Program

Ookla® supports efforts of bringing fast, reliable connectivity to every person. Since the inception of the program in 2019, Ookla for Good's mission has been to provide their data on a complimentary basis to policy makers, humanitarian organizations, academic research institutions, journalists, network operators, and consumers.

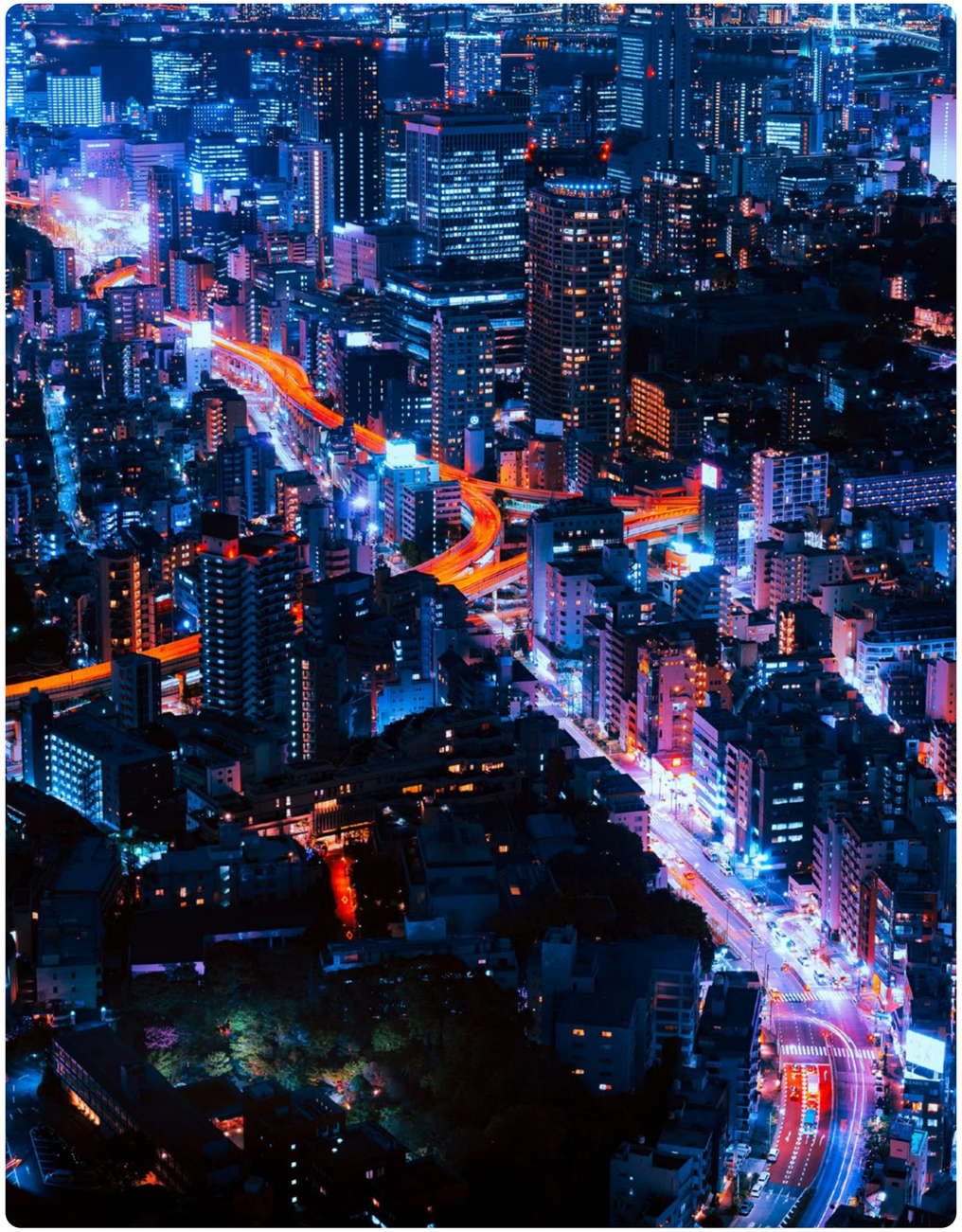
The program's highlights of 2024 include:

Release of New Open Datasets: Ookla made data from its 5G map publicly available in February. The Ookla 5G Map™ was initially launched in May of 2019 to highlight 5G technology expansion on a global level. As 5G has developed extensively over the last 5 years, Ookla decided to release this data publicly to continue encouraging vital discussions around internet equity. The final 5G data from the map can be downloaded here.

Collaboration with Universities: As part of their ongoing collaborations with academic institutions, Ookla for Good™ is excited to highlight the use of their open datasets within the "Programming for Exploratory Data Analysis" course at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. The course utilizes Ookla for Good's open datasets to teach students about network performance. By integrating this data into their curriculum, PUCP provides students with invaluable hands-on experience in analyzing mobile network connectivity. This collaboration not only enhances students' technical skills but also supports efforts to address connectivity challenges.

Collaboration with Humanitarian Organizations: In the past year, Ookla data has been utilized by organizations, such as the World Bank and GSMA Intelligence, to drive meaningful understanding and change in the ongoing effort for universal internet accessibility. In May of 2024, the European Commission published a paper mapping internet connectivity inequality in cities around the world. Their research revealed geographic and income disparities in internet download speeds, underscoring the urgent need for targeted policies to bridge the digital divide.

Looking forward: Ookla continues to maintain and update their open datasets on a quarterly basis, and are always seeking ways to improve and add to them. If you are interested in partnering with Ookla for Good or have any questions, please contact them at opendata@ookla.com.



