Description of document:	Each issue of the Department of the Treasury DATA Act implementation roundup / DATA Act Biweekly Bulletin newsletters, 2015-2016
Requested date:	13-January-2017
Released date:	20-March-2017
Posted date:	01-May-2017
Source of document:	FOIA Request Department of the Treasury Washington, DC 20220 FOIA Online Request Form

March 20, 2017

RE: 2017-01-129

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) dated January 13, 2017, in which you seek a copy of each issue of the DATA Act Biweekly Bulletin during the following years 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552. A reasonable search of Treasury files located an additional 80 pages of documents responsive to your request. After careful consideration, I am partially releasing 80 pages pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6 as described below.

FOIA Exemption 6 exempts from disclosure personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test.

You have the right to appeal adverse actions. A partial release constitutes an adverse action; therefore, you have the right to appeal this determination within 90 days of the date of this letter. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency's decision. Your appeal must be in writing, signed by you or your representative, and should contain the rationale for the appeal. Your appeal should be addressed to:

> FOIA Appeal
> FOIA and Transparency
> Privacy, Transparency, and Records
> Department of the Treasury
> Washington, D.C. 20220

If you would like to discuss this response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you can contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Deryl L. Richardson, Jr., for assistance at:

> FOIA and Transparency
> Privacy, Transparency, and Records
> Department of the Treasury
> Washington, DC 20220
> FOIAPublicLiaisonDepartmentalOffices@treasury.gov
> (202) 622-8098

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

> Office of Government Information Services
> National Archives and Records Administration
> 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS
> College Park, MD 20740-6001
> ogis@nara.gov
> ogis.archives.gov
> (202) 741-5770
> (877) 684-6448

If additional questions arise concerning this action, please contact Steven Jenkins via telephone at (202) 622 – 3807; or via email at steven.jenkins@treasury.gov. Please reference FOIA request 2017-01-129 when inquiring about this request.

Sincerely,

Deryl L. Richardson, Jr.
Acting Director, FOIA and Transparency

Digitally signed by Deryl Richardson
DN: cn=Deryl Richardson, o=PTR, ou=PTR,
email=deryl.richardson@treasury.gov, c=US
Date: 2017.03.20 14:13:50 -04'00'

Enclosure

Welcome to this week's DATA Act implementation roundup. The purpose of this digest is to keep the Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) updated on the recent and upcoming activities related to the DATA Act. This week's update includes:
- Summaries of recent meetings;
- Requests for feedback on government-wide blueprints and data definition standards (upcoming deadlines on May 5 and May 15); and;
- Links to the DATA Act resources.

As always, feel free to email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov with DATA Act news and updates, or suggested questions/comments for discussion.

Meetings and Workshops
DATA Act Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC)
The IAC advises DATA Act Executive Steering Committee on topics related to DATA Act implementation (e.g. data standards). The IAC meets on a monthly basis.

The April 1, 2015 meeting included discussions on the policy questions on reporting prime and sub-award level spending by outlay, consistency of TAS agency codes, and the cadence/frequency of spending reporting. The May OMB memo and package, the 8-step agency implementation plan, and the FY 2017 budget process were also discussed. For meeting minutes and information about this group follow this https://community.max.gov/x/ZhNjL.

Senior Accountable Official (SAO) Conference Call
Based on agency feedback, Treasury and OMB will be holding monthly conference calls with SAOs to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions. Typically, calls will be on the first Thursday of each month.

Treasury and OMB held a conference call for SAOs on April 23, 2015. The call included highlights from the April agency implementation workshops, an update on the May policy guidance, and an overview of upcoming milestones. For full meeting minutes see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL. The May call will be coming up shortly. The call will provide more details on the May policy guidance, along with updates on DATA Act implementation.

SAO Conference Call on Implementation Plans
OMB and Treasury will schedule a follow-up conference call on developing implementation plans. We will hold this call separate from our monthly SAO conference call. This call will cover the technical details of the plans, such as cost estimates and format.

Upcoming Milestones and Requests for Feedback
Blueprint/Roadmap between Data Elements
Treasury and OMB are finalizing the blueprints (i.e. data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements, where they are currently reported, and the authoritative sources. For more information about the blueprints and agency feedback, please see https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL.

Data Standards
Treasury and OMB are looking for feedback on the data definition standards on a rolling basis. The following data elements are now open for public input:
- Unobligated Balance (due May 5)
- Awardee/Recipient Unique Identifier (due May 15)
- Awardee/Recipient Legal Business Name (due May 15)
- Ultimate Parent Unique Identifier (due May 15)
- Ultimate Parent Legal Business Name (due May 15)

For more information about the data standards and to provide feedback, please visit the spending transparency online collaboration page which can be found http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/dataelements/. For internal information, please see https://community.max.gov/x/A4byL.

Feedback Request on the DATA Act Schema
As part of DATA Act implementation, Treasury will issue data exchange framework that leverage industry standards to tag financial and non-financial data with metadata. Treasury will require agencies to submit data for posting on USAspending.gov (or a successor site) via a standard data exchange called the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act Schema" (DATA Act Schema).

Treasury is now accepting feedback on the DATA Act Schema. This version focuses on financial information only, and does not include award level data. As part of this initial release, there are two parts: a word document describing the schema, and an XML implementation of the schema. Input on both is being considered on a rolling basis. To review and provide feedback on these two items see: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-exchange-standard/.

