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>> Good morning, everyone and welcome to our December forum call. This is Rachael
Sak and I'm here for center of excellence in digital government and a co-chair of
the federal web managers council along with Jeffrey levy from EPA and Cheryl
Campbell from GS, also. We are delighted to have Grey Brookes from SEC media here
with me today. He also is the co-chair of our technology and innovation subcouncil
along with ray Ramone from the ACHP and I'm sure you all are familiar with Graves
because he is great at stepping in and providing what's great advice
>> So we're thrilled to have Gray with us today to talk about some of the really
awesome things they are doing with the SEC.gov. They've been doing a lot of work
toward rebuilding their entire website and they're using some interesting technology
called APIs, application programming interfaces to deliver content to their
customers in different ways
>> So Gray will be talking to us about what APIs are and how they work and why it's
important technology for all of to us pay attention to because I think I see the use
of this technology just growing throughout government and we are just very happy to
have Gray with us today to gave us a little introduction and background. So I will
turn it over to Gray
>> Hi, everyone. We haven't met thus far. I'm Grey Brooks with the new media team
at federal communication and I want to talk about a few things we're working on and
some other agencies are working on and that we think are worth thinking about now,
worth starting to focus on, but I'd love to actually keep it fair Lynn formal, show
you some thing -- fairly informal, show you some things and then definitely see who
has questions
>> You know, I think the Q and A part is always best. Maybe do that, talk a little
bit more and then more questions. , so you know, if I'm get doing long winded on
something, just take bring it home, brother -- type bring it home, brother, in the
chat box.
>> So for the quickest bit of background the federal communications website, the old
website was last updated 10 years ago actually. This is it. It's a very large
cumbersome website and widely panned. I know we all kind of compete for who has the
worst experience with their website, but it was 10 years in the making of just
adding more crest
>> So one of our biggest efforts has been on trying to complete the migration and
transition the functionality of the material over to our new website which we hosted
in the cloud and we're trying to just fundamentally shift things
>> I know that most agencies are dealing with redesign efforts, but I want to talk
about APIs because not only do they play a role in this and some of the other
projects, but also we think that it has implications for the things we're doing in
six months and in, you know, 16 months and more.
>> So all of this on the old decide is static HTML. We launched the new SEC.gov
with a CMS, which is helpful. I know that's the factor for many people, but we're
on track and hopefully, you know, God willing everything lines up for this Tuesday
>> You should be hearing some more news from us and I wanted to give you an early
preview. So one of the things we haven't announced yet is that there's a lot of
APIs underneath the new SEC.gov. So in talking about it around the building one of
the things people asked what is an API
>> When you actually show them the pick peed ya entry, it's not that helpful --
Wikipedia entry, it's not that helpful. The best way to think of API is what people
use when they make a matchup. so when you find a neat website that takes slicker
photos and interjects them over a map, that's an API
>> Google provides the map or bing or someone else and flicker provides the photo
data. Another example is, for instance, one called trends map that shifts --
someone is using the API from Twitter to actually overlay on top of this map trends
right now in these different trending on Twitter.
>> There's a lot of different examples on this. What's notable this is the
difference is they didn't go to Twitter, download all the current information and
then create a static example of that information on a map.

>> What they did instead was they took what Twitter was offing in their Web Services -- offering in they are Web Services, they took what Bing was offering in their map services and they added the two together. So as you can see, it's ongoing and changing.
>> The first example of that at the SEC was led by a -- FCC was led by Mike burn cast about a year and a half ago by building the national broadband map.
>> If you go to broadbandmap.gov. You can see it. It is to help you visualize and find both for the country and your immediate area what the broadband options are and how fast they are. So it was taking an enormous amount of date that continues to be gathered via speed tests.
>> The interesting thing about this website is it's a very large experience, but there's only three pages to the website. There's the first page. There's the map page and then there's actually a search results pain for when you search a zip code or -- page or when you search a zip code or an address or a city or something. This is notable because clearly there are other, you know, instances, but it's the same page, just pulling in automatically the relevant information specific to this. .
>> So all of the information underlying this website we made available with APIs. We did it and then built our own website with our own APIs. We think there's a number of efficiencies in this
>> You get the benefit of having offered the same ability to the public. So you could take thing aing as underneath this website and actually -- the APIs underneath this website and actually go and create it differently with other information that you think is relevant or there's also the internal benefits.
>> So the term for this is called eating your own dog food. It's a developer term for not just public Hirsch is going to the public, but then building your application your own way in-house, but actually consuming the same APIs that you're offering to the public.
>> So the advantage of that, there's several. One is it's more efficient. Sometimes you don't have to kind of build the same thing twice, but then also when you're consuming your own APIs, you find the -- when you find errors in data, you're table to see that more quickly and correct that more quickly.
>> It's kind of like the public is, you know, keeping an eye on all the content because when they see a result that's wrong and necessity let us know, we're able to fix that -- they let us know and we're able to fix that. So we're fixing our own internal data at the same time.
>> This kind of kicked off a new section of our website presence that we call FCC.gov/webFCC.gov/webdevelopers. This is a really important page to us and it links to some of the Open Source projects we've let out and a developer mailing list, but more importantly, from this point forth this is where the public knows to go if they want to see all the APIs that the FCC is publishing. I'm get back to this, but I think this is a very easy first step for any agency and it's really recommended best practice because it kind of gets you started in the right direction. .
>> In here you can see we've started to roll out different -- more and more of our information Septembers like the accessibility clearing -- sets like the accessibility clearinghouse, form 499 database, all these things with APIs and each new API that we offer to the public is something that has a set of interested parties.
>> So some of those interested parties also have a developer who works for them or even is an amateur developer themselves. This enables them to build something maybe that we hadn't thought of or that more relevant to government that we haven't had the time or the resources to build.
>> So all of us are familiar with situations where there's not enough time in the day to do all the things that are worth doing. The model that I would reference here is it's similar to the app stores that you find with Apple and Android and that is that instead of that company trying to build all of the apps, what they've done is they've made it possible for the rest of the world to build them.
>> And so it's I think a better practice from an efficiency standpoint, but also what you find is the public's always going to as a whole do things better than we will when it comes to something like coding or building an application
>> Of
>> You know, we do what they can't. We gather this information and make it available to the public, but then by letting them kind of go from there sometimes

it's best for government to just get out of the way. In in case it was important
for us to build the national broadband map because it was required by Congress, but
honestly if we just published the APIs, someone else could have done that, too.
>> So the next thing I wanted to talk about was the FCC has 22 major public
databases. Those are what we're thinking about and trying to turn into APIs because
there's a lot of important content in there that relates to telecommunications. By
turning them into APIs we'll be able to do more cool things and so will they
>> However, people usually think about Web Services like this and I use the term API
and Web Services basically interchangeably, though that is a bit -- there's a little
bit of incorrectness in that, but I think it's safe here.
>> An interesting aspect that's also really worth thinking about these days is what
we're calling content as APIs. So on FCC.gov all of the -- there's actually not --
we don't make available to the agency the ability to create a NewPage as a content
type
>>
>> There is a page content type in here, but what we've done instead is broken up
all the common needs of the website into content types and each of those content
types have a home that you can get to it at and then that way it helps with sprawl
and structure. So you're always creating a blog post or a report page or a guide or
a help entry.
>> Each of those have their own homes on the website. Why that's relevant is that
what we're announcing next week is that there's actually an API for all of the
content of the website. So all the textual pages on the website can also be served
up via this API.
>> The question is how is that relevant? What does that mean? So the reason it's
being announced next week is that we also have our first application built with it.
My.SEC.gov which right now if you go there today, you'll see a video preview, but
then by Tuesday go back and check it out because what it is you can create an
account with third-party login or start an anonymous no sign-in session.
>> And on this pain, then, what you get is you get a dash -- page, then, what what
you get is a dashboard of content from our website that's being pulled
automatically. You can see since I'm the first user of the day, it's pulling this
content while we talk. Every other a user today will actually be getting the cached
version, so it won't take as long to load
>> Then you get the widgets and it's pulling in the documents, the material posted
to our website and enabling them to keep an eye on what's most important to them.
Each of these widgets can be embedded on another website. You can create a
dashboard with all the different elements that you want and then actually go to
share the dashboard.
>> So this Hyperlink, you can e-mail it or IM it to a friend and it will give them
the same view that they have now. With 23 widgets so far and a few more on the way
we're able to just keep rolling them out and we think that this is an area that it
won't be an answer to everyone, but it will be an answer to some people.
>> More importantly, though, this is -- it was actually a very quick list. This
came about because in the spring when we were finishing up the website, the man
leading this project, Steve Vanrokle who was managing director at the time of the
FCC asked one of our developers, a guy named Mike Reik who headed up this project
and is our genius, he asked him what else can you do with this content API? Because
we used it to build our website, but what are the other possibilities?
>> So they had that conversation on a Thursday and on a Monday he was able to come
back and actually show a prototype of this. The reason this is so important is that
it's making prototyping iteration new projects, you're able to actually give them a
try and if you like them, go ahead and build them out in a significantly smaller
time than you would under the old system where you have all your content locked into
a structure, locked into a CMS, et cetera. .
>> So there's my FCC. This is actually the first kind of alternative presentation
player to the website that we are rolling out. The ones we want to work on next
include an M.FCC.gov, so a emotional version of our website that's being powered by
the APIs and then also -- I mean the other options are interesting
>> I'll get back to this in a little bit, but we thought about trying to make a
couple different versions that are -- where the actual, you know, website itself is
personalized to the content needs of -- not content needs, the browsing needs of
different accessibility communities.

>> So, you know, an actual website whose pages are structured perfectly for quick usage by screen readers, for instance, or, you know, ultra low vision users. We always forget 508 actually represents, you know, a half dozen or more communities of users and that with this model you can actually create a variance of your website that are maintained with the content automatically because it's getting the content just as quickly as FCC.gov is getting the content and you're able to make them in way dollars personalized to a community. . -- ways that are personalized to a community.

>> For that matter, there are a number of people that are very interested in presentations of our content that we haven't even thought of and because we're publishing the actual API for our content on our website, anyone else will be able to do anything ranging from replicate our entire web presence in a section of their website to replicate certain parts.

>> So let's say a nonprofit wants to dynamically maintain all of the blog posts or make an engine where you can query any of the help guides. They're able to do that and not have to always check our website to update material, but actually make it so it's always available.

>> I know for some people that's going to say what's the difference between that and RSS? The RSS is a very important thing and is a crucial step. I would equate it to in the mantra crawl, walk, run, you know, crawling is what we've had on our old websites. Walking is offering both download, syndication via RSS. Running is APIs.

>> So when you actually look at an RSS feed, sometimes it actually only shows the most recent 10 items. It's used best for subscribing to content as it comes out, so finding out what's the months recent, you know, press releases from the agency. It's a I have important thing to offer, but -- a very important thing to offer, but also the other thing it's usually only a segment of the content.

>> The API makes all of the content available in a query. So someone can take this and just do a quick one-pain interface where you say I want all the press -- one-page press enter takes where you say I want all the press releases from October 1 foward or I want all the blog posts in this category in this period of time pulled. So you can search to boggle the mind. The implications are enormous.

>> I see the questions are starting to come in, so let me drop a couple more things and go to questions and then I know I'm talking about a lot. So in the questions I'll keep trying to answer them and then we'll go for as long as they lotus.

>> The actual API -- let us. . .

>>> the actual API that drives our website is an Open Sourced module. We released it very quietly recently. It's called content API. There are about 100.govs that use druple already and this is one of the reasons.

>> So we were able to build this module and now actually any other Druble website can install this module on a Wednesday. On Thursday test to make sure it's not causing any problems and then on a Friday make available to the public an API that makes all of the content of their website available via the same model that we've done, via Web Service.

>> I think the power in this is really great. As you can see in here, the actual work was done by Mike k Reik's company called seaborne consulting here in DC. They've really been driving this thought process of what happens when you turn a website into being made entirely via APIs.

>> I can't stress enough that this is not an enormous amount more work to do, but rather is just a different way of doing it that oftentimeses is as easy or easier than you would otherwise be doing about and then actually makes future projects infinitely easier and faster.

>> So the content API module is available for Druple websites today. I personally think it's worth anyone giving a try and actually running with it and offering it to the public and seeing what the public does with your content. Remember it's all publically content anyway. So this just lets other people innovate on how to use it.

>> The same developer at seaborn consulting also tried to somehow I us a recent mock-up -- or an actual -- show us a recent mock-up -- or not mock-up. An actual prototype. So with the.gov going on here at the Federal Government we are also dealing a lot with how do you get agencies to collaborate auto websites?

>> on websites?

>> So the federal register is the only one who has gone so far with API so Favre. They recently released all -- far. They recently released all their content API. You can see the info here, but basically what this is is this taking the FCC's content, the federal register's content and starting to offer a great interface for interacting with it.

>> This was another weekend project that was just meant to show how it works. The implications of this when it is coming from 10 different agencies or 100 or honestly all Federal Government is very important and I think is going to provide a lot of the solutions that we're looking for in the long run.

>> So getting to a quick point and then getting to questions because I want to stop talking. I know I go too long. What I would say is I've touched on a lot of things. Reach out any time and I'm going to be happy to follow up on this with any agency going foward. The FCC really wants to drive this.

>> We see this as I think actually it's impossible to argue that this is not going to become a central farther of who we are over the next couple years -- part of who we are over the next couple years.

>> If your agency has not started with APIs, there are small simple ways to just get started. I would argue that in 18 months' time everyone of our agencies is going to be hearing about this and the expectation is going to there be. This is where the rest of the Internet is going and it is very, very logical from a, you know -- from being pragmatic about what you're working on this month to also preparing for the future to get started on this because once you get started it becomes easier and easier to improve.

>> There's a lot of implications here and I guess what I would say is if you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, please reach out to the FCC. Newmedia at FCC.gov and then my e-mail address gray.brooks at FCC.gov or developers at FCC.governor

>> I think it's in all of our -- FCC.gov

>> I think it's in all of our interests to go down this road because it's going to make the next website integration 10 times faster and kind of break down the problems that have always held us back. Because of the way this liquefies content, it fundamentally changes the game with 508.

>> You can make all of your content available to everyone in the way that's best for them much easier this way and the ramifications I think just are very important to start working on now because it's going to be worth it and it's going to be awesome.

>> So again sorry for talking too long and just waxing poetic there. Let's see, looking at some of the questions here, let's see, with can he hear more about their developer community? -- with can he hear more about their developer community? How did they -- can we hear more about their developer community? How did they get their projects together? How has this helped improve the FCC's information delivery?

>> Just a quick answer. We've been recruiting mainly through the developer this year. We've had one hack-a-thon here at the FCC, a few contests, a few app contests, but honestly we're still just getting started with this because we're doing this as much for our internal reasons as we are for the public.

>> I think it's good government. I know it's good government, but also like it's good IT and it finally breaks us out of some of the like very, very monolithic problems that we've always had.

>> Someone else asked about the third-party login feature, what do we do to be able to use that, what security issues did we run into

>> So on my FCC if you want to be able to save your setup, your dashboard, the best way is by creating a third-party account. There is a recent OMB memo if you Google it driving this and basically all of -- we're using AOL, Facebook, Google, open ID, Twitter and Yahoo!.

>> We try to spell out very clearly in the privacy policy the implications for the public. We don't share any information with the third-party Web Service and the third-party Web Service we do not consume any of that information. It depends on which service you're using how flexible that is. You cannot architect, for instance, with Facebook third-party login so that it would be impossible for us to see, you know, their profile address, but the actual user experience here we disclaim we clearly. So does Facebook

>> At the end of the day it just works well. The us in thing about it is that it gets us out of the business of maintaining user accounts and passwords. I don't

want to have to maintain the public's user all in and password, but I think that's
something I don't want that on our plate.
>> So security implications are great because it's always outside of our firewall
and it just simplifies things and also it's something which is good for the consumer
because they have one less username to remember.
>> So let's see. Someone wrote in about the query feature, what kind of content
tagging do you have to do to get that to work? How can you just query all 2008
press releases, for example?
>> You're absolute right. Taxonomy and meta data is an important part to this. We
have a date and depending on the content type it has different meta data, usually
the bureau or agency it's from. Oftentimes there are categories such as report type.
 There are basically 15 recurring reports that the FCC puts out.
>> So adding that just as a meta data field it's something people can filter by that
on the front page of the website, but that comes as you go. Now there's one other
layer that we added. We did add a topics meta data field for all of our content.
So there's 80 topics ranging from cell phone interference to texting while driving
to, you know, public safety, and we asked all the content producers in our agency to
apply those as appropriately as they see fit when they're creating content.
>> Now clearly people do that to varying degrees of success, but just starting is
the way to go. You can always improve your taxonomy. That's easy. The difficult
part is just getting it up to begin about.
>> Let's see. Yeah, sure. Someone wanted to see the back end of our website, which
is how we are entering content into Druple and the Drup lengths e API module is
making -- Druple API module is making it available for FCC.
>> This will all be so helpful because there's a lot of things you can't see.
Basically if you go to create content, go to create a blog post, for instance, you
know, you can see the different meta data fields that we have here, the actual body
content, bureaus, offices, category, but at the end of the day a lot of the stuff
comes out of the box, it's easy to create new meta data. That's easy.
>> And then what happens is you make the interface, you know, the API public and
even if it's not something you get, there are lots of people out there and they get
it and they'll come and kneel use your content in a way that's -- they'll use your
content in a way that's Brit because already unless you're the IRS or the -- great
because already unless you're the IRS or the US Postal Service, for most of our
agencies it's not natural for a visit in the world to think I want to go to a.gov
website.
>> We want to not make it so that a.gov is the only place they can find their
content because we want them to fine the content where it's relevant for them
whether that's on Facebook or on the consumer reports website or, you know, whatever
website is relevant to them, whatever they want to go to anyway.
>> So I know that's a lot of talking. It's 11:30. I chose the questions I've seen
so far in the chat box. Are there other questions? What's going through your heads

>> There are some other questions. One is can you talk about your code
repositories? Are you using both source forge and get hub and have you seen
external developers adding to this repository as well
>> Good question. So we started because GSA, great people that they are, keep
adding new third-party services that in this case it's free. The terms of service
gets worked out. So our lawyers take take look at it and then just go ahead and we
move foward with it.
>> For our developers and I think actually this may be the wider trend in
government, get hub is becoming much more popular. We've tried to backfill projects
that we've done, but at the end of the day we're now focusing pretty exclusively on
our get hub account which is linked here.
>> Again it's free. The terms of service is worked out for federal agencies and
it's good for agencies to be open to these things. We really encourage it within
the agencies and with other agencies because you guys have built something at your
agency that I would love to be able to just turned an and use and there's a lot of
efficiency that can come from that.
>> As far as actual other developers contributing back, I think we've had a couple.
I do not pay as much attention to it pause we have an Open Source -- because we have
an Open Source named Jim Walker who has been doing a lot for us.
>> We've had people e-mail and say thanks and what about this and we've been able to

take some of nose ideas and turn them around and rerelease them. -- those ideas and turn them around and rerelease them
>> So there's some small stuff in there, but a lot of the stuff we do for indexing, doing the migration we open source as well. So we think it's worth looking at and also the feature we're hop ing to run off here is other.gov API hubs.
>> So, for instance, we spoke to a department yesterday who was saying how some of their agencies are publishing APIs but not in any coordinated way and so what I told them was if you have the ability to create a NewPage on your.gov, then just make a/API or a/developer and just start linking to the APIs that may have been built elsewhere in your department or your agency because what's great about that is it gets people to start thinking along the lines of like we should keep adding, you know, like this is where -- when we make an API, we should put it here and just by starting that ball rolling, you probably need minimal approval for that.
>> It's the right thing to do. So I really encourage people to just, you know, if they know of APIs out there, start, you know, gathering links to them in one place because then that start getting people more on the same page.
>> Great. Another question was how did you approach the content selection for this site? Meaning the content types that are used here on FCC.gov? How do you govern the ongoing content taxonomy
>> It was hard, but that's I mean our website has 1.2 million pages on the old website and a lot of that's been machine generated, but what we did was we started looking at there are 17 offices and bureaus on the old FCC.governor. We browsed through all of their con -- FCC.gov.
>> We browsed through all of their content basically and there are some deep, deep wells of 100,000 pages here, but we skipped that and just focus on if you start at the top layer of your website, go down one layer, go down two layers, you start to see trends. So, for instance, the most important section on our website, we have a report section that's aggregated/reports, a guide section, a working paper section
>> The encyclopedia section is actually just like the everything else. So the idea of the FCC encyclopedia was to prevent sprawl. So whenever someone says we need X obscure obscure page, they can make that and it's browsable and it shows up in the search, but it also then keeps that from being something that gets in the way of other people who don't need that.
>> And so what I would suggest is think about what are the -- there's also just official documents and within the official document section there's another 40 types of documents, but you can still bundle those up as just documents
>> Of
>> So we have documents. We have videos. We have blog posts, we have guides and another thing I'll tell you is you don't have to win the war all at once. We've gotten maybe 70% of our legacy website content taken into account, you know. The invent section, you know, aggregates what used to just be like links to pages everywhere, you know, that had invent info. .
>> But if you just can start to take all those logical fields of contents, all those buckets, articulate them, wall them off, give them a home, then that creates the scalability so all the old content doesn't center to drown out new content and then also you're able to better and better see kind of what's still left outside of the bucket. .
>> Great. Another question is could you please discuss the difference between data.gov and the APIs. Is the data out there for the APIs on data.gov as well?
>> So this is a $50,000 question. Sometimes yes, sometimes no. I think they're coming together better. We've tried to upload some of our content at.gov and I think that.gov will meet agencies in middle of all this. So this is where the game changing is going to happen over the next 12 months.
>> So a friend of ours over at homeland security talks about trying to coordinate the agencies of homeland security to be on a single CMS. Now we all know that with a department and many agencies within it that level of cajoling can be difficult and sometimes even impossible like realistically maybe like just can't be done.
>> That depends on the circumstances in the department and sometimes you can make it happen. Sometimes you can't. What's great about APIs and the game changer when you turn your website into something that's made available via APIs it doesn't matter anymore because you can have a scenario where agencies are maintaining their own content and hosting as theirs, but then you're able to create a developmental website that aggregates it all or you can create a departmental website that's

unified, but it gives the agencies the flexibility to personalize another
experience.
>> And because with one publish it goes to wherever the API is being served then
it's all maintained at the same time. You don't have the kind of liaisonning
problems in the partly sunny with content because you just build it and -- in the
problems with content because you just build it and it builds itself.   .
>> So.gov with the APIs is a game changer in the centralization or decentralization
question we've always wrestled with. I know it's hard to make sense, but trust me
when I say you go down this path and it stops mattering who wins that argument
centralization or decentralization because you can have your cake and eat it, too.

>> This is Rachael again. Alycia tells me this is the last question, so anyone that
has a final question, please plug them into the chat box right now, but I just want
to say this is a fascinating presentation. Thank you so much, a lot of great
information and die think that we're going to be -- I do think that we're going to
be moving in this direction in the future. So I think you've kind of given us a
glimpse into what's coming down the path and I hope everyone else found it as
fascinating as I did.
>> Alycia, do you have any more questions coming in?
>> One just popped in. Will you be using any mapping GIS APIs on your site
>> Yes. So the current/developers have a few already. We were lucky to steal the
GIO and information officer from California. So he's the guy who built.gov and in
order to do that we also publish a census block conversion. So it tells you what
census block you're in. There's a couple others like that where you can give a
location and get back information specific to it, but at the end of the day this is
why it's so important.
>> You know, we built a census block API, but census.gov can do it better. We were
talking talking about them yesterday and I think they're really chugging away at
this.
>> So what's going to happen is each agency can just focus on what they do best, do
it, maintain it and then other agencies can build the matchups off their own content
and other's.
>> So that's why it's so important. All of have us content and data that's highly
relevant not just to the be if public, but to other agencies and in gets us out of
that model of having to do everything ourselves, do everything all over again. So
like I said, please, whatever the FCC can do, let us know. We'd love to help drive
the conversation foward
>> There's one more question and I just the 2 to say I've had a lot of comments --
want to say I've had a lot of comments come in about how great and eye opening and
fascinating this has been, but the last question, what should an agency do to get
started?
>> Great question. And let me just say now reach out and I'm happy to have this
conversation in more in-depth depending on the agency. So it depends on your
resources and your abilities.
>> I strongly advise if you're in the process of writing a contract for a new system
or you're renewing a contract for an existing system, build into it just from simple
language, you know, three sentences that say -- and you have to publish an API for
this data.
>> Secondly, trust when I say you can grab an afternoon with the SunLite foundation
and, you know, a developer and meet with your system owners and it's actually fairly
easy to create APIs out of existing datasets, yeah, and baking it in so that they're
there from now on, also not hard.
>> If you're running a Druple websitor you're updating your website and you can
Druple, the content is what's great about Open Source. It's free. It's open. You
can look at the source code if your security guys are concerned, but fact is you can
install if today and be publishing an API on all of your web content tomorrow.
>> What I would say again, though, is I'm not an expert in technology. I'm a
history major back in the day, but the fact is if you know of other people in your
agency who have done an API, then start a hub on your website/API and just link to
it. Give two sentences description and link to it and start encouraging all the
system owners, all the developers, all the geeks and nerds that you know Mo to do
this anyway to keep doing it -- love to do this anyway to keep doing it more and
you'll give them a home. That's what kind of gets the engine spinning up

>> This is Rachael. I'd love that and I wanted to mention, too, we haven't announced it to anybody yet, but we are planning on launching what we're going to call I think how to labs on howto.gov which would be kind of a central repository of all of the different we development efforts that are going on across government.

>> , so for example, we'll have info about your FCC developer community and link that to everything that agencies are doing in this arena. So folks on the call, if you are able to set up some kind of a sandbox on your websites for your community to kind of help you get in and develop some really cool stuff with your data, let us know on the how to team. We would love to be able to loop you from how to and just continue the sharing of information all across the government. So that's great, Gray. Thanks so much.

>> Okay, well, Alycia, any last questions or is that it?

>> That was it

>> Okay, awesome. All right. Well, Gray, thank you again. That was really great and I'm glad that folks on the call enjoyed, it also. It was really fascinating presentation and right now I'd like to turn the call over to Sheila Campbell who is our center for excellence in judicial government and she's going to give a quick update on the.gov reform efforts that our team over here has been working on for several months along with lots of other folks from web council and across government. So Sheila, go ahead

>> Hi, Rachael. Good morning, everybody. I just wanted to echo Rachael and Alycia that was really fantastic, Gray, and I think this is a really good transition to what I'm going to talk about because this releases well into a lot of the work we've been talking about in terms of improving federal websites and making our content more shareable and easy to distribute and so this is really, really fantastic stuff that you're doing.

>> I actually want to encourage people that I know this is an extremely busy week. We've got so much going on, everybody trying to crush everything into this one week. I think there are a lot of folks who normally would have love to have heard Gray's presentation but didn't have the time today, but we're going to record it and make it on demand. So when we send that out, if you can encourage your web teams to watch, it especially if folks are going to be around over the holidays, they might have a little extra free time. So it would be a good time for people to watch the whole thing and get up to speed on this because this is really the wave of the future. So you guys are really fine nears out there, FCC, and -- Pioneers out there, FCC, and there's a lot of other people out there looking to do this.

>> And I think what you said we should be sharing these resources and we're trying to city up some sort of developer community where we could share this kind of work. So kudos all around.

>> So the way that this fit into the way with the dot governor reform, I can't remember the -- the.gov reform, I can't remember what we got you up to speed. The last check-in was in October when we did those three data calls to the federal branch agencies and you all were inputting data for the.gov inventory. .

>> We also asked the major agencies to complete an agencywide web governance survey and then there were also requirements to put in a web improvement plan and talk about your current operations and what you're planning to do to streamline your web operations.

>> So we've been cleric by the.gov task force has been working -- basically the.gov task force has been working since mid-October to gather that data and put it together in a state of the federal web report. So we are putting that together. It may be released shortly. We don't know exactly when that's coming out.

>> It may be very, very soon and so just a heads up. The federal web managers council and task force folks have seen a draft version of that state of the federal web report. So I think for most of you you in a have actually seen a draft copy of that, but basically it's sort of a factual representation of all the data that we found and as you can imagine, it paints kind of a mixed picture where we are in the federal web space.

>> I think we all know there is a lot inch efficiencies in terms of the number of -- lot of inefficiencies in terms of the number of systems to run these websites and a number of them outdated.

>> But at the same time there's a lot of good work being done and agencies are committed to moving foward to building stronger web governance and trying to clean up the websites out there and have a more strategic way to manage this.

>> There's never been anything like this done before, a real comprehensive assessment and then the next step of that is the.gov task force is working on a federal web strategy and now that we have all the data that tells us the current states and ideas what do we do moving foward to address some of the things that we want to achieve and that is also in the works.
>> There's a draft that's being worked on now and we hope to get out to agencies after the holidays and then the plan after we get agency input which you all will get a copy of and we encourage you all to provide input is to get it out then to the public.
>> We're excited about that, to be able to get this federal web strategy out for public input and get lots of valuable feedback in that process, too. And then the other big piece that's kind of -- we're working on simultaneously also updating the federal web policies which were last issue bid OMB back in 200-- issued by OMB in 2004.
>> We're trying to sequence these things in the right way in that the strategy should drive the policy. So we're going to get the strategy in better shape and the policies will follow from that and the agencies, of course, will have an opportunity to provide input on those as well.
>> So we feel like we're making some good progress here. The federal CIO Stevevan Rokel is very much abreast of this. He sees all the work he wants to do as federal CIO. The big theme is he has been talking about a shared services strategy which is a big part of the current draft of the strategy. It's a lot of what Gray was just talking about in terms of we need to do a better job of sharing our resources instead of setting up separate systems every time we want to have a new website. So that's a big theme and then, of course, focus on content is a really big team as we all have been talking about in terms of improving the customer experience.
>> So there's some really good work being done and I think the next step is in a couple weeks you all should hopefully see a copy of the strategy to provide input to. So I'm happy to take any questions before we wrap up. Rachael, any questions out there
>> I don't see any questions.
>> Okay
>> One more thing, this is Gray, everyone, she is amazing. We should do everything she says. . . The other thing is a few people have e-mailed and the FCC is happy to foul. If you want to do a conference call or if you're in DC and want to gather some people together, I think this is an all roads kind of rise with the tide thing. So let us know and we're happy to help if you want to represent this sometime.
>> That's awesome. Thank you.
>> Yeah. We'd love that
>> Okay. Well, I think we can wrap it up, then. Thanks so much Of, Gray, again for that awesome, presentation. Thank you, Sheila, for the update on the government reform work and thanks for your great support on these calls, Alycia and Darrel. Thanks to all of you. I wish you all a very happy holiday season and we'll see you in January for our next forum call third Thursday of the month at 8:00 Pacific, 11:00 eastern. Happy holidays, everybody. Thank you. Bye bye. [EventConcluded]]