LinkedIn's Data for Impact Program

During 2024, LinkedIn's Data for Impact program has:

- Helped inform billions of dollars in public economic development investments
- Developed new workforce data tools alongside public partners across four continents
- Advocated for increased public-private data partnerships, doubling our list of partners

Generating Economic Opportunity through Data

Thanks to LinkedIn's participation in the World Bank-led Development Data Partnership, our aggregated data and insights have informed a slew of economic policies, programs, and research efforts with outsize impact. Our workforce data has helped economists and labor market experts at the World Bank and IMF deepen their understanding of gender inequities in the Argentine labor market, the prevalence of technology skills in Central America, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on digital skills globally. The International Labor Organization leveraged our insights in their annual report on Global Employment Trends for Youth, as well as to design programs supporting women launching digital businesses.

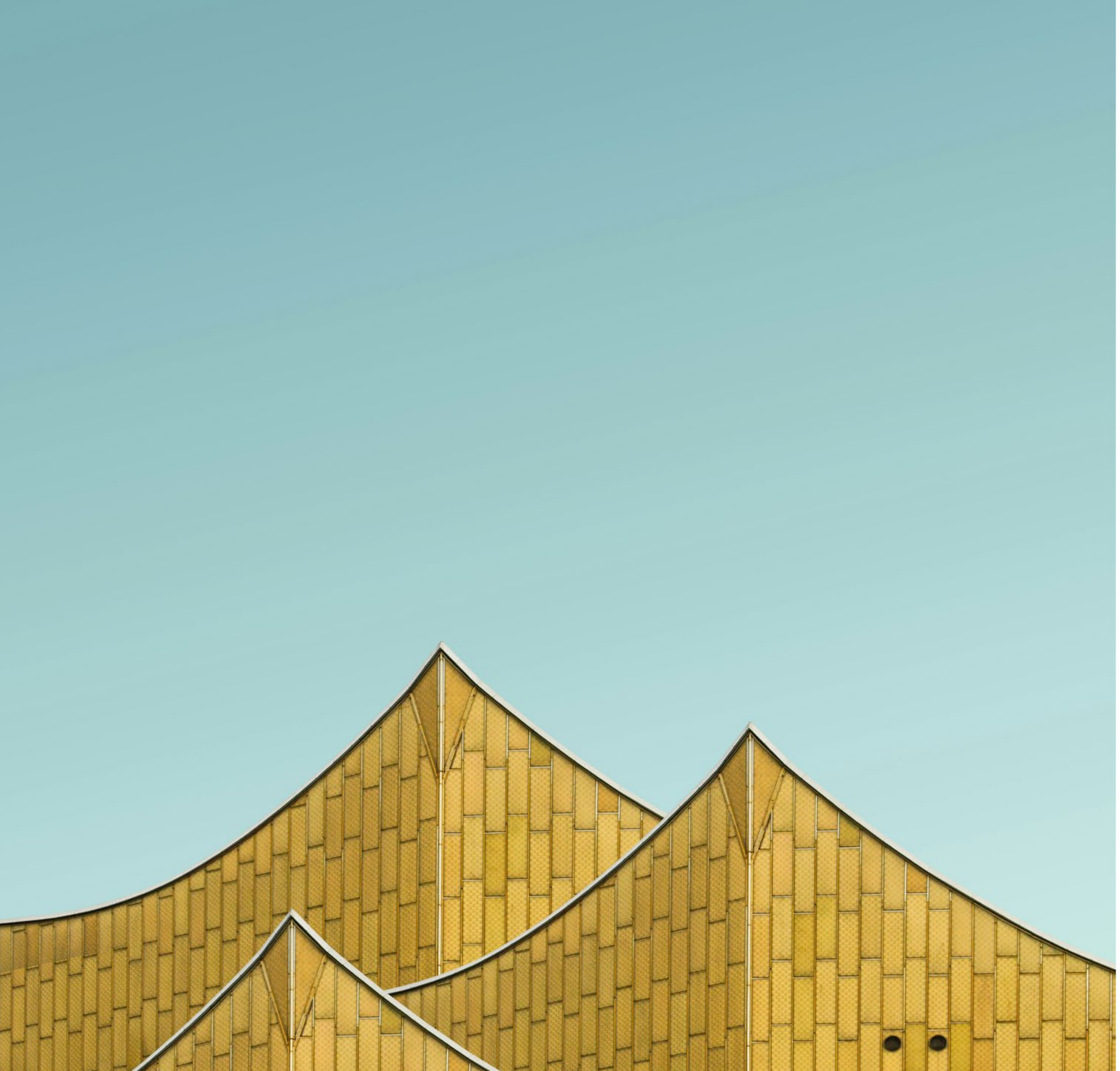
Meanwhile, our data on AI skills and jobs has proven particularly useful to partners seeking to help members of the global workforce navigate the next labor market transition. Our OECD partners analyzed our data, then used it to inform their Digital Economy Outlook as well as country-specific AI Strategies for Germany and Egypt. Collectively, projects of this nature will help nudge ~$3 billion in public investments in workforce development and skilling.

Driving Innovation with Public Partners

Data partnerships allow public entities to explore and validate new sources of insight, which will become increasingly critical for evidence-based policymaking as traditional data collection methods become less reliable. This year, Data for Impact has facilitated exactly this type of experimentation with a variety of partners: the U.S. National Science Foundation explored novel uses for LinkedIn's data on electrification and cybersecurity skills; the Thailand Development Research Institute experimented with leveraging private sector data sets to supplement labor market survey data; and central banks in three countries began to test new uses for hiring data.

