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International Open Government Data Conference

Harnessing Data to Inspire and Inform

Dan Melton, Ph.D., MPA, *Technical Director, Code for America*

Derek Willis, *Newsroom Developer, The New York Times*



CODE *for*
AMERICA

Inspiring New Gen. of Civic Coders

Dan Melton, CTO
dan@codeforamerica.org
[@danmelton](https://twitter.com/danmelton)

A woman with blonde hair and glasses is wearing a black t-shirt with the text "I am a geek" printed in white. She has a playful expression and her hands are raised in a shrugging gesture. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

I am
a geek





facebook.



You Tube



bebo



Technorati™



USTREAM.TV BETA



del.icio.us



flickr™



WORDPRESS



Mafia Wars

A FELLOWSHIP
CONNECTING WEB TALENT
AND CITY GOVERNMENTS

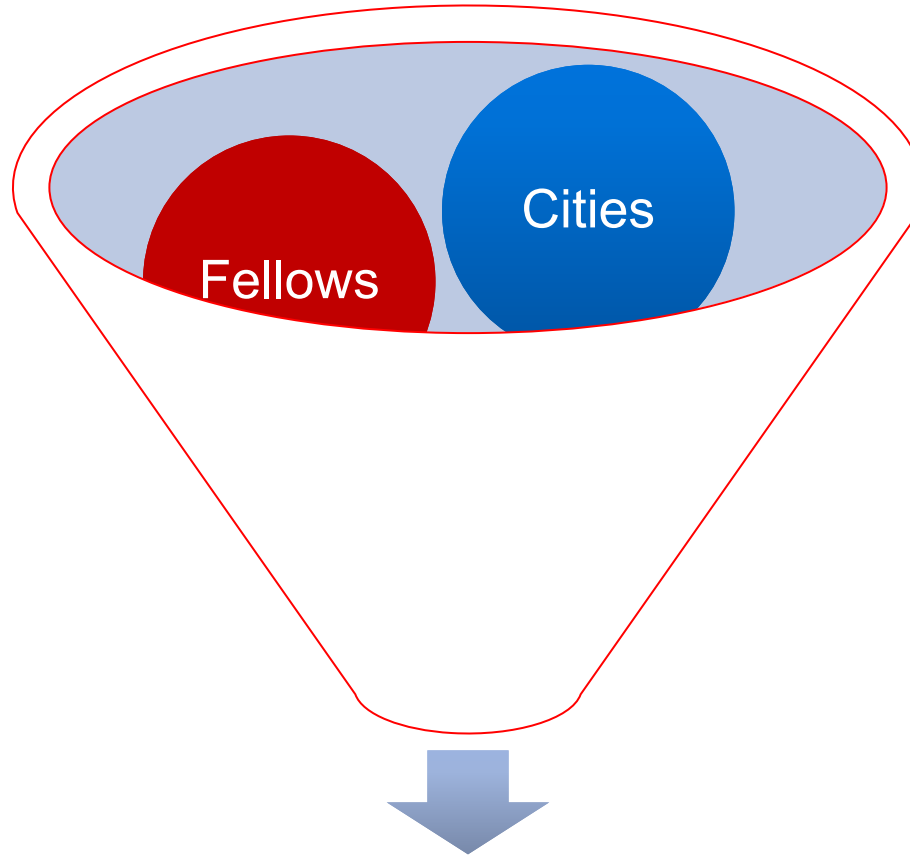
CODE *for*
AMERICA

CURRENT STATE OF OUR CITIES

- **84%** of cities face significant financial difficulties
- **92%** expected to have trouble meeting citizens' needs
- **60%** of city workers retiring in next 5 years
- The existing method of solving problems is not working

Source: ICMA

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION



a new kind of solution

The image features a solid orange background. A white dashed-line rectangle is centered in the upper half of the frame. Inside this rectangle, the word "government" is written in a lowercase, italicized, black sans-serif font. The background is filled with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent orange circles of varying sizes, creating a textured, bubbly effect.

government

citizens

2011 CFA FELLOWS



We recruit leading web and tech professionals, as well as recent graduates from top-notch schools who have a passion for public service.