SAO Leadership on Implementation of Activity Address Code (AAC)
Agencies are in the process of implementing the Activity Address Code (AAC) as the identifier for office codes as part of the new procurement award ID that will be used to link financial and award data. The AAC is currently used in multiple communities (property, transportation, supply, procurement) so a single agency lead with the ability to coordinate and implement change across multiple communities for this key DATA Act effort is needed. SAOs are best positioned to designate the primary office with responsibility for leading the effort. A current listing of agency POCs, implementation questions, responsibilities, and other relevant information can be found at: https://community.max.gov/x/V47JL. If your agency has not yet done so, please provide kpica_EOP with the name of the single agency POC for leadership of this effort by May 8, 2015. OMB will convene a meeting in May to discuss details of implementation.

Agency Resources and Collaboration
MAX Page: Federal Spending Transparency
This page contains information on Federal Spending Transparency activities, including updated information on DATA Act implementation, and past work on FFATA implementation.

MAX Page: DATA Act Implementation Collaboration & Resources

This page provides agencies with resources to carry out the 8-step implementation plan. It includes a list of DATA Act elements, roadmap, and examples of DATA Act planning and documentation from Federal agencies and pilot projects. It also includes materials from the April DATA Act implementation workshops.

Federal Spending Transparency DATA Act and FFATA Collaboration Space
This GITHUB site allows stakeholders from inside and outside the federal government to stay informed on DATA Act implementation efforts. It includes frequently asked questions, proposed data definition standards, and the DATA Act Schema.

News
Below are links to public facing outreach efforts.

Tune in to the recent webcast on DATA Act Implementation

Welcome to the DATA Act implementation roundup. The purpose of this digest is to keep the Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff updated on the recent and upcoming activities related to the DATA Act. This week's update includes:

- Summaries of recent meetings;
- Requests for feedback on data standards (upcoming deadlines on May 29);
- Links to the May OMB Memo and DATA Act resources;
- List of 57 DATA Act elements (attached); and;
- Summary of Treasury and OMB deliverables for May policy guidance (attached).

As always, feel free to email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov with DATA Act news and updates, or suggested questions/comments for discussion.

Meetings and Workshops
DATA Act Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC)
The IAC advises DATA Act Executive Steering Committee on topics related to DATA Act implementation (e.g. data standards). The IAC meets on a monthly basis.

The May 6, 2015 meeting included discussions on the May OMB memo and package, the 8-step agency implementation plan (playbook), and the FY 2017 budget process. Plans to finish drafting standards for the remaining DATA Act elements were also discussed. For meeting minutes and information about this group follow this https://community.max.gov/x/ZhNjL.

Senior Accountable Official (SAO) Conference Call
Based on agency feedback, Treasury and OMB will be holding conference calls, at least monthly, with SAOs to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions. Typically, calls will be on the first Thursday of each month. Other interim calls may be added.

Treasury and OMB held a conference call for SAOs on May 7, 2015. The call included an overview of key materials included in the May policy guidance and questions and answers about data standards and agency implementation plans that are due in September. For meeting minutes see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL. Upcoming calls will discuss questions agencies have about the May policy guidance and developing implementation plans. We will cover the technical details of the implementation plans, such as cost estimates and suggested format.

Upcoming Milestones and Requests for Feedback
Blueprint/Roadmap between Data Elements
Treasury and OMB have completed and posted the first versions of the blueprints (i.e., data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements, where they are currently reported, and the authoritative sources. For more information about the blueprints, please see https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL.

Data Standards

Treasury and OMB are looking for feedback on the data definition standards on a rolling basis. The following data elements are now open for public input:
- Legal Business Address (due May 29)
- Legal Business Congressional District (due May 29)
- Legal Business Country Code (due May 29)
- Legal Business Country Name (due May 29)
- Award Description (due May 29)
- Award Modification / Amendment Number (due May 29)
- Parent Award ID (due May 29)
- Award ID (due May 29)

For more information about the data standards and to provide feedback, please visit the spending transparency online collaboration page which can be found http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/dataelements/. For internal information, please see https://community.max.gov/x/A4byL.

Feedback Request on the DATA Act Schema
As part of DATA Act implementation, Treasury will issue a data exchange framework that leverages industry standards to tag financial and non-financial data with metadata. Treasury will require agencies to submit data for posting on USAspending.gov (or a successor site) via a standard data exchange called the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act Schema" (DATA Act Schema).

Treasury is now accepting feedback on the DATA Act Schema. This version focuses on financial information only, and does not include award level data. As part of this initial release, there are two parts: a word document describing the schema, and an XML implementation of the schema. Input on both is being considered on a rolling basis. To review and provide feedback on these two items see: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-exchange-standard/.

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Agency Resources and Collaboration
OMB Memo (M-15-12): Increasing Transparency of Federal Spending by Making Federal Spending Data Accessible, Searchable, and Reliable
This Memorandum provides guidance to Federal agencies on current and new reporting requirements pursuant to the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act). In particular, the guidance:

- Requires agencies to submit implementation plans by September 2015;
- Follow all current transparency reporting procedures for USAspending.gov in the ASP User Guide;
- Make agency-level financial data available for publication; implement data definition standards; implement data exchange standards;
- Assign unique award identification number for Federal awards;
- Link agency financial system(s) to management system(s); and;
- Report prime financial assistance awards above the micro-purchase threshold.

To view finalized and proposed data standards, along with resources related to the OMB memo, please follow this link.

MAX Page: Federal Spending Transparency
This page contains information on Federal Spending Transparency activities, including updated information on DATA Act implementation, and past work on FFATA implementation.