Advocating for a Stronger Data Sharing Ecosystem

LinkedIn's data sharing efforts have produced a myriad of lessons learned, which we have sought to share with public and private partners seeking to build on this work. We engaged in capacity building exercises alongside IMF at January's convening of the G20 Data Gaps Initiative, advocated for stronger data sharing mechanisms at the UN Statistical Commission, and shared lessons learned with dozens of government representatives at a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data seminar. These efforts reflect our interest in using LinkedIn data to generate economic opportunity for all and supporting other private and public entities in doing so, as well.



Features from Our Affiliates

The GovLab at NYU and the Open Data Institute, affiliates of the IDSP, share reflections on the state of open data availability and the opportunity for the private sector to contribute to responsible data sharing.

Perspectives from The GovLab

By Dr. Stefaan Verhulst at The GovLab

It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times: The Dual Realities of Data Access in the Age of Generative AI

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times… It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

—Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens's famous line captures the contradictions of the present moment in the world of data. On the one hand, data has become central to addressing humanity's most pressing challenges—climate change, healthcare, economic development, public policy, and scientific discovery. On the other hand, despite the unprecedented quantity of data being generated, significant obstacles remain to accessing and using it. As our digital ecosystems evolve, including the rapid advances in artificial intelligence, we find ourselves both on the verge of a golden era of open data and at risk of slipping deeper into a restrictive "data winter."

These two realities are concurrent: the challenges posed by growing restrictions on data reuse, and the countervailing potential brought by advancements in privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs), synthetic data, and data commons approaches. It argues that while current trends toward closed data ecosystems threaten innovation, new technologies and frameworks could lead to a "Fourth Wave of Open Data," potentially ushering in a new era of data accessibility and collaboration.

Winter of Despair: The Growing Challenge of Data Access

Data has long been positioned as a critical resource for solving global problems. With the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data analytics, the potential to turn vast amounts of information into actionable insights has never been greater. However, this potential is increasingly constrained by growing barriers to data access, creating a paradox where, despite the abundance of data, fewer entities can utilize it effectively for the public good.

One major challenge is the reduction of research access to data from social media platforms and other digital ecosystems. Social media data has been invaluable for tracking public health trends, understanding population movements, and analyzing public opinion. However, we increasingly see restricted access to these datasets, citing privacy concerns, competitive interests, and regulatory pressures. This can severely hamper research on everything from disaster response to political polarization. With control over such data in the hands of a few, the democratization of data access is under threat.

Climate data, another crucial resource, is facing a similar fate. Historically, open access to climate data—through satellite imagery, weather sensors, and environmental monitoring tools—has been vital for understanding climate change, predicting natural disasters, and shaping environmental policy. Yet, the privatization of climate data, driven by its growing commercial value, has created barriers for independent researchers and policymakers. In addition to rising costs, geopolitical tensions over data sovereignty have further restricted cross-border sharing of environmental data. This fragmentation threatens to undermine global efforts to combat climate change.

Further complicating matters is what might be termed "Generative AI-anxiety." As generative AI models, such as large language models (LLMs), gain prominence, companies and institutions are increasingly reluctant to share their data for fear of it being used without authorization or compensation. Legal battles over copyright and data ownership highlight the growing tension between the need for data to train AI models and the needs of rightsholders. The chilling effect of these disputes has led to a reduction in data sharing, further limiting access to critical datasets that could benefit society.

Finally, the reduction of open government data initiatives represents another step backward. Once heralded as a way to increase transparency, accountability, and innovation, open data initiatives are now stalling or even reversing. The annual Open Data Barometer Report notes that many governments are scaling back their commitments to open data, citing budget constraints, political concerns, or the growing complexity of managing large datasets. The result is a shrinking pool of publicly available data, reducing opportunities for researchers, civic technologists, and policymakers to harness data for public good.

Perspectives from The GovLab

Spring of Hope: Advances in Data Technologies

While the emerging "data winter" may seem bleak, a parallel trend offers reasons for optimism. Advances in privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs), the growing use of synthetic data, and the emergence of new data commons frameworks have the potential to counterbalance the restrictive forces at play. These innovations represent a "spring of hope" (to return to Charles Dickens) that could lead to a more open, collaborative, and equitable data ecosystem.

PETs, which include tools like differential privacy and data sandboxes, allow data to be used in a privacy-preserving manner, potentially helping unblock some of the restrictions discussed previously. These technologies enable the analysis of sensitive data without exposing individuals' private information, thus addressing one of the primary concerns driving data restrictions. By enabling researchers and institutions to work with data without compromising privacy, PETs could unlock valuable datasets for public use, especially in fields like healthcare and social science, where privacy concerns are paramount.

Synthetic data, another promising PET related development, similarly allows organizations to create artificial datasets that mimic real-world data while avoiding privacy risks. This approach can be particularly useful in industries where access to real data is limited due to ethical, legal, or practical constraints. For example, synthetic data can be used to train AI models in healthcare without violating patient confidentiality. While synthetic data is not without its challenges—such as ensuring it accurately reflects the complexity of real-world data; and doesn't accelerate bias—it offers a way to continue innovating in data-driven fields, even as access to real data becomes more restricted.

Perhaps most promising is the emergence of data commons approaches—collaborative frameworks designed to pool and share data among stakeholders for mutual benefit. Data commons initiatives seek to balance the need for data access with concerns about privacy, intellectual property, and equity. By establishing clear governance structures and ethical guidelines for data sharing, data commons can foster a culture of openness and collaboration while ensuring that data is used responsibly. These frameworks are particularly important for addressing global challenges like climate change, where the free flow of data across borders and sectors is essential for coordinated action.