2011 Recruitment
362 Applications
20 Fellows
5.5% Acceptance

@codeforamerica

CODE *for*
AMERICA

codeforamerica.org

2011 CITY PROJECTS



Boston:
School ID
Cards



Philadelphia:
Civic Leader
Network



Seattle:
Civic Leader
Network



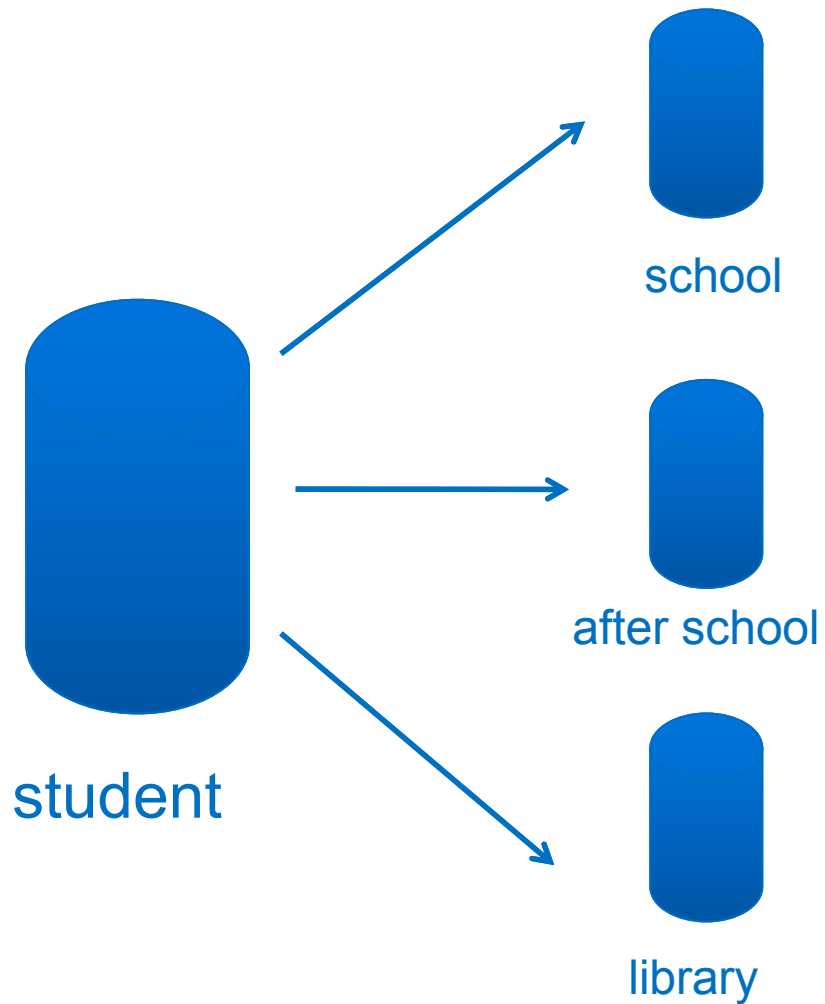
DC:
Civic
Commons



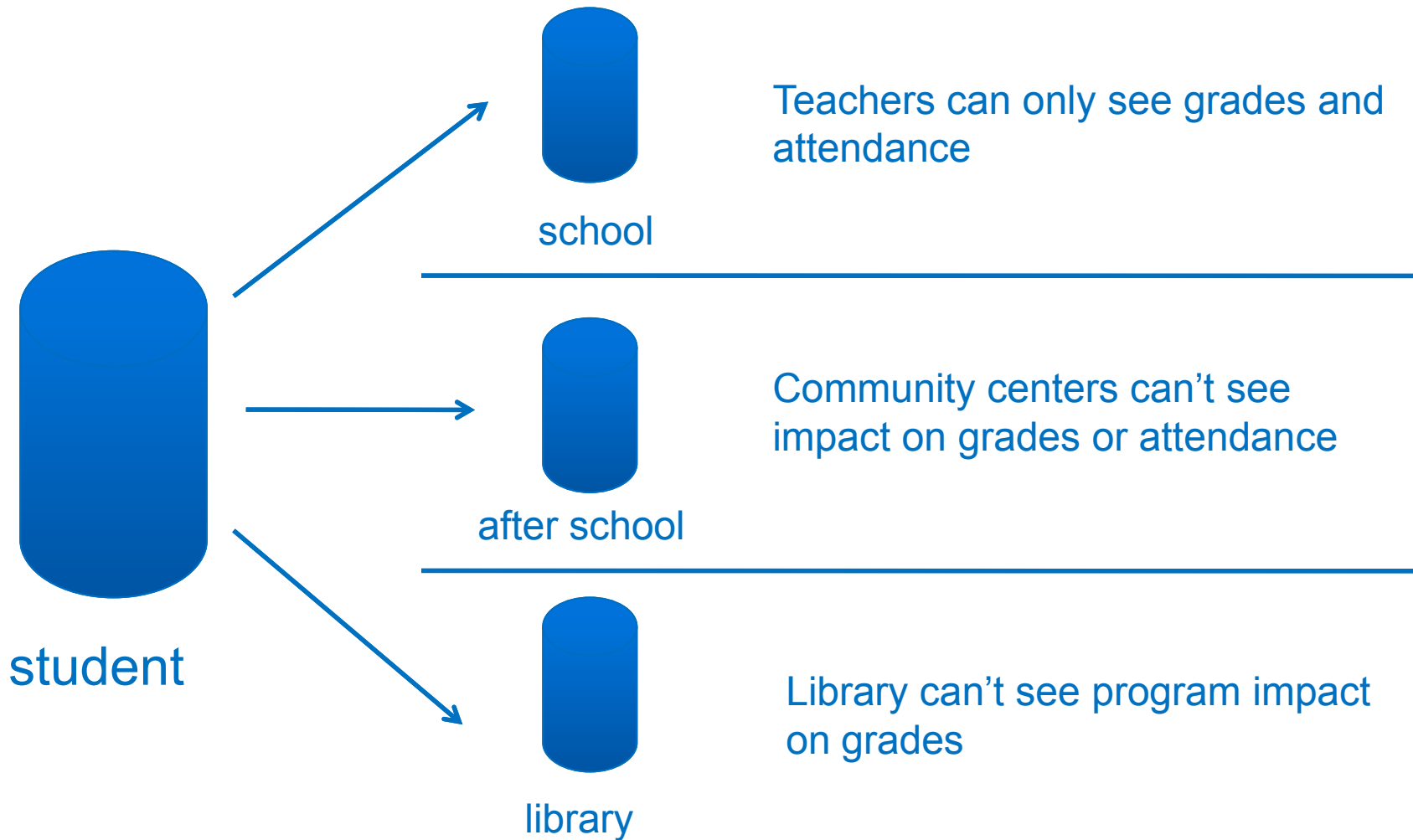
THE BOSTON PROJECT:
IMPROVING HIGH SCHOOL
EDUCATION

CODE *for*
AMERICA

EDUCATION IN MANY PLACES



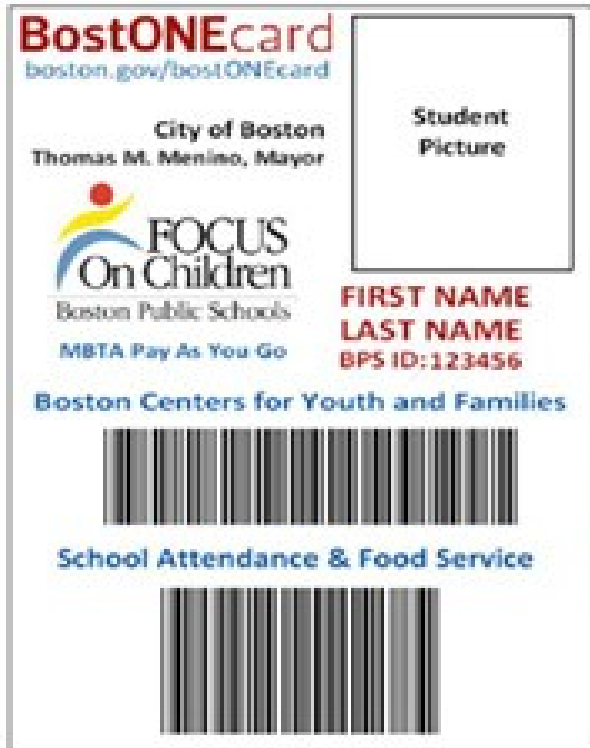
PROBLEM: AN INCOMPLETE PICTURE



WHAT THAT MEANS

- Incomplete views of student attendance
- Skewed information of performance
- Missed connections between activities
- Difficult to understand holistic educational experience