MAX Page: DATA Act Implementation Collaboration & Resources
This page provides agencies with resources to carry out the 8-step implementation plan. It includes a list of DATA Act elements, roadmap, and examples of DATA Act planning and documentation from Federal agencies and pilot projects. It also includes materials from the April DATA Act implementation workshops.

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OMB Blog: Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Government

Tune in to the recent webcast on DATA Act Implementation

Welcome to the DATA Act implementation roundup. The purpose of this digest is to keep Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff updated on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. This week's update includes:

- Summaries of recent meetings;
- Announcement of the June agency implementation workshop;
- Cancelation of June 4th SAO call;
- Information on data standards; and;
- Links to the May OMB Memo and DATA Act resources.

As always, feel free to email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov with DATA Act news and updates, or suggested questions/comments for discussion.

Meetings and Workshops

DATA Act Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC)
The IAC advises DATA Act Executive Steering Committee on topics related to DATA Act implementation (e.g. data standards). The IAC meets on a monthly basis.

The May 6, 2015 meeting included discussions on the May OMB memo and package, the 8-step agency implementation plan (playbook), and the FY 2017 budget process. Plans to finish drafting standards for the remaining DATA Act elements were also discussed. The next meeting on June 3, 2015 will include an update on the DATA Act Implementation Pilot with the Small Business Administration (SBA). For meeting minutes and information about this group follow this link https://community.max.gov/x/ZhNjL.

Senior Accountable Official (SAO) Conference Call
Based on agency feedback, Treasury and OMB will be holding conference calls, at least monthly, with SAOs to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions. Typically, calls will be on the first Thursday of each month. Other interim calls may be added.

Treasury and OMB held a conference call for SAOs on May 29, 2015. The call covered plans to hold the June agency implementation workshop, technical details of the agency implementation plans due in September and questions and answers about recent DATA Act activities, such as the May policy guidance. For meeting minutes see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL. The regular June call is cancelled and replaced with the June workshop (see below).

June Agency Implementation Workshop
This workshop is for OMB and Treasury to walk through and discuss the agency implementation Playbook, data inventory template, September implementation plan guidance, and the DATA Act Implementation Pilot. It will focus on specific milestones and deliverables for the first four steps of the 8-step implementation plan.

Workshop sessions will be held on June 17th and June 18th at Metropolitan Square Office Building located at 655 15th Street NW, Washington, DC. Invitations were sent to SAOs on May 26, 2015. Reservations will be confirmed later this week and participants will receive a calendar invite once we finalize the list of attendees and workshop materials.

<u>Upcoming Milestones and Requests for Feedback</u>
Blueprint/Roadmap between Data Elements
Treasury and OMB have completed and posted the first versions of the blueprints (i.e., data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements, where they are currently reported, and the recommended sources for DATA Act reporting. For more information about the blueprints, please see https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL.

Data Standards
Treasury and OMB are looking for feedback on the data definition standards on a rolling basis.

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This Memorandum provides guidance to Federal agencies on current and new reporting requirements pursuant to the DATA Act. In particular, the guidance:
- Requires agencies to submit implementation plans by September 2015;
- Follows all current transparency reporting procedures for USAspending.gov in the ASP User Guide;
- Makes agency-level financial data available for publication; implement data definition standards; implement data exchange standards;
- Assigns unique award identification number for Federal awards;
- Links agency financial system(s) to management system(s); and;
- Reports prime financial assistance awards above the micro-purchase threshold.

To view finalized and proposed data standards, along with resources related to the OMB memo, please follow this link.

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News
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- Announcement of the June agency implementation workshop;
- Information on data standards; and;
- Links to the May OMB Memo and other DATA Act resources.

As always, feel free to email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov with DATA Act news and updates, or suggested questions/comments for discussion.

Meetings and Workshops
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The June 3, 2015 meeting included an update on the DATA Act Implementation Pilot with the Small Business Administration (SBA) and plans to draft standards for the remaining DATA Act elements. For meeting minutes and information about this group follow this link https://community.max.gov/x/ZhNjL.

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Workshop sessions will be held on June 17th and June 18th at Metropolitan Square Office Building located at 655 15th Street NW, Washington, DC. Reservations have been confirmed and participants will receive a calendar invite and workshop materials soon. If you have any last minute questions about the workshop, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

Upcoming Milestones and Requests for Feedback

Blueprint/Roadmap between Data Elements
Treasury and OMB have completed and posted the first versions of the blueprints (i.e., data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements, where they are currently reported, and the recommended sources for DATA Act reporting. For more information about the blueprints, please see https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL.

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Treasury and OMB are looking for feedback on the data definition standards on a rolling basis.

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DATA Act Summit

OMB Blog: Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Government

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- Recap of the June agency implementation workshop;
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June Agency Implementation Workshop
On June 17 and June 18, OMB and Treasury walked through and discussed the agency implementation Playbook, data inventory template, September implementation plan guidance, and the DATA Act Implementation Pilot. It focused on specific milestones and deliverables for the first four steps of the 8-step implementation plan.

As follow-up to the workshop, on June 26, Treasury and OMB released the first round of answers to agency policy questions in a FAQ format. In addition, a list of outstanding agency questions and their status was posted. Both of these items can accessed through the MAX page at https://community.max.gov/x/lYF7L. Treasury and OMB will continue to post updates to these documents.

Materials from the workshop are posted on the MAX collaboration website at https://community.max.gov/x/7YIZMg. If you have any questions about the workshop and its materials, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

Milestones and Requests for Feedback
Blueprint/Roadmap between Data Elements
Treasury and OMB have completed and posted the first versions of the blueprints (i.e., data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements, where they are currently reported, and the recommended sources for DATA Act reporting. For more information about the blueprints, please see https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL.

Data Standards
OMB and Treasury have released the latest set of data definition standards as part of the DATA Act implementation. These data definition standards concern the characteristic data of awards as well as awardee and recipient entity details. Thank you for your agency's contribution in finalizing these standards.

The updated data standards for the following elements are available here:
- Award Description
- Award Identification (ID) Number
- Award Modification/Amendment Number
- Parent Award Identification (ID) Number
- Legal Entity Address
- Legal Entity Congressional District
- Legal Entity Country Code
- Legal Entity Country Name

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OMB Blog: Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Government

Welcome to the DATA Act implementation roundup. The purpose of this digest is to keep Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff updated on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. This week's update includes (with new/updated items **highlighted**):
- Summaries of recent meetings;
- Recap of the June agency implementation workshop;
- Information on data standards;
- Links to the May OMB Memo and **policy FAQs**;
- Links to the Agency Implementation Playbook and other DATA Act resources, including weekly **"office hours"** and;
- Announcements for the upcoming **DATA Act Webinar** and **DATA Act Forum**.

As always, feel free to email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov with DATA Act news and updates, or suggested questions/comments for discussion.

Meetings and Workshops

DATA Act Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC)

The IAC advises DATA Act Executive Steering Committee on topics related to DATA Act implementation (e.g. data standards). The IAC meets on a monthly basis.

The **July 1, 2015 meeting** included a debrief on the June agency implementation workshop, overview of the agency implementation plan guidance, discussion of progress made on drafting the data standards for the remaining elements, and update on the DATA Act Implementation Pilot. For meeting minutes and information about this group, go to https://community.max.gov/x/ZhNjL.

Senior Accountable Official (SAO) Conference Call

Based on agency feedback, Treasury and OMB will be holding conference calls, at least monthly, with SAOs to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions. Typically, calls will be on the first Thursday of each month. Other interim calls may be added.

Treasury and OMB held a **conference call for SAOs on July 9, 2015**. The call included a discussion on the agency data inventory process, update on data standards, guidance on formulating budget estimates for OMB, and announcement of the policy FAQs documentation and upcoming agency outreach activities. For meeting minutes see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL. The next call will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 6.

June Agency Implementation Workshop

On June 17 and June 18, OMB and Treasury walked through and discussed the Agency Implementation Playbook, data inventory template, September implementation plan guidance, and the DATA Act Implementation Pilot. It focused on specific milestones and deliverables for the first four steps of the 8-step implementation plan.

Materials from the workshop are posted on the MAX collaboration website at https://community.max.gov/x/7YIZMg. If you have any questions about the workshop and its materials, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

Milestones and Requests for Feedback
Blueprint/Roadmap between Data Elements
Treasury and OMB have completed and posted the first versions of the blueprints (i.e., data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements, where they are currently reported, and the recommended sources for DATA Act reporting. For more information about the blueprints, please see https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL.

Data Standards
OMB and Treasury have released the latest set of data definition standards as part of the DATA Act implementation. These data definition standards concern the characteristic data of awards as well as awardee and recipient entity details. Thank you for your agency's contribution in finalizing these standards.

The updated data standards for the following elements are available here:
- Award Description
- Award Identification (ID) Number
- Award Modification/Amendment Number
- Parent Award Identification (ID) Number
- Legal Entity Address
- Legal Entity Congressional District
- Legal Entity Country Code
- Legal Entity Country Name

For more information about the data standards and to provide feedback, please visit the spending transparency online collaboration page which can be found http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/dataelements/. For internal information, please see https://community.max.gov/x/A4byL.

Feedback Request on the DATA Act Schema
As part of DATA Act implementation, Treasury will issue a data exchange framework that leverages industry standards to tag financial and non-financial data with metadata. Treasury will require agencies to submit data for posting on USAspending.gov (or a successor site) via a standard data exchange called the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act Schema" (DATA Act Schema).

Treasury is accepting feedback on the DATA Act Schema. This version focuses on financial information only, and does not include award level data. As part of this release, there are two parts: a word document describing the schema, and an XML implementation of the schema. Input on both is being considered on a rolling basis. To review and provide feedback on these two items see: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-exchange-standard/.

Agency Resources and Collaboration

OMB Memorandum (M-15-12): Increasing Transparency of Federal Spending by Making Federal Spending Data Accessible, Searchable, and Reliable

This memorandum provides guidance to Federal agencies on current and new reporting requirements pursuant to the DATA Act. In particular, the guidance:

- Requires agencies to submit implementation plans by September 2015;
- Follows all current transparency reporting procedures for USAspending.gov in the ASP User Guide;
- Makes agency-level financial data available for publication; implement data definition standards; implement data exchange standards;
- Assigns unique award identification number for Federal awards;
- Links agency financial system(s) to management system(s); and;
- Reports prime financial assistance awards above the micro-purchase threshold.

To view finalized and proposed data standards, along with resources related to the OMB memo, please follow this link.

Frequently Asked DATA Act Policy Questions from Agencies

Treasury and OMB released the **first round of answers to agency policy questions** in a FAQ format. In addition, a list of outstanding agency questions and their status was posted. Both of these items can accessed through the MAX page at https://community.max.gov/x/lYF7L. Treasury and OMB will continue to post updates to these documents.

"DATA Act Office Hours"

We are starting a series of regular **calls to actively engage agencies** as we work towards full implementation of the DATA Act. Agency staff are welcome to join Treasury and OMB staff on the call. This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process, find answers to your implementation issues, and raise OMB and Treasury's awareness of the challenges your agency has experienced. From time to time, OMB and Treasury will invite subject matter experts to address a concern that multiple agencies share.

Who: Anyone working for a federal agency is welcome to call in. Those working on the DATA Act inventory or agency implementation plans at the staff level may find the calls most useful. The calls are not mandatory and will not replace existing governance structures or policy making processes.

When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 pm, beginning on July 16

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If you would like, you may submit questions in advance to DataPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov and Spending Transparency_EOP

MAX Page: Federal Spending Transparency

This page contains information on Federal Spending Transparency activities, including updated information on DATA Act implementation and past work on FFATA implementation.

MAX Page: DATA Act Implementation Collaboration & Resources
This page provides agencies and federal shared service providers (FSSPs) with the Agency Implementation Playbook and the resources to carry out the 8-step plan. It includes a list of DATA Act elements, roadmap, and examples of DATA Act planning and documentation from Federal agencies and pilot projects. It also includes materials from the April and June DATA Act implementation workshops

Federal Spending Transparency DATA Act and FFATA Collaboration Space
This GitHub site allows stakeholders from inside and outside the federal government to stay informed on DATA Act implementation efforts. It includes frequently asked questions, proposed data definition standards, and the DATA Act Schema.

News
Below are links to public facing outreach efforts.

July 28, 2015
DATA Act Webinar for Agencies: Practical Implementation & Effective Use of Standards
Government agency staff, commercial entities that work with government agencies, and citizen advocacy groups are invited to attend a series of three complimentary webinars that provide practical implementation guidance and real world examples by government agencies. It brings together experts in government data and international standards to provide practical training. This program is conducted through a partnership between the Association for Government Accountants (AGA), the member organization for financial professionals in government, and XBRL US, the national consortium for the business reporting standard. For more information and to register: http://xbrl.us/events/data-act-webinar-for-government-agencies/

July 29, 2015
DATA Act Forum: The Art of the Possible
The goal of the forum hosted by ACT-IAC is to engage government and industry leaders who are focused on implementing the DATA Act in lively conversation surrounding critical success factors and lessons learned. The event will also dive into the advantages of leveraging public-private relationships with respect to tackling some of the DATA Act challenges. For more information and to register: https://actiac.org/groups/event/data-act-forum-7292015

Welcome to the DATA Act implementation roundup. The purpose of this digest is to keep Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff updated on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. This week's update includes (with new/updated items **highlighted**):

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- Recap of the June agency implementation workshop;
- **Announcements on Activity Address Code (AAC) and data standards**;
- Links to the May OMB Memo and policy FAQs;
- Links to the Agency Implementation Playbook and other DATA Act resources, including weekly **office hours**, implementation plan guidance, and **cost template**; and;
- Announcements for the upcoming **DATA Act Webinar** and **DATA Act Forum**.

As always, feel free to email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov with DATA Act news and updates, or suggested questions/comments for discussion.

Meetings and Workshops
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Materials from the workshop are posted on the MAX collaboration website at https://community.max.gov/x/7YIZMg. If you have any questions about the workshop and its materials, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

Milestones and Requests for Feedback

SAO Leadership on Implementation of Activity Address Code (AAC)

Agencies are in the process of implementing the Activity Address Code (AAC) as the identifier for office codes as part of the new procurement award ID that will be used to link financial and award data. **The AAC will now also be the standard for offices in the financial assistance community.** The AAC is currently used in multiple communities (property, transportation, supply, procurement) so SAOs were required to appoint a single agency lead with the ability to coordinate and implement change across multiple communities. This cross-community effort now also includes financial assistance, and agency leads will need to work with the financial assistance community on implementation as well. A current listing of agency POCs, implementation questions, responsibilities, and other relevant information can be found at: https://community.max.gov/x/V47JL.

Blueprint/Roadmap between Data Elements

Treasury and OMB have completed and posted the first versions of the blueprints (i.e., data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements, where they are currently reported, and the recommended sources for DATA Act reporting. For more information about the blueprints, please see https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL.

Data Standards

OMB and Treasury have released the latest set of final data definition standards as part of the DATA Act implementation. These data definition standards concern the characteristic data of awards as well as awardee and recipient entity details. Thank you for your agency's contribution in finalizing these standards.

The updated data standards for the following elements are available here:

- **Awardee/Recipient Unique Identifier**
- **Awardee/Recipient Legal Entity Name**
- **Ultimate Parent Legal Entity Name**
- **Ultimate Parent Unique Identifier**
- Award Description
- Award Identification (ID) Number
- Award Modification/Amendment Number
- Parent Award Identification (ID) Number
- Legal Entity Address
- Legal Entity Congressional District
- Legal Entity Country Code
- Legal Entity Country Name

OMB and Treasury also posted a set of proposed data definition standards on its GitHub site:

- **Primary Place of Performance Address**
- **Primary Place of Performance Congressional District**
- **Primary Place of Performance Country Code**
- **Primary Place of Performance Country Name**
- **Funding Agency Name**
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For more information about the data standards and to provide feedback, please visit the spending transparency online collaboration page which can be found http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/dataelements/. For internal information, including White Papers for the DATA Act elements, please see https://community.max.gov/x/A4byL.

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This memorandum provides guidance to Federal agencies on current and new reporting requirements pursuant to the DATA Act.

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Frequently Asked DATA Act Policy Questions from Agencies
Treasury and OMB released the first round of answers to agency policy questions in a FAQ format. In addition, a list of outstanding agency questions and their status was posted. Both of these items can accessed through the MAX page at https://community.max.gov/x/lYF7L. Treasury and OMB will continue to post updates to these documents.

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of the challenges your agency has experienced. From time to time, OMB and Treasury will invite subject matter experts to address a concern that multiple agencies share.

Who: Anyone working for a federal agency is welcome to call in. Those working on the DATA Act inventory or agency implementation plans at the staff level may find the calls most useful. The calls are not mandatory and will not replace existing governance structures or policy making processes.

When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 pm,

(b) (6)

If you would like, you may submit questions in advance to DataPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

MAX Page: Federal Spending Transparency
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- Links to the May OMB Memo and policy FAQs;
- Links to the Agency Implementation Playbook and other DATA Act resources, including weekly office hours, implementation plan guidance, and **cost estimate template***; and;
- **Information on the recent DATA Act Congressional hearing and the upcoming Government Financial Management Conference***.

As always, feel free to email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov with DATA Act news and updates, or suggested questions/comments for discussion.

Meetings and Workshops

DATA Act Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC)*
The IAC advises DATA Act Executive Steering Committee on topics related to DATA Act implementation (e.g., data standards). The IAC meets on a monthly basis.

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Milestones and Requests for Feedback

SAO Leadership on Implementation of Activity Address Code (AAC)
Agencies are in the process of implementing the Activity Address Code (AAC) as the identifier for office codes as part of the new procurement award ID that will be used to link financial and award data. The AAC will now also be the standard for offices in the financial assistance community. The AAC is currently used in multiple communities (property, transportation, supply, procurement) so SAOs were required to appoint a single agency lead with the ability to

coordinate and implement changes across multiple communities. This cross-community effort also includes financial assistance, and agency leads will need to work with the financial assistance community on implementation as well. A current listing of agency POCs, implementation questions, responsibilities, and other relevant information can be found at: https://community.max.gov/x/V47JL.

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- Parent Award Identification (ID) Number
- Legal Entity Address
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- Legal Entity Country Code
- Legal Entity Country Name

OMB and Treasury also posted a set of proposed data definition standards on its GitHub site:
- Primary Place of Performance Address
- Primary Place of Performance Congressional District
- Primary Place of Performance Country Code
- Primary Place of Performance Country Name
- Funding Agency Name
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- **Funding Action Obligation**
- **Non-Federal Funding Amount**
- **Funding Obligation Amount Award**
- **Current Total Value of Award**
- **Potential Total Value of Award**
- **Award Type**
- **Action Date**
- **Period of Performance Start Date**
- **Period of Performance Current End Date**
- **Period of Performance Potential End Date**
- **Ordering Period End Date**
- **Record Type**
- **Action Type**

- **Business Type**
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number**
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Title**
- **Funding Sub Tier Agency Name**
- **Funding Sub Tier Agency Code**
- **Funding Office Name**
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Feedback Request on DATA Act Elements Guidance*
Treasury and OMB developed this **initial draft guidance to provide federal agencies more information on the DATA and FFATA elements** as they create their data inventory and identify gaps in processes and systems. The goal of this document is to outline a complete list of required elements, along with relevant data standards and formatting requirements. *This document is <u>not</u> intended to provide specific operational guidance; rather, this document is a preliminary summary of the (business) requirements for DATA and FFATA elements.*

Feedback Process:
OMB and Treasury will refine the requirements in this document based on feedback from agencies. Feedback should be submitted through the feedback tracker spreadsheet on MAX at https://community.max.gov/x/KoHhNQ. Feedback can also be communicated to staff during weekly DATA Act Office Hours – though written feedback provided via the tracker is preferred.

As the "human readable" requirements are refined based on agency feedback, we will revise the DATA Act Schema code and technical documentation (on GitHub) to reflect the changes.

Feedback Request on the DATA Act Schema*
As part of DATA Act implementation, Treasury will issue a data exchange framework that leverages industry standards to tag financial and non-financial data with metadata. Treasury will require agencies to submit data for posting on USAspending.gov (or a successor site) via a standard data exchange called the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act Schema" (DATA Act Schema).

Treasury is accepting feedback on the DATA Act Schema v0.5. This version focuses on the financial level as well as additional elements related to the award level information. As part of this release, there are two parts: a word document describing the schema, and an XML implementation of the schema. Input on both is being considered on a rolling basis. To review and provide feedback on these two items see: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-exchange-standard/.

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<u>News</u>
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[The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Hearing on DATA Act*](#)
The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a **hearing on DATA Act implementation** on July 29, 2015. David Lebryk and David Mader testified along with Gene Dodar from GAO and Robert Taylor from Treasury's Office of Inspector General. OMB and Treasury provided an update and overview of the implementation approach and progress. You can watch the hearing and read the full transcripts [here](#).

August 17, 2015, 9:00 am
[25th Annual Government Financial Management Conference*](#)
[Implementing the DATA Act: Understanding the Data-Centric Approach](#)
Treasury has developed an innovative and data-centric **approach to help Federal agencies comply with the DATA Act** requirement to provide additional financial and spending information to the public. Join us to learn about how this approach can be implemented at your agency and hear from agencies that have piloted this approach.

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also includes financial assistance, and agency leads will need to work with the financial assistance community on implementation as well. A current listing of agency POCs, implementation questions, responsibilities, and other relevant information can be found at: https://community.max.gov/x/V47JL.

Data Standards*
Treasury and OMB are on-track to finalize the remaining 30 data definition standards on August 31, 2015. (27 data elements were finalized previously.) The standardization of these elements is intended to improve data quality and consistency of this data on USAspending.gov. For each of the 57 data elements, we posted proposed standards on GitHub and asked for public input. The final data definitions will be posted on a public MAX site here: https://max.gov/datastandards.

Thank you for your agency's contribution in finalizing these standards.

Below are the 30 proposed data definition standards that OMB and Treasury will finalize on or before August 31:
- Primary Place of Performance Address
- Primary Place of Performance Congressional District
- Primary Place of Performance Country Code
- Primary Place of Performance Country Name
- Funding Agency Name
- Funding Agency Code
- Funding Action Obligation
- Non-Federal Funding Amount
- Funding Obligation Amount Award
- Current Total Value of Award
- Potential Total Value of Award
- Award Type
- Action Date
- Period of Performance Start Date
- Period of Performance Current End Date
- Period of Performance Potential End Date
- Ordering Period End Date
- Record Type
- Action Type
- Business Type
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Title
- Funding Sub Tier Agency Name
- Funding Sub Tier Agency Code
- Funding Office Name
- Funding Office Code
- Awarding Sub Tier Agency Name
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For internal information, including White Papers for the DATA Act elements, please see https://community.max.gov/x/A4byL.

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Treasury and OMB developed this **initial draft guidance to provide federal agencies more information on the DATA and FFATA elements** as they create their data inventory and identify gaps in processes and systems. The goal of this document is to outline a complete list of required elements, along with relevant data standards and formatting requirements. *This document is not intended to provide specific operational guidance; rather, this document is a preliminary summary of the (business) requirements for DATA and FFATA elements.*

Feedback Process:
OMB and Treasury will refine the requirements in this document based on feedback from agencies. Agencies should submit their feedback via the feedback tracker worksheet on MAX at https://community.max.gov/x/KoHhNQ. Agency staff may also share their feedback during the Weekly DATA Act Office Hours – though written feedback provided via the tracker is preferred.

As the "human readable" requirements are refined based on agency feedback, we will revise the DATA Act Schema code and technical documentation (on GitHub) to reflect the changes.

Feedback Request on the DATA Act Schema*
As part of DATA Act implementation, Treasury will issue a data exchange framework that leverages industry standards to tag financial and non-financial data with metadata. Treasury will require agencies to submit data for posting on USAspending.gov (or a successor site) via a standard data exchange called the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act Schema" (DATA Act Schema).

Treasury is accepting feedback on the DATA Act Schema v0.5. This version focuses on the financial level as well as additional elements related to the award level information. As part of this release, there are two parts: a word document describing the schema, and an XML implementation of the schema. Input on both is being considered on a rolling basis. To review and provide feedback on these two items see: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-exchange-standard/.

Agency Implementation Plans due concurrent with FY 2017 Budget Requests
OMB Memorandum M-15-12 required agencies to submit implementation plans to OMB and Treasury as part of the formulation of the FY 2017 President's Budget. OMB and Treasury will leverage the Federal Spending Transparency page on MAX to receive these plans. In addition, agencies must send these plans to their designated budget contact in OMB. OMB will release guidance on submitting implementation plans by the end of the month.

Agency Resources and Collaboration

OMB Memorandum (M-15-12): Increasing Transparency of Federal Spending by Making Federal Spending Data Accessible, Searchable, and Reliable

This memorandum provides guidance to Federal agencies on current and new reporting requirements pursuant to the DATA Act.

To view finalized and proposed data standards, along with resources related to the OMB memo, please follow this link.

Frequently Asked DATA Act Policy Questions from Agencies

Treasury and OMB released the first round of answers to agency policy questions in a FAQ format. In addition, a list of outstanding agency questions and their status was posted. Both of these items can accessed through the MAX page at https://community.max.gov/x/lYF7L. Treasury and OMB will continue to post updates to these documents.

DATA Act Office Hours

We are starting a series of regular calls to actively engage agencies as we work towards full implementation of the DATA Act. Agency staff are welcome to join Treasury and OMB staff on the call. This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process, find answers to your implementation issues, and raise OMB and Treasury's awareness of the challenges your agency has experienced. From time to time, OMB and Treasury will invite subject matter experts to address a concern that multiple agencies share.

Who: Anyone working for a federal agency is welcome to call in. Those working on the DATA Act inventory or agency implementation plans at the staff level may find the calls most useful. The calls are not mandatory and will not replace existing governance structures or policy making processes.

When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.,

(b) (6)

If you would like, you may submit questions in advance to DataPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or

Spending Transparency_EOP

MAX Page: Federal Spending Transparency

This page contains information on Federal Spending Transparency activities, including updated information on DATA Act implementation and past work on FFATA implementation.

MAX Page: DATA Act Implementation Collaboration & Resources

This page provides agencies and federal shared service providers (FSSPs) with the Agency Implementation Playbook and the resources to carry out the 8-Step Plan. It includes a list of DATA Act elements, roadmap, and implementation plan guidance and estimate template. It also includes materials from the April and June DATA Act implementation workshops

Federal Spending Transparency DATA Act and FFATA Collaboration Space
This GitHub site allows stakeholders from inside and outside the federal government to stay informed on DATA Act implementation efforts. It includes frequently asked questions, proposed data definition standards, and the DATA Act Schema.

News

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Hearing on DATA Act
The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing on DATA Act implementation on July 29, 2015. David Lebryk and David Mader testified along with Gene Dodar from GAO and Robert Taylor from Treasury's Office of Inspector General. OMB and Treasury provided an update and overview of the implementation approach and progress. You can watch the hearing and read the full transcripts here.

Welcome to the DATA Act Biweekly Digest. The purpose of this digest is to keep Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff updated on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. This week's update includes (with new/updated items asterisked):

- Summaries of recent meetings*;
- Milestones and Requests for Feedback*
  - Data Standards
  - DATA Act Element Guidance
  - DATA Act Pilot;
- Links to the May OMB Memo and policy FAQs;
- Links to the Agency Implementation Playbook and other DATA Act resources, including weekly office hours, implementation plan guidance, and cost estimate template;
- News and Upcoming Events*.

As always, feel free to email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov with DATA Act news and updates, or suggested questions/comments for discussion.

Meetings and Workshops
DATA Act Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC)*
The IAC advises DATA Act Executive Steering Committee on topics related to DATA Act implementation (e.g., data standards). The IAC meets on a monthly basis.

The September 2, 2015, meeting included an update on the final data standards released on August 31, 2015, update on the DATA Act Implementation Pilot, an update on the feedback received on the Data Elements Guidance, and a discussion on next steps for the outstanding policy questions. For meeting minutes and information about this group, go to https://community.max.gov/x/ZhNjL.

Senior Accountable Official (SAO) Conference Call*
Treasury and OMB will be holding conference calls, at least monthly, with SAOs to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions. Typically, calls will be on the first Thursday of each month. Other interim calls may be added.

Treasury and OMB held a conference call for SAOs on September 3, 2015. The call included an update of the final data standards and the upcoming DATA Act Agency Implementation Plans. For meeting minutes see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL. The next call will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2015.

Milestones and Requests for Feedback
Data Standards*
Treasury and OMB finalized the 57 data definition standards on August 31, 2015. The standardization of these elements is intended to improve data quality and consistency of this data on USAspending.gov. The final data definitions are posted on a public MAX site here: https://max.gov/datastandards.

We encourage you to share these defined data elements for the implementation of the DATA Act widely throughout your agency. In order for the DATA Act to effectively and efficiently be

implemented, it is imperative for agencies to ensure their data matches the finalized data definitions standards.

Thank you for your agency's contribution in finalizing these standards.

Agency Implementation Plans due concurrent with FY 2017 Budget Requests (09/14/2015)
OMB Memorandum M-15-12 required agencies to submit implementation plans to OMB and Treasury as part of the formulation of the FY 2017 President's Budget. OMB and Treasury will share the link where agencies will upload their plans. Agencies should visit the DATA Act Implementation Plans (M-15-12 Requirement) MAX page for more information.

Feedback Request on the DATA Act Schema
As part of DATA Act implementation, Treasury will issue a data exchange framework that leverages industry standards to tag financial and non-financial data with metadata. Treasury will require agencies to submit data for posting on USAspending.gov (or a successor site) via a standard data exchange called the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act Schema" (DATA Act Schema).

Treasury is accepting feedback on the DATA Act Schema (v0.5). This version focuses on the financial level as well as additional elements related to the award level information. As part of this release, there are two parts: a word document describing the schema, and an XML implementation of the schema. Input on both is being considered on a rolling basis. To review and provide feedback on these two items see: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-exchange-standard/.

DATA Act Pilot with the Small Business Administration (SBA)*
Treasury is currently piloting with SBA. Currently, the pilot is tightly scoped to include financial assistance data, but will be expended in the future to include procurement data. The goal of the pilot is to clarify the steps and tools agencies will need as they undertake DATA Act compliance. Additional information regarding the SBA pilot can be found at this site: https://github.com/18F/data-act-pilot

In addition, the pilot also includes work on to test how the DATA Act submission process (aka the "broker") might work. By limiting the scope of data and adhering to the principle of "minimum viable product," we've been learning lessons that will inform the answers to many agency questions. A screencast has been created to summarize the work to date (September 1, 2015). We hope the screencast can demystify the functions of the broker and clarify what agency's steps are in providing the data.

Screencast Link: https://github.com/18F/data-act-pilot/blob/master/assets/screencast/data_act_pilot_screencast_sept_2015.avi?raw=true.
(Note: The screencast will run once the download is complete.)
If you have questions about the pilot or the information presented in the screencast, please email the Treasury DATA Act PMO at DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

SAO Leadership on Implementation of Activity Address Code (AAC)
Agencies are in the process of implementing the Activity Address Code (AAC) as the identifier for office codes as part of the new procurement award ID that will be used to link financial and award data. The AAC will now also be the standard for offices in the financial assistance community. The AAC is currently used in multiple communities (property, transportation, supply, procurement) and SAOs were required to appoint a single agency lead with the ability to implement changes across multiple communities.

It is important that the procurement and financial assistance communities work collaboratively in establishing AAC codes for effective implementation. . A current listing of agency POCs, implementation questions, responsibilities, and other relevant information can be found at: https://community.max.gov/x/V47JL.

Agency Resources and Collaboration
OMB Memorandum (M-15-12): Increasing Transparency of Federal Spending by Making Federal Spending Data Accessible, Searchable, and Reliable
This memorandum provides guidance to Federal agencies on