

Default to Open

When we collaborate in the open and publish our data publicly, we can improve Government together. By building services more openly and publishing open data, we simplify the public's access to government services and information, allow the public to contribute easily, and enable reuse by entrepreneurs, nonprofits, other agencies, and the public.

Key Questions

1. How are you collecting user feedback for bugs and issues?
2. If there is an API, what capabilities does it provide? Is it versioned? Who uses it? How is it documented?
3. If the codebase has not been released under an open source license, explain why.
4. What components are made available to the public as open source?
5. What datasets are made available to the public?

Checklist

Offer users a mechanism to report bugs and issues, and be responsive to these reports

Provide datasets to the public, in their entirety, through bulk downloads and APIs (application programming interfaces)

Ensure that data from the service is explicitly in the public domain, and that rights are waived globally via an international public domain dedication, such as the "Creative Commons Zero" waiver

Catalog data in the agency's enterprise data inventory and add any public datasets to the agency's public data listing

Ensure that we maintain the rights to all data developed by third parties in a manner that is releasable and reusable at no cost to the public

Ensure that we maintain contractual rights to all custom software developed by third parties in a manner that is publishable and reusable at no cost

When appropriate, create a versioned API for third parties and internal users to interact with the service directly

When appropriate, publish source code of projects or components online

When appropriate, share your development process and progress publicly

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