AN OPPORTUNITY

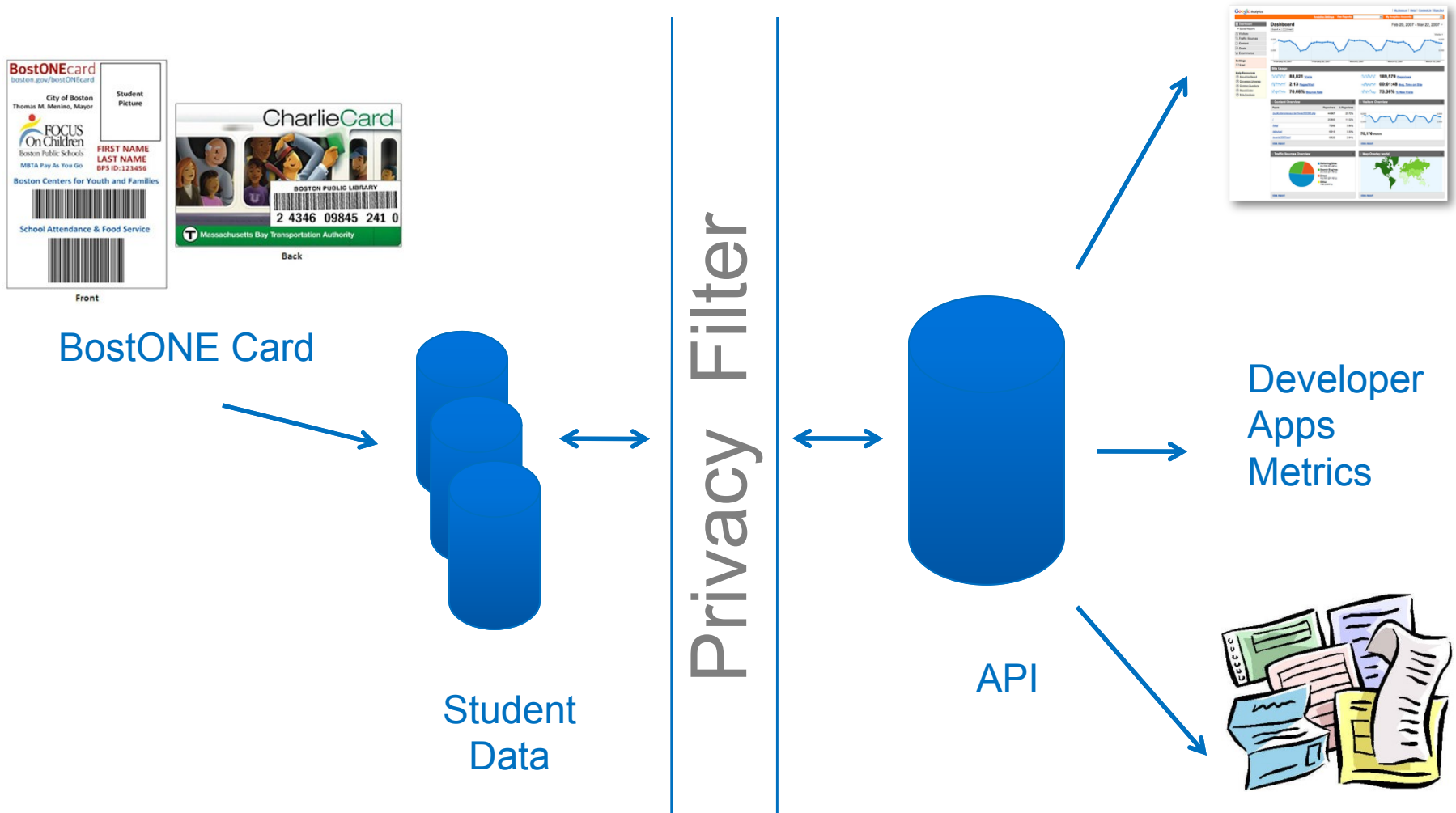


Front

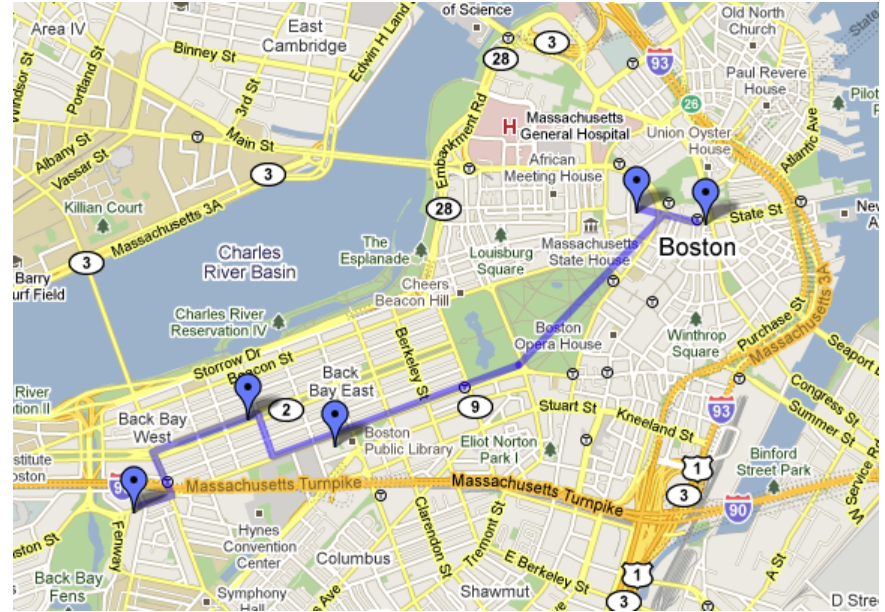


Back

THE SOLUTION



EXAMPLE: JOHN ADAMS WALK



John Adams
Lesson Plan

Historical
Locations

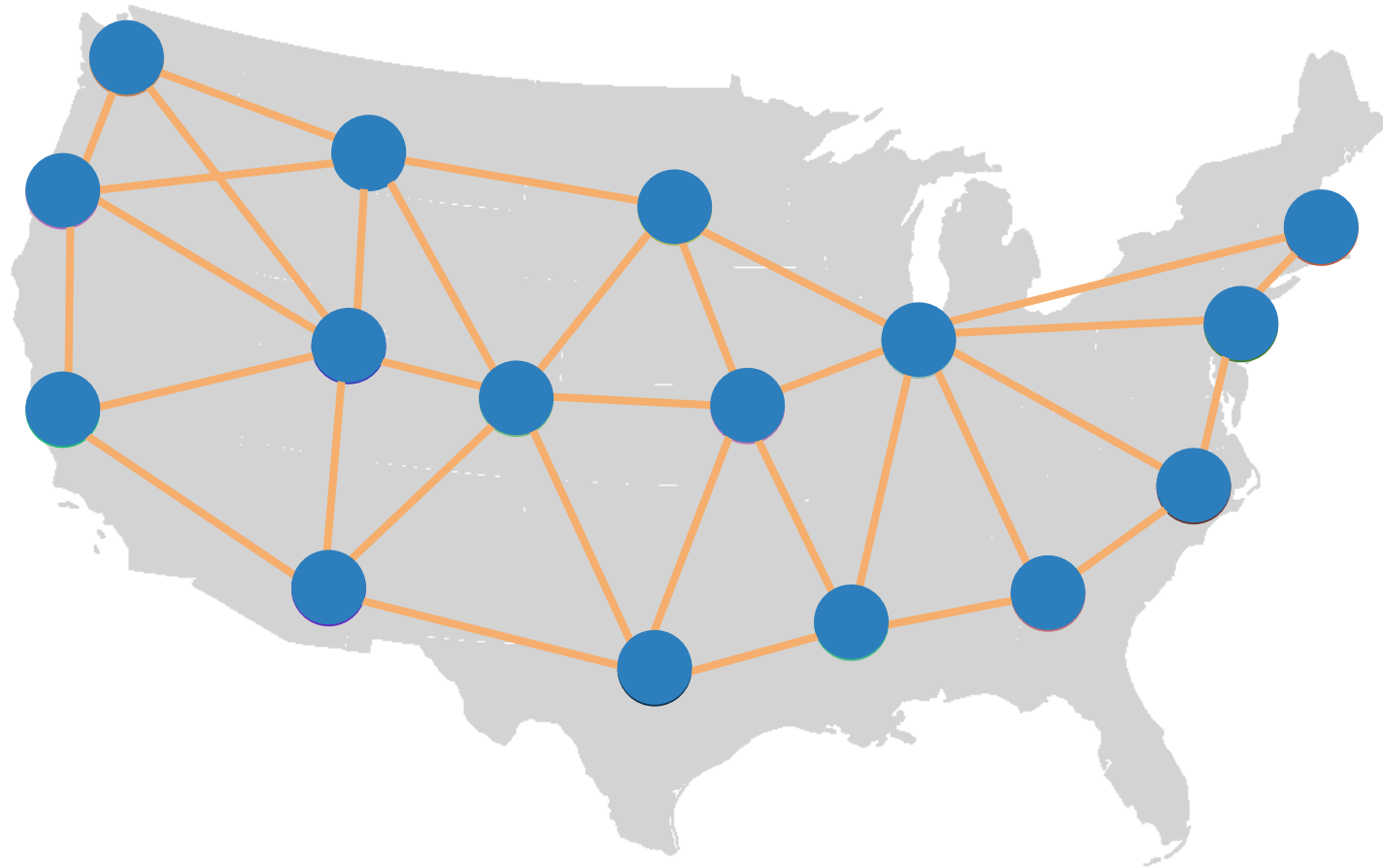
Location-
based
Check-in App

John Adams
Walking Tour