Finally, generative AI could also play a central role in opening up data and insights. By leveraging AI to create user-friendly interfaces for interacting with complex datasets, we can make open data more accessible to a broader range of users. AI-powered tools can help users explore, analyze, and visualize data, lowering the technical barriers that have traditionally limited the use of open data. Perhaps most significantly, generative AI can help bridge the gap between raw data and actionable insights, turning vast amounts of unstructured information into meaningful, policy-relevant findings.

Towards a Fourth Wave of Open Data

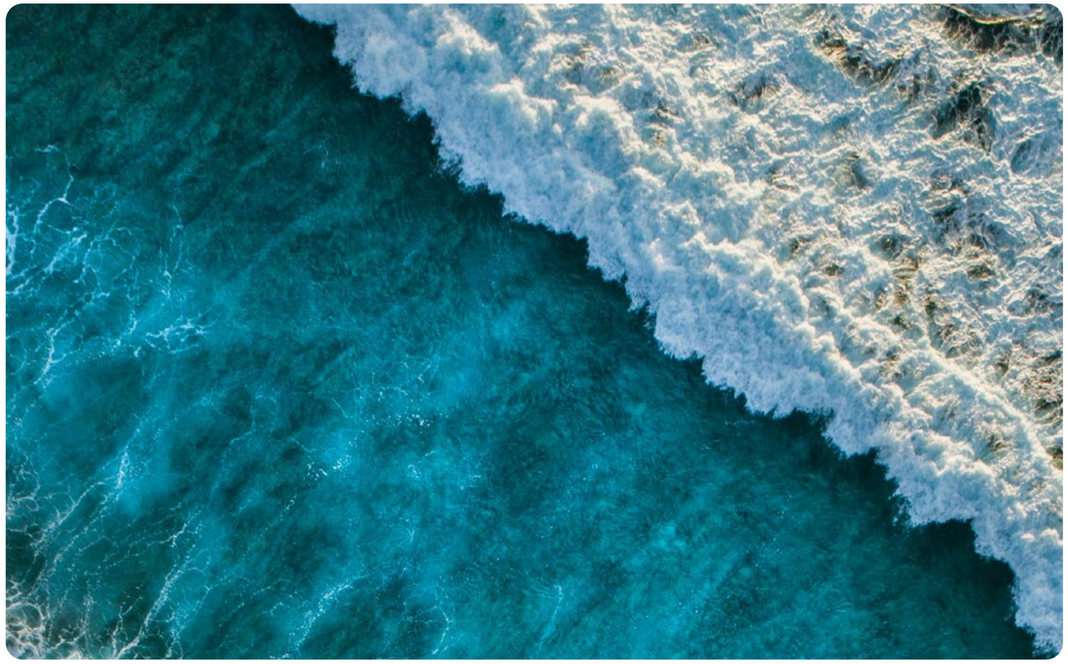
These advances suggest the possibility of a "Fourth Wave of Open Data," a new era where data is more accessible, conversational, and collaborative. Unlike previous waves of open data, which focused primarily on publishing datasets for public use, this new wave would emphasize making data ready for AI applications and ensuring it can be used in privacy-respecting, ethically sound ways.

However, realizing the potential of the Fourth Wave of Open Data will require concerted effort. Policymakers, technologists, and data stewards must work together to address the barriers to data access. Industry groups, such the Industry Data for Society Partnership, also play a role in contributing to technical and governance frameworks necessary to support responsible data sharing. This includes advancing standards for data quality and provenance, fostering interoperability across data systems, and ensuring that the benefits of open data are distributed equitably.

Conclusion: Best of Times, Worst of Times

In the Dickensian spirit, we find ourselves living in both the best of times and the worst of times when it comes to data. While the challenges of data access are real and growing, so too are the opportunities brought by new technologies and collaborative frameworks. It is essential to remember that the trajectory of our data ecosystem is not predetermined; rather, it will be shaped by the choices we make today.

It is within our power to ensure that the Fourth Wave of Open Data does not mark the end of data's potential. Instead, we could be at the cusp of a new era, a time of unprecedented data access, insight, and innovation. Whether we remain in a winter of despair or move toward a spring of hope depends on us, and how we respond to the challenges and opportunities of the era.



Perspectives from the Open Data Institute

By Josh D'Addario and David Dinnage at the Open Data Institute

The Data Dive Podcast Series: exploring company data with industry experts

Private sector data can play a significant role in driving social, economic, and scientific progress. It is a crucial resource for tackling global challenges like climate change, health disparities, and inequality. But making it accessible poses questions around privacy, security, and governance. So how can private sector organizations open up their data, and how can analysts and researchers use it?

The Data Dive podcast series, produced by the Open Data Institute (ODI) for the Industry Data for Society Partnership and hosted by the ODI's Emma Thwaites, explores these questions. Across five episodes the series provides advice for organizations starting their data access journey, and for those wanting to use private sector data in their research and social impact activities.

Cultivating the data landscape

In the first episode, Sonia Cooper (Assistant General Counsel, Open Innovation Team at Microsoft), Mike Linksvayer (VP Developer Policy at GitHub) and Josh D'Addario (Head of Consultancy at the ODI) reflected that private companies have historically been reluctant to share data. They are now recognizing that openness can foster collaboration, unlock new insights, and provide a competitive edge. Open data can fuel innovation, create business value, and even help solve critical societal issues. For instance, sectors like healthcare and energy have seen tangible benefits from collaborative data-sharing initiatives, driving breakthroughs that companies alone couldn't have achieved.

In GitHub's case, making software development data available helps customers extract more value from their platform, driving broader adoption and fostering innovation. This "customer-obsessed" approach encourages companies to share data that can improve user experiences and create deeper engagement.

While the potential benefits of open data are clear, companies still face significant hurdles, especially regarding trust and data governance. Trust is essential—both internally within an organization and with external partners. For Microsoft, the key has been developing robust internal governance frameworks that ensure data is shared responsibly and ethically.

Josh D'Addario from the ODI highlighted that tools like the Data Ethics Canvas and Data Ecosystem Mapping can help companies assess the value of their data while considering ethical concerns and that businesses should look to case studies to see the art of the possible. These resources enable businesses to map out the potential impact of their data-sharing initiatives, ensuring that they are making informed, responsible decisions.

Real-world impact of open data

In the second episode, we focused on how private companies can make their data available. We were joined by Nigel Watson (Chief Information Officer at Northumbrian Water), Yiu-Shing Pang (Open Data Manager at UK Power Networks) and Tara Lee (Senior Consultant at the ODI) and learned about the challenges the companies faced, and how they overcame them. UK Power Networks began the journey toward open data in 2021 as part of a broader effort to promote sustainability in the energy sector. By opening up data, UK Power Networks has not only improved its own operations but also provided customers with better visibility into energy options, creating over 8,000 monthly users of their open data. This proactive approach has positioned them as leaders in the sector.

Similarly, Northumbrian Water has increased access to its data, publishing open datasets on the industry data platform, Stream, and holding numerous hack events, one of which led to new ways to help detect water system blockages. In their experience, it's not just about making the data available, it's about using that data in creative ways to solve problems they didn't even know were there.

In regulated sectors like water and energy, the drive towards open data is more than just a regulatory obligation—it is an opportunity for companies to lead in innovation, improve customer experiences, and contribute to solving global challenges. However, successful data-sharing initiatives require more than just technology—they demand cultural shifts within organizations. As the ODI emphasizes, senior buy-in is essential. Companies must foster a culture of openness, with strong leadership support to ensure that data-sharing efforts align with broader business objectives.

For companies contemplating the transition to open data, there's no need to reinvent the wheel. Many resources and frameworks are already available to help organizations get started. Perhaps more importantly, the journey requires commitment, collaboration, and a willingness to embrace change.

Perspectives from the Open Data Institute

The role of data in driving innovation

The third episode looked at how innovators and researchers use private company data to carry out research and create impact, with Rosie Hood (Lead Data Scientist at the Economic Graph Research Institute at LinkedIn), Jeff Fougere (Senior Counsel in Data and Innovation at Hewlett Packard Enterprise) and Gefion Thuermer (Head of Research at the ODI). The experts discussed how data is often reduced to numbers on a spreadsheet, but in reality, it encompasses a wide variety of information, including text, images, and real-time insights. Data is far more than just raw statistics; it is a vital tool for decision-making and problem-solving across multiple domains.

For instance, LinkedIn uses its vast database of real-time labor market data to inform policy making. By offering up-to-date insights into employment trends, LinkedIn's data has proven to be more current than traditional government statistics. This real-time data can be a game-changer for governments, researchers, and organizations trying to tackle issues like workforce shortages, skill gaps, and regional disparities in employment.

Another key concept discussed was participatory data, where citizens actively contribute to data collection, particularly in areas like environmental monitoring. Local communities play an essential role in gathering data on issues like pollution, which can then influence policy and raise awareness around critical environmental concerns. This valuable data often goes unnoticed or underutilized, suggesting that promoting awareness and visibility around participatory data is crucial for driving further collaboration.

For Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), data can play an important role in maintaining an ethical supply chain. Their transparency initiatives, including around modern slavery, not only improve internal practices but also offer a model for other organizations. HPE's data-driven approach is a resource for those aiming to improve their own supply chains, making their efforts an important example for researchers and businesses alike.

Making data accessible

In episode four, we learned how researchers and innovators have used private company data to develop new ideas, and were joined by Allen Kim (Senior Director of Data Analytics and Visualization at Microsoft), Udit Paul (Data Engineer in the Data Science Team at Ookla) and Kanika Joshi (Impact and Sustainable Development Lead, the ODI).

As industry data grows in complexity, our experts underscored the importance of effective data visualization, and how storytelling through data isn't just about aesthetics—it's about making complex information relatable and actionable. At Microsoft, visualizing geographic patterns have helped identify areas needing improved broadband access. For Ookla, the pandemic really magnified the importance of reliable internet access, without which entire communities could be left behind.

One of the most significant topics of discussion was the digital divide and how it affects progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ODI believes that equitable access to data and digital infrastructure is crucial for achieving numerous SDGs, to ensure the challenges faced by marginalized communities are not compounded by digital exclusion. Addressing this divide requires a concerted effort to develop inclusive datasets, especially as AI systems become more prevalent and influential in decision-making.

At the heart of all these discussions is the recognition that collaboration between industries and researchers is key to unlocking the potential of data. Whether it's using real-time labor market insights, promoting ethical AI, or bridging gaps in digital access, the power of data lies in how it is shared, interpreted, and acted upon. Through collaboration and the responsible use of data, industries and researchers can create a more equitable and sustainable future. The power of data lies not just in the information it holds but in how it is shared and used to make meaningful change.

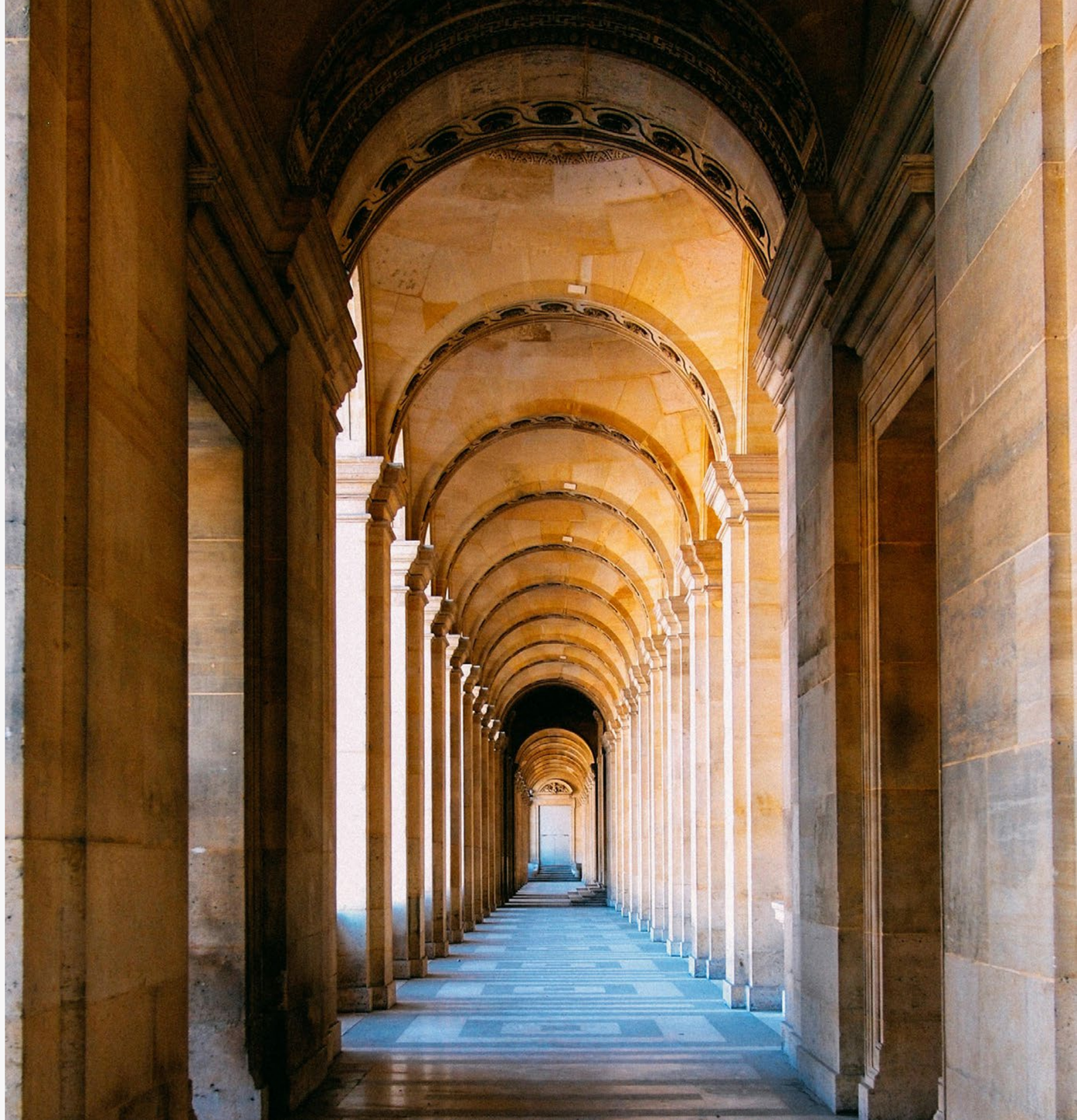
Realizing the value of open data

The final episode was very much for data scientists and innovation teams, learning how to maximize the value of the data we'd previously heard so much about. Bhuvaneshwari Guddad (Master Technologist at HPE), Kevin Xu (Senior Software Engineer at GitHub) and Dr. Dave Tarrant (Senior Learning Advisor at the ODI) took us through some advice for data practitioners. They emphasized the importance of understanding the limitations of your data before analyzing it, for example in understanding bias in the data, such as who is represented in the data, and who is missing. The broader implications of data use were also considered, such as ethical use and the environmental impacts. Our experts concluded by discussing the need for strong data governance to realize the benefits of data, and in particular, the benefits of AI. Without high-quality, representative and well-governed data, AI won't deliver inclusive and equitable results, and won't support tackling the biggest challenges we face as a society.

Over the course of five episodes, the Data Dive podcast series explored the opportunities and challenges of sharing company data with industry leaders. Those who took part gave us some brilliant examples of what can be achieved through data access.

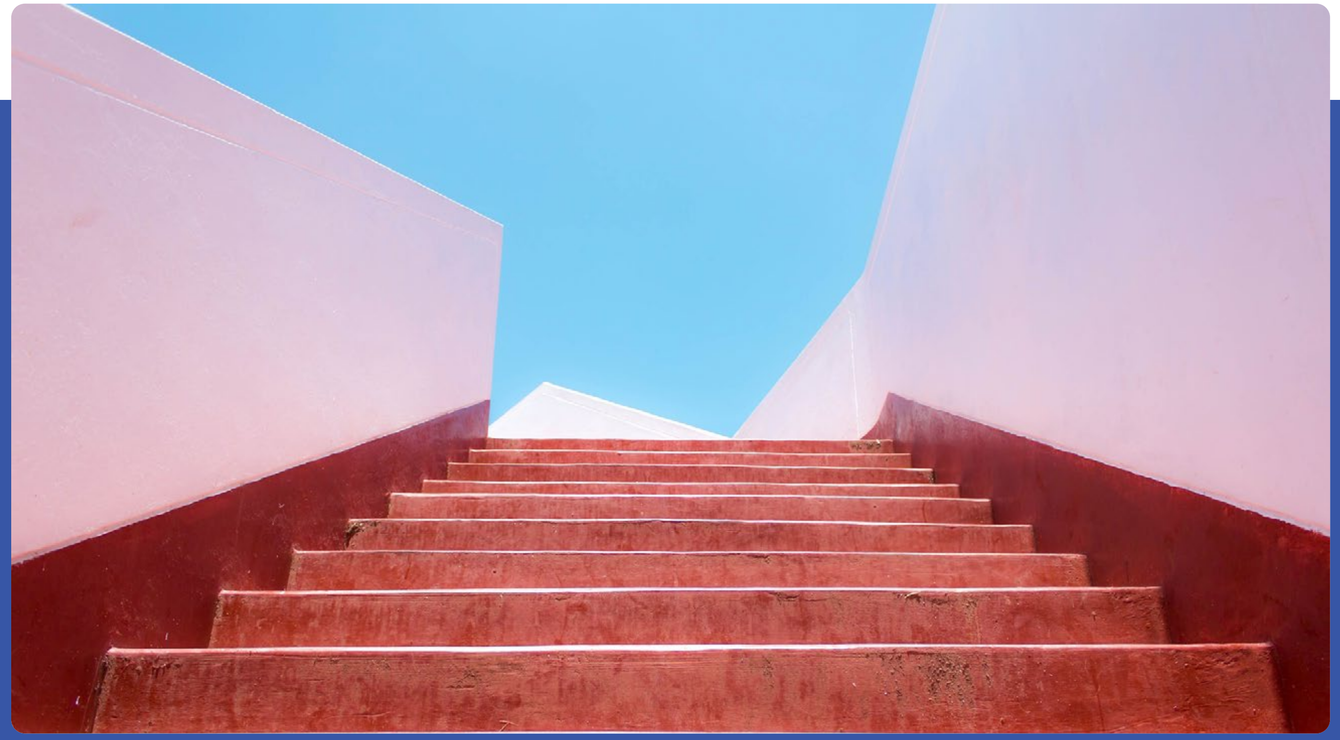
For more insight on producing the podcast, visit the Lessons Learned from Hosting a Podcast Series section on page 8 of this report.

Looking Ahead:
Year Three Goals



Future Directions and Opportunities

As we look to the third year of the IDSP, we are excited about the potential to further our mission of enhancing data sharing and collaboration to drive societal value. Building on the foundation of our first two years, we will focus on four key areas in 2025.



Expand the Community of Practice (CoP): We will continue to develop the CoP, providing a platform for industry thought leaders to share knowledge, address common challenges, and develop effective strategies for data sharing. The session topics will be determined by its participants, ensuring relevance and practical impact.

Develop Practical Resources: We will continue to create practical resources tailored for the private sector, such as toolkits and best practice documents. These resources will aim to support companies in their data-sharing journeys.

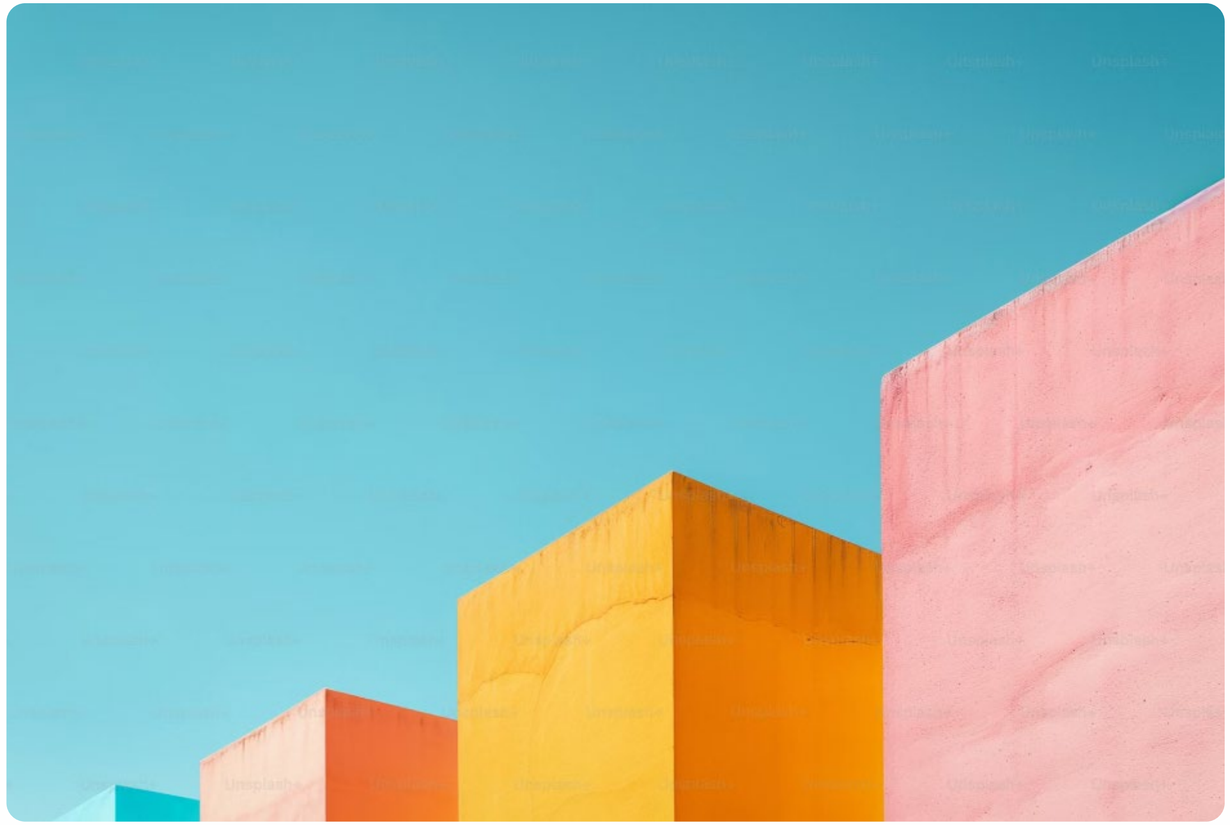
Grow Global Collaboration: By working with organizations and governments worldwide, we aim to promote global data sharing standards and practices.

Contribute to the Broader Open Data Ecosystem: We are committed to sharing our knowledge and experiences with the broader open data ecosystem. By contributing to industry conferences, publishing our findings, and engaging with global data communities, we aim to foster a culture of openness and collaboration. This will help ensure that our insights and lessons learned benefit a wider audience and drive collective progress in the field of open data.

Join Us in Shaping a Data-Driven Future

We invite private sector organizations to join us in our mission to harness data to benefit society. Collaboration is key to unlocking the full potential of data, and we believe that together, we can drive meaningful change.

To learn more about the IDSP and how to get involved, please visit our website, www.industrydataforsociety.com.



More About Our Partners & Affiliates

Our Partners

GitHub
As the global home for all developers, GitHub is the complete developer platform to build, scale, and deliver secure software. Over 94 million people, including developers from 90 of the Fortune 100 companies, use GitHub to build amazing things together across 330+ million repositories. With all the collaborative features of GitHub, it's never been easier for individuals and teams to write faster, better code. GitHub's headquarters is in San Francisco, CA.

HPE
Hewlett Packard Enterprise (NYSE: HPE) is the global edge-to-cloud company that helps organizations accelerate outcomes by unlocking value from all of their data, everywhere. Built on decades of reimagining the future and innovating to advance the way people live and work, HPE delivers unique, open and intelligent technology solutions as a service. With offerings spanning Cloud Services, Compute, High Performance Computing & AI, Intelligent Edge, Software, and Storage, HPE provides a consistent experience across all clouds and edges, helping customers develop new business models, engage in new ways, and increase operational performance. HPE's headquarters is in Houston, TX.

LinkedIn
LinkedIn connects the world's professionals to make them more productive and successful, and transforms the way companies hire, market, sell and learn. Our vision is to create economic opportunity for every member of the global workforce. LinkedIn has 850+ million members and has offices around the globe. LinkedIn's headquarters is in Sunnyvale, CA.

Microsoft
Microsoft (NASDAQ: MSFT) enables digital transformation for the era of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge. Its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. Microsoft's Open Data Campaign aims to close the data divide and help organizations of all sizes realize the benefits of data and the new technologies it powers. Microsoft's headquarters is in Redmond, WA.

Northumbrian Water Group
Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) provides water and wastewater services to customers in the North East of England, trading as Northumbrian Water (NW), and water services only to customers in the south east of England, trading as Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW). Our vision is to be the national leader in sustainable water and wastewater services. NWG's headquarters is in Durham, England, UK.

Ookla
As a trusted provider of connectivity intelligence, Ookla has helped define global telecommunications standards for nearly two decades. Ookla works with global organizations that accelerate positive industry growth in order to achieve better connectivity for all. Ookla's headquarters is in Seattle, WA.

Telefónica Tech
Telefónica Tech is the leading company in digital transformation for enterprises and government. The company offers a wide range of services and integrated technological solutions for Cyber Security, Cloud, IoT, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain. Telefónica Tech is based in Madrid, Spain.

UK Power Networks
UK Power Networks is the UK's biggest electricity distributor, making sure the lights stay on for more than eight million homes and businesses across London, the South East and the East of England. UK Power Networks continues to be listed in the Top 25 Best Big Companies to Work For. The company invests more than £600 million in its electricity networks every year, offers extra help to vulnerable customers at times of need, and is undertaking trials to ensure that electricity networks support the transition to a low carbon future. UK Power Network's Open Data Portal features one of the UK's biggest sets of information about the electricity network. UK Power Networks is based in London, England,

Our Affiliates

The GovLab
The GovLab's mission is to improve people's lives by changing how we govern using advances in science and technology. Its Data Program works with partners across sectors and regions toward making the availability and use of data for public interest purposes more systematic, sustainable, and responsible. For more information, visit TheGovLab.org and OpenDataPolicyLab.org. The GovLab's headquarters is in Brooklyn, NY.

Open Data Institute
The Open Data Institute (ODI) is a non-profit organisation founded in 2012 by Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Sir Nigel Shadbolt, dedicated to building a trustworthy data ecosystem where data benefits everyone. Through training, consultancy, research, and developing tools, the ODI empowers organisations to handle data responsibly, fostering transparency, innovation, and accountability. Independent and non-partisan, the ODI partners with corporations, governments, and civil society, funded by commercial activities and global grants. The ODI is based in London, UK and works globally.

Industry Data For Society PARTNERSHIP

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW