



U.S. Department of Labor
Digital Government Strategy (DGS) Milestone #1.2 – **Open Data Policy Implementation**

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Introduction

This document summarizes the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) overall status and approach for implementing DGS Milestone #1.2, *Open Data Policy Implementation*, which has two parts requiring federal agencies to:

- A. Provide a description of their overall approach to open data and managing information as an asset including how system interoperability and openness will be maximized consistent and in compliance with OMB’s government-wide open data policy as published per DGS Milestone #1.1 (See the note below.)
- B. Set up an agency.gov/developer page or hub to be used to communicate public Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), web services, available agency datasets, and a link to open source code to assist and support public API and mobile app developers in leveraging DOL datasets.

Note: On May 9, 2013, the President signed an [Executive Order](#) - *Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information* and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released its [Open Data Policy](#) - *Managing Information as an Asset* memorandum, M-13-13. As the open data Executive Order, policy, and associated OMB guidance were recently released, DOL plans to update this summary document to fully address and/or incorporate changes and/or updates, accordingly.

Background

DGS Background

On May 23, 2012, the Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO) initiated the DGS entitled *Building a 21st Century Platform to Better Serve the American People*. The primary goal of the DGS is to leverage digital technology and information to better manage and improve the delivery of digital services across the Federal Government. The DGS describes ten agency milestones that are to be implemented within 12 months of the release of the strategy document.

To ensure the successful implementation of the DGS milestones, the DOL Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and Office of Public Affairs (OPA) are leading and working

collaboratively in implementing the Department's DGS and complying with OMB's DGS milestone requirements.

The scope of DOL's digital services include: open data and content on DOL's Internet and Intranet websites, social media sites, public DOL communications, public API, public mobile app services, mobile device and wireless contract management, as well as digital services associated with internal DOL IT systems and services.

DOL Open and Transparent Government Background

In 2011, in support of the President's Open and Transparent Government initiative, DOL OPA took the initiative to establish a public-facing Developer Community website, <http://developer.dol.gov/> to assist, support, and encourage public entities to develop user friendly software applications using DOL datasets. In addition to open datasets, DOL is the first Federal Government Agency to support public application developers with software development kits or SDKs to make access to DOL data as easy as possible. DOL currently offers SDKs for six common platforms/languages: iOS, .Net, Android, Ruby, Blackberry, and PHP. DOL has published these SDKs to GITHUB.com to make it easy for developers to download and use them in creating innovative mobile and/or web applications.

In addition to making DOL data open and available to the public, DOL has also initiated public challenges via the www.challenge.gov website to encourage developers to create useful smart phone applications using DOL datasets and other public information. For example, in October 2011, DOL announced the winners of two contests, launched in July 2011, for third-party developers to showcase innovative uses of the Department's data. SymSoft Solutions in Sacramento, CA, with its "Where are the jobs?" application, won the Occupational Employment Statistics challenge to help connect unemployed workers with promising careers. Rachel Moore in Alexandria, Va., won the "informAction app" challenge to empower consumer choices about the hotel, motel, restaurant and retail industries with her "Eat Shop Sleep" mobile application. DOL Mobile Application Development Contest Winners can be viewed at: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/apps/winners.htm>. These public challenges demonstrate DOL's leadership and commitment to open government data -- making it publicly accessible and easy-to-use via mobile apps. These collaborative government and public efforts are a great example of the value of DOL's open government and open data initiative.

Likewise, on August 9, 2012, DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) economic data was used in consolidation with economic data from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, to create the Census Bureau's first mobile application called "America's Economy." The mobile app provides updated statistics on the U.S. economy, including monthly economic indicators and economic trends. The app also supports the real-time capture of 16 key government statistics that drive business hiring, sales, and production decisions. The app is useful for small businesses, the construction industry, the banking industry, journalists, economists, planners, policymakers, and others who want or need to access or monitor U.S. economic data.

The DOL has also launched an integrated Open Government Searchable Enforcement Database. This integrated data warehouse provides the public with access to enforcement data collected by the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Wage and Hour Division (WHD), and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) in one location and is searchable along a series of common dimensions such as State, Zip, Industry Code (with additional search criteria scheduled for future releases). In addition to the added value of access to aggregate enforcement data, this database also provides access to a variety of previously unpublished data. Users can also download the raw datasets in bulk in machine readable formats.

This initiative increased the transparency of DOL's enforcement data by enabling more user-specific search results in an integrated fashion. For example, residents of a particular neighborhood or workers in a particular industry can see all of the enforcement data related to their community or workplace. Prior to this public integrated database, only OSHA and MSHA enforcement information was available online. Accessing enforcement data from other DOL agencies was onerous and time consuming. In some cases, accessing data would require submitting a FOIA request. In addition, once a requestor had all the data requested, there was no easy way to cross-reference it. The DOL Searchable Enforcement Database provides a single, easy to search, point of entry to the Department's enforcement records.

The current version of the Enforcement Database provides enhanced usability, data visualization capabilities, and enriched datasets. The look and feel of the site has been completely revamped to provide visual access to the data utilizing open source mapping capabilities to display OSHA, WHD and MSHA Inspections and Violations data for the last 30 days. In addition, users can drill down to view the individual inspection record or the company or mine history. The map view also provides census demographic data for the State (Source: Census 2010 (when available) and for the 2009 American Community Survey, providing a larger context for agency data.

The DOL Enforcement Database has spurred thinking about how we use our data more effectively to convey the mission and value of the Department's work. The site has also provided seed code to other agencies to leverage for their internal development and is promoting disciplined data, data visualization and metadata usage. The database has also been used heavily by press organizations and outside stakeholders to look at industry and corporate trends.

Overall Status

DOL's overall status for this milestone as described in the two parts in the *Introduction* is:
Complete as of May 15, 2013.

With respect to part A, DOL has provided a description of the overall approach in the next section of this document consistent with the new Open Data Policy and OMB's guidance. However, as noted in the *Introduction*, DOL will be updating and/or refining its overall approach accordingly.

With respect to part B, DOL has set up an [agency.gov/developer](http://developer.dol.gov/) page. As mentioned previously, DOL's OPA took the initiative back in 2011 to establish a public-facing Developer Community website, <http://developer.dol.gov/>, to assist, support, and encourage public entities to develop user friendly software applications using DOL datasets. Since that time, DOL has published 32 datasets, including 175 data tables of DOL agency information, to its public developer website. As part of its vision to implement this vast amount of publicly-available data efficiently and effectively, DOL's OPA took an innovative approach and implemented a centralized API based portal to its developer web page. This centralized API portal acts a smart centralized communications/access point for DOL's public data. Thus, instead of having a unique API for each of the 32 datasets, DOL established a scalable, single API portal that allows public access to DOL information via the 175 data tables. Some of this data, such as the data table from the Bureau of Labor Statistics is live up to the minute real-time data from their production systems.

Approach

In support of and in compliance with OMB's requirements for this milestone, DOL's approach to fulfilling the President's Executive Order - *Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information*, May 9, 2013, and OMB's associated open data policy, M-13-13, will focus on the following key policy requirements:

1. Collecting and/or creating information in a way that supports downstream information processing and dissemination activities
 - Using machine-readable and open formats
 - Using data standards
 - Ensuring information stewardship through the use of open licenses
 - Using common core and extensible metadata
2. Building information systems to support interoperability and information accessibility
 - Using scalable, flexible, and portable system design concepts to ensure data sharing
 - Meeting data management requirements
 - Developing and sharing data schemas and dictionaries, as applicable
3. Strengthening data management and release practices
 - Creating and maintaining an enterprise data inventory
 - Creating and maintaining a public data listing
 - Creating a process to engage with customers to help facilitate and prioritize data release
 - Clarifying roles and responsibilities for promoting efficient and effective data release

4. Strengthening measures to ensure that privacy and confidentiality are fully protected and that data are properly secured
 - Incorporating privacy analysis into each stage of the information management life cycle as per OMB guidance
5. Incorporating new interoperability and openness requirements into core agency processes.
 - Identifying and updating DOL's core IT policies, guidelines, processes, and/or procedures to address the new interoperability and openness requirements

Next Steps

DOL plans to work strategically to prioritize the development and implementation of activities associated with these five key open data policy requirement areas. DOL will take into consideration the following areas when implementing the requirements of the Open Data policy:

1. DOL's CIO Authority and Responsibility
2. Roles and Responsibilities of the DOL's Chief Acquisition Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Technology Officer, Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information, Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP), Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Senior Agency Official for Records Management, and Chief Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer.
3. Coordinating with the Federal CIO and the Federal CIO Council to ensure DOL is able to leverage government-wide communities of practice and any associated tools that will support information interoperability and openness including, for example, tools, best practices, and schema found through the GSA Digital Services Innovation Center and in Project Open Data.
4. Limited resources available to perform the planning and implementation of the Open Data Policy.
5. OMB progress reporting requirements associated with the activities and milestone requirements of the Open Data policy