CIVIC COMMONS
SHARING TECHNOLOGY FOR
THE PUBLIC GOOD

CODE *for*
AMERICA

THE PROBLEM & THE OPPORTUNITY

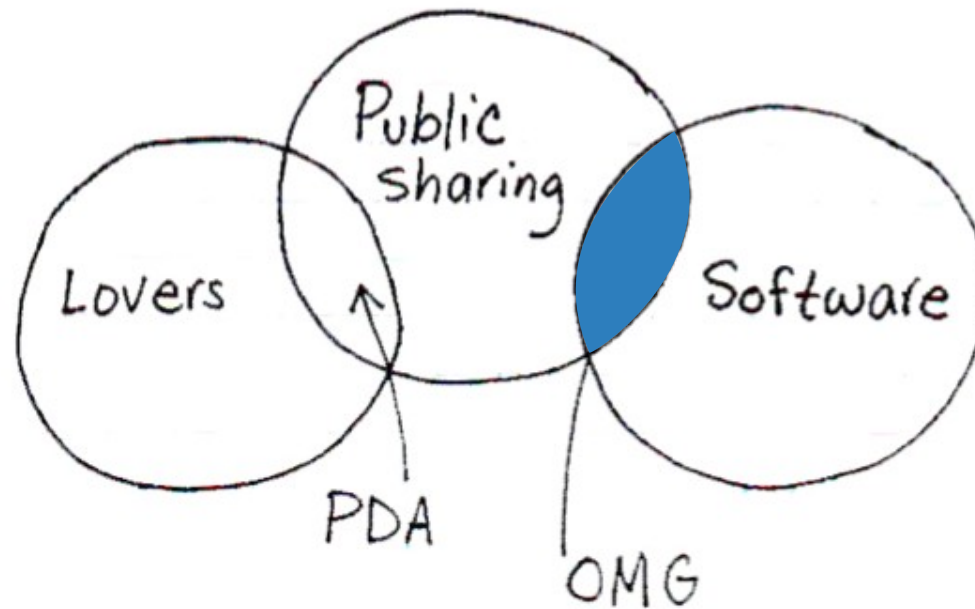


GRAPHIC: OPENPLANS
@codeforamerica

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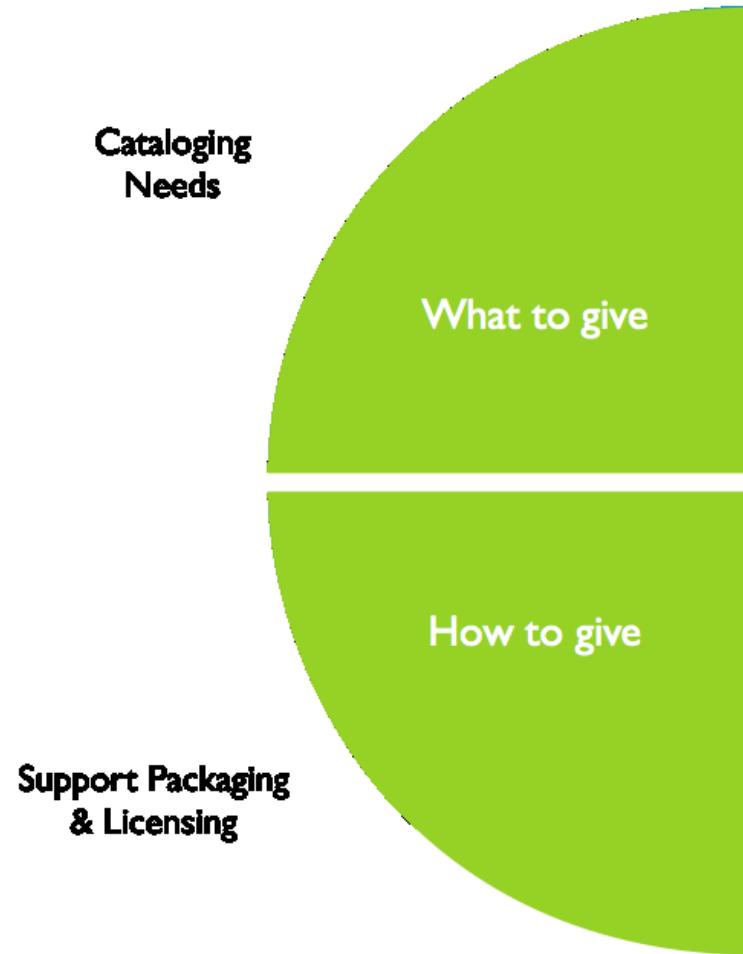
codeforamerica.org

IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING

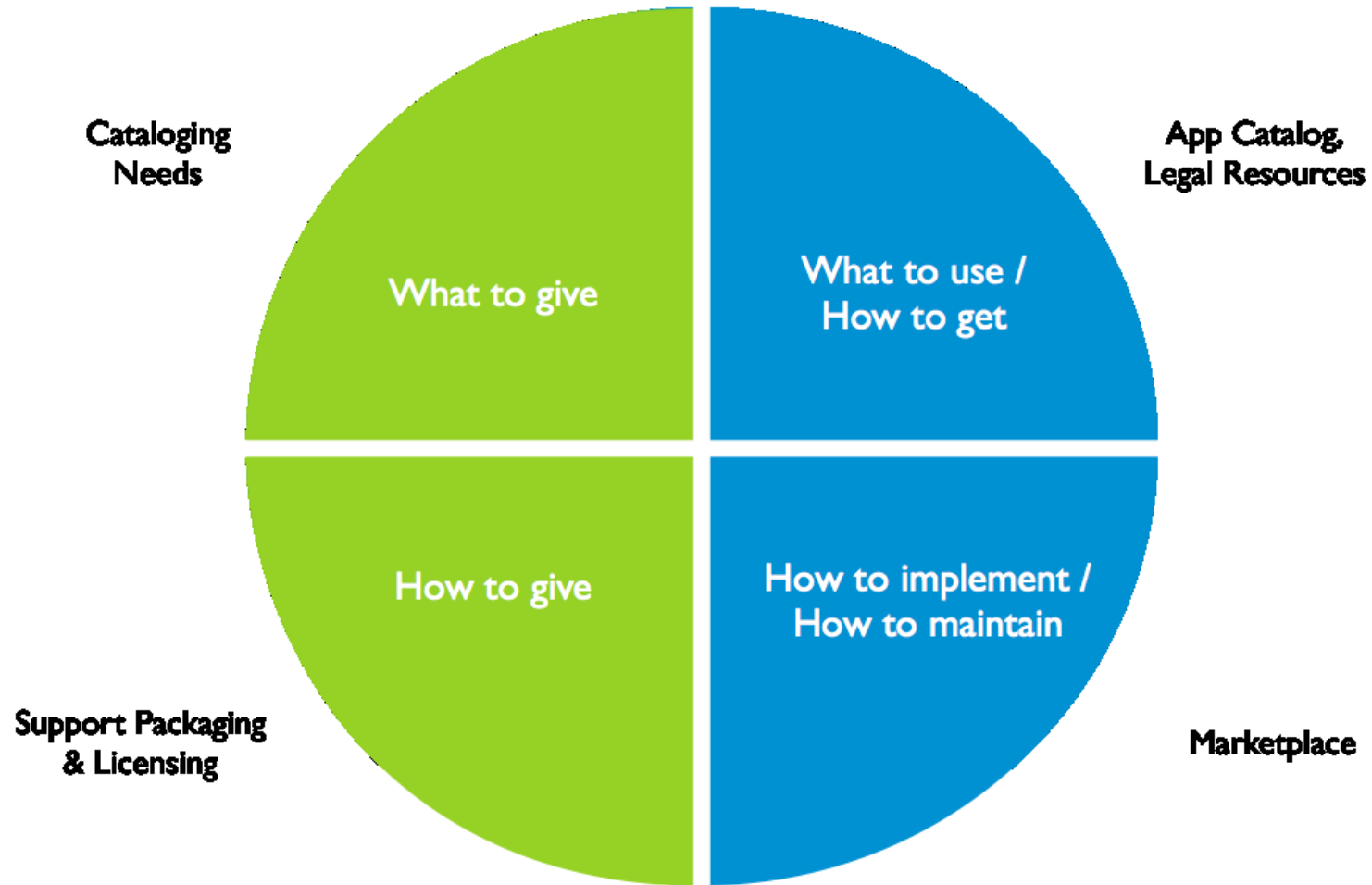


GRAPHIC: JESSICA HAGY/INDEXED

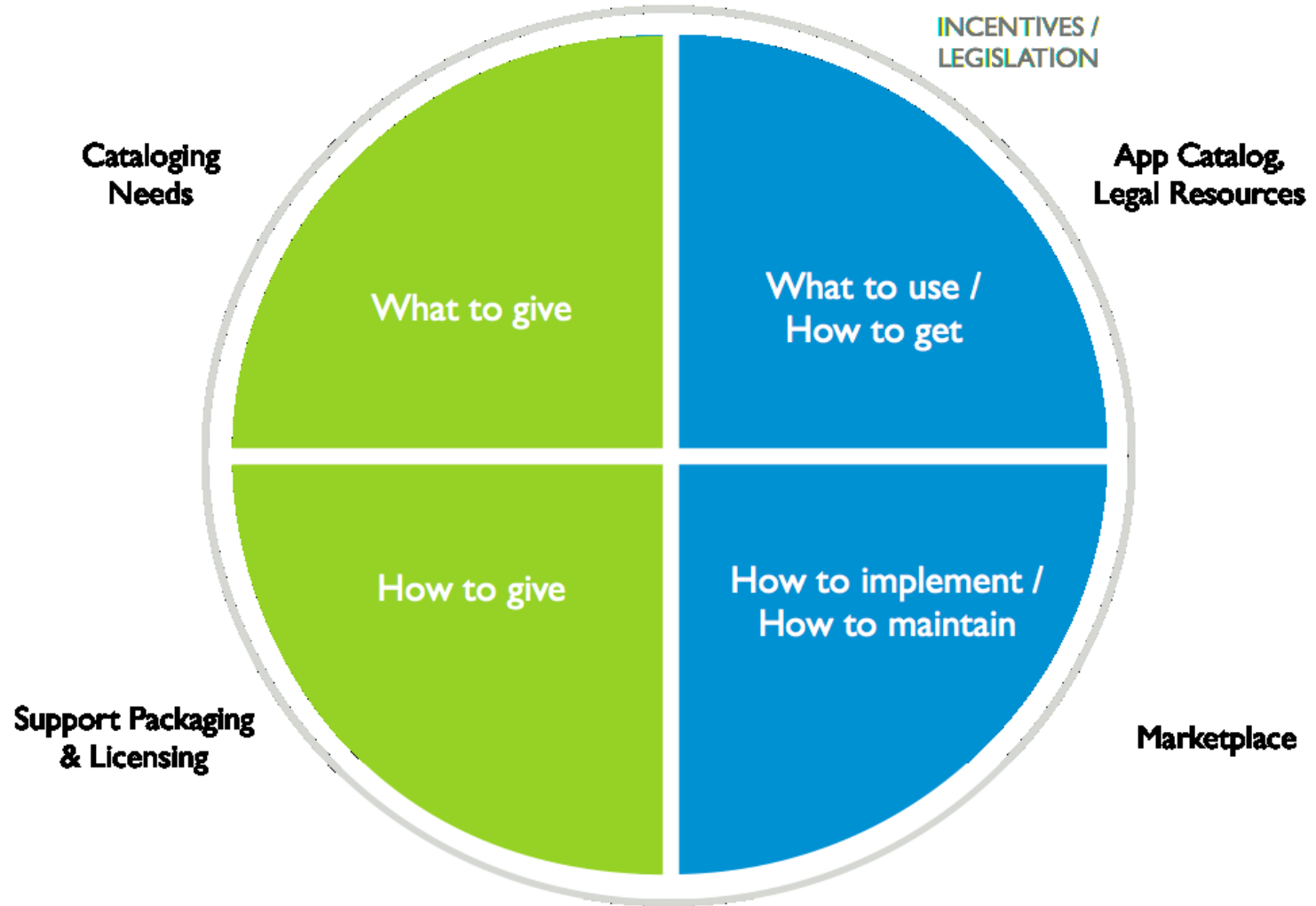
THE SOLUTION: SUPPLY-SIDE



THE SOLUTION: DEMAND-SIDE



THE SOLUTION: COMPLETE SYSTEM



THE START: CIVICCOMMONS.COM



Starter Projects
San Francisco's
"Enterprise Addressing
System"
Federal IT Dashboard

Roadmap
The ED Search
Fellows Start
Secure Funding
Launch Independent
Organization

OUR GROWING VILLAGE



QUESTIONS?
Are Good.

CODE *for*
AMERICA

The New York Times

Journalism With Data

And how the Web makes it easier – and better.





Derek Willis

- . @derekwillis
 - . <http://open.nytimes.com>
 - . Reporter turned Web developer
 - . Worked at CQ, Washington Post
 - . NYTimes 2007-Present
-

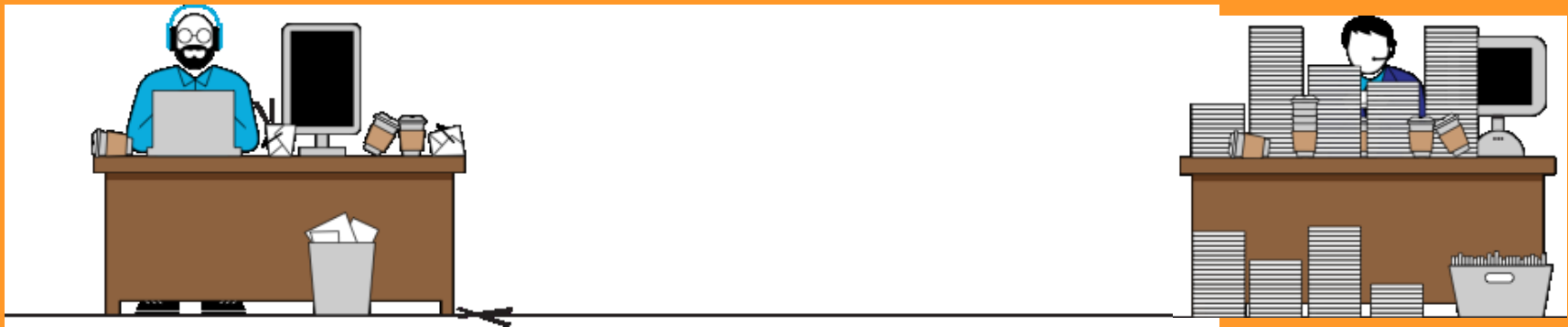
The New York Times

- . APIs
- . 2010 Election
- . Toxic Waters
- . Congressional data
- . more...

Great Moment in Media Data Usage



A traditional way newsrooms work with data



Database Editor

Journalist

A Disability Epidemic Among a Railroad's Retirees

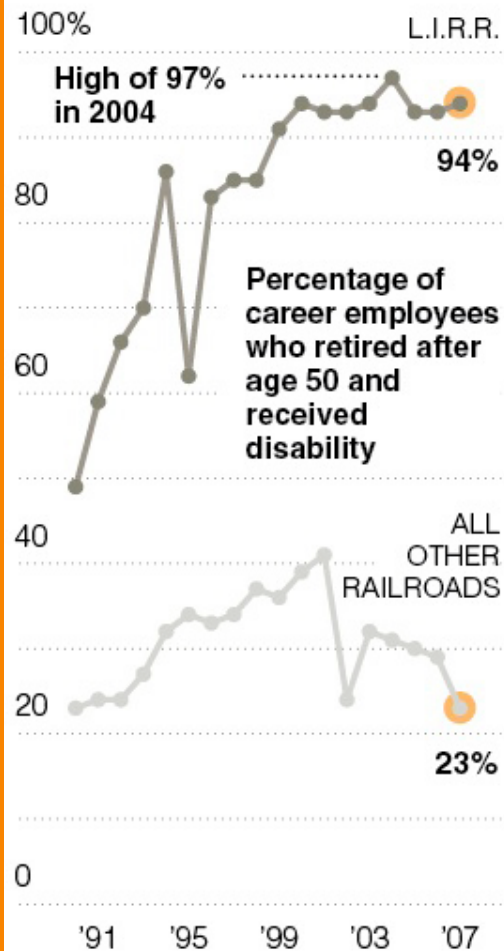
By WALT BOGDANICH

Published: September 20, 2008

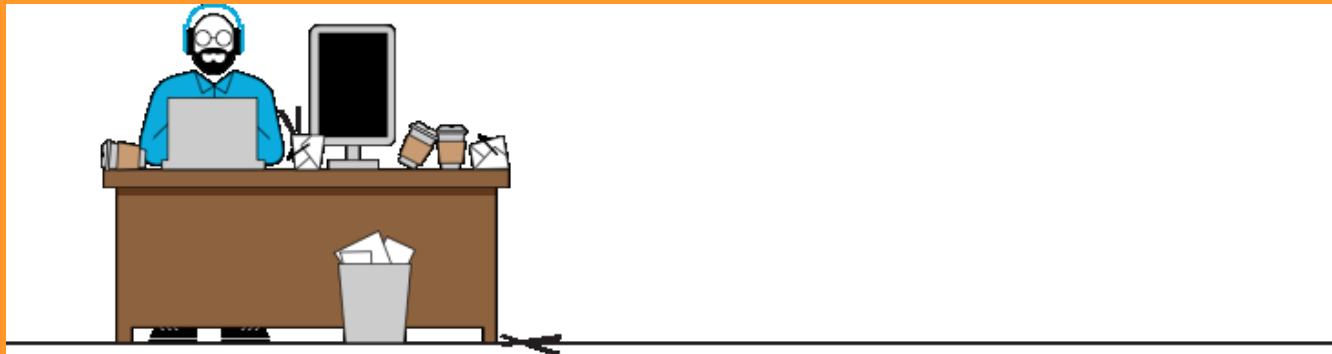
Virtually every career employee — as many as 97 percent in one recent year — applies for and gets disability payments soon after retirement, a computer analysis of federal records by The New York Times has found. Since 2000, those records show, about a quarter of a billion dollars in federal disability money has gone to former L.I.R.R. employees, including about 2,000 who retired during that time.

Retired, Then Disabled

In 2007, 94 percent of career employees who retired from the Long Island Rail Road after age 50 then received disability benefits, far above the average for all railroads.



The new newsroom/developer relationship



Database Editor/Developer/Journalist

Interactive News Technology

@ **The New York Times**

Use the web to tell a story,
not just as a delivery
medium.

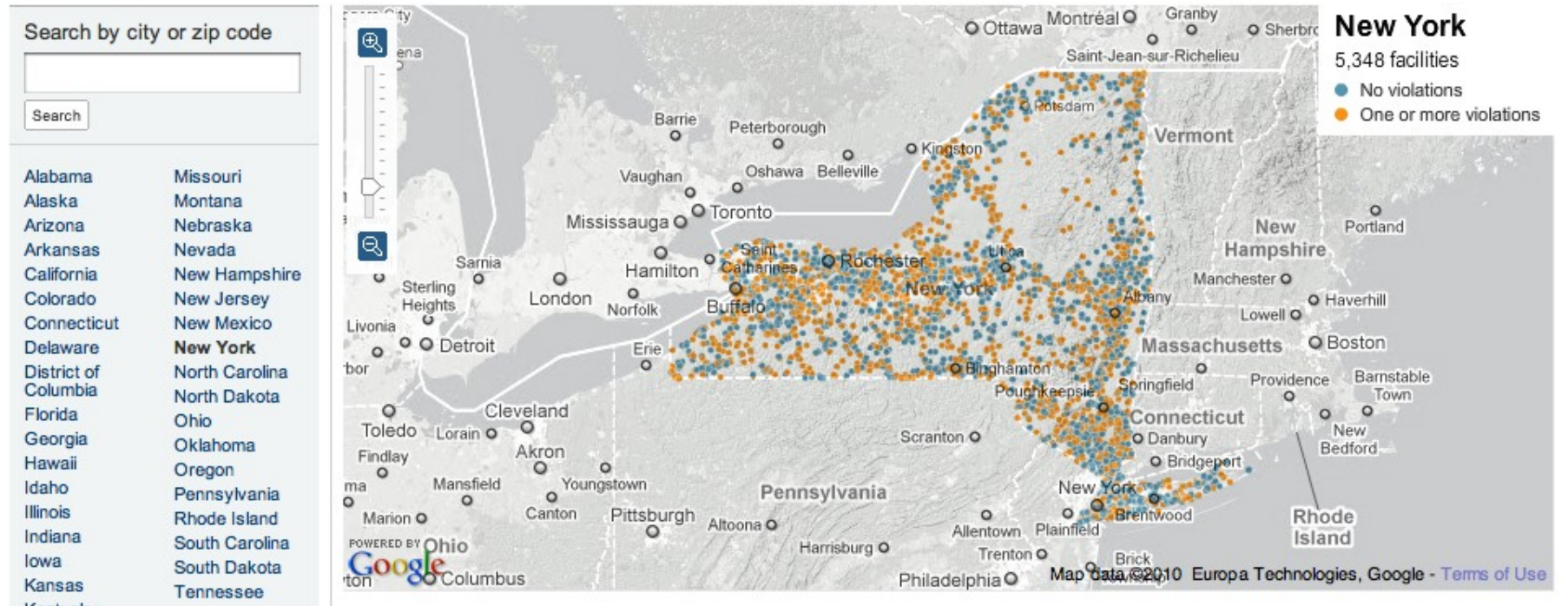
Allow the Data To Help Tell the Story: Toxic Waters

Find Water Polluters Near You

SHARE | FEEDBACK | E-MAIL

Across the nation, the system that Congress created to protect the nation's waters under the Clean Water Act of 1972 today often fails to prevent pollution. The New York Times has compiled data on more than 200,000 facilities that have permits to discharge pollutants and collected responses from states regarding compliance. Information about facilities contained in this database comes from two sources: the Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Water Resources Control Board. The database does not contain information submitted by the states. [Full Story »](#)

What's in your water? | State enforcement records | Data and comments from the states | The discussion | **Series: Toxic Waters »**



Health Care Amendments



INSIDE CONGRESS

Overview | Votes ▾ | Bills ▾ | Nominations



SHARE

FEEDBACK

E-MAIL

Key Amendments to H.R.3590, the Senate Health Care Bill

For more coverage of the health care debate, read [Prescriptions](#), The New York Times health care blog. The New York Times has highlighted some of the bill's 506 amendments below.

LATEST ACTION DATE	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	MAIN SPONSOR				
Dec. 23, 2009	Agreed to <table><tr><td>Yes</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>60</td><td>39</td></tr></table> Vote Details	Yes	No	60	39	A Remaining Cloture Vote (S.AMDT.2786) Before dawn Tuesday morning, the Senate voted 60 to 39 along party lines on three steps necessary to proceed to the final vote. The third vote, which received the required 60 votes for approval, limited debate on the bill. Related Story »	Harry Reid Dem. of Nev.
Yes	No						
60	39						
Dec. 22, 2009	Agreed to <table><tr><td>Yes</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>60</td><td>39</td></tr></table> Vote Details	Yes	No	60	39	The Manager's Amendment (S.AMDT.3276) The Senate voted 60-40 to cut off a Republican filibuster of the "manager's amendment" -- a package of changes to the health care bill by the majority leader, Harry Reid of Nevada. The vote, which occurred at 1 a.m., proved that Senate Democrats had locked in the decisive margin needed to pass the overhaul of the nation's health care system. Related Story »	Harry Reid Dem. of Nev.
Yes	No						
60	39						

Editing is crucial online

- . Should we be doing this?
- . What is the point?
- . Will any of our readers/users care?
- . Is this going to be a core component of the story, or merely supplemental?



Journalism Saved!

OK, but how?

- . Bring data together
- . Make it portable.
- . Use HTTP whenever possible.

Helping Others ... and Ourselves

The New York Times

TIMES



Empowering Developers

APIs

- Article Search
- Best Sellers
- Campaign Finance
- Congress
- Districts
- Community
- Most Popular
- Movie Reviews
- Real Estate
- Newswire
- TimesPeople
- TimesTags

Make Small Things Faster

How G.O.P. Senators Plan to Vote on Kagan

Elena Kagan, President Obama's nominee to the Supreme Court, is expected to be confirmed by the Senate, despite opposition of Republican lawmakers who have been critical of her. The question is: How many Republican votes will she get? Mr. Obama's previous nominee, Sonia Sotomayor, received nine Republican votes. Of those nine, none face re-election this year, three are retiring and a fourth — Mel Martinez of Florida — has already left the Senate. Here is where the Republicans stand so far based on their public statements. The most recent announcements of intent are at the top.

Show:

5 YES 36 NO 0 UNKNOWN

Quotes: [Expand all](#) | [Collapse all](#) 


		PREVIOUS VOTES ON:							
HOW THE SENATOR PLANS TO VOTE	STATE	KAGAN, SOLICITOR GENERAL	SOTOMAYOR, SUPREME COURT	STATE'S WINNER IN 2008	PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION	WHAT THEY HAVE SAID			
NO	Christopher S. Bond	Mo.	NO	YES	MCCAIN	< 1	<i>"Putting a check on activist ...</i> MORE »		
NO	Scott Brown	Mass.			OBAMA	+26	<i>"The best umpires, to use the ...</i> MORE »		
NO	Michael B. Enzi	Wyo.	NO	NO	MCCAIN	+32			
NO	Pat Roberts	Kan.	NO	NO	MCCAIN	+15	<i>"I find her lack of judicial ...</i> MORE »		
NO	Sam Brownback	Kan.	NO	NO	MCCAIN	+15	<i>"I have too many questions about the ...</i> MORE »		
NO	Thad Cochran	Miss.		NO	MCCAIN	+13	<i>"After reviewing the record and her ...</i> MORE »		
NO	John Barrasso	Wyo.	NO	NO	MCCAIN	+32	<i>"I believe she allowed her personal ...</i> MORE »		
NO	Michael D. Crapo	Idaho	NO	NO	MCCAIN	+25	<i>"More than 1,500 Idahoans have ...</i> MORE »		

Make Friends

The New York Times
Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Open

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION



OPEN

All the Code That's Fit to `printf()`

August 31, 2010, 6:08 PM

TimesOpen 2.0: Get Inspired

By MARCI WINDSHEIMER

On September 2 (a mere two days from today!), we're hosting the first event in the [TimesOpen 2.0](#) series. The theme is Mobile/Geolocation, the [speakers](#) are awesome, and the beer will be cold. But if that's not enough to inspire you, take a look at the [Times Developer Network gallery](#), which includes these mobile/geolocation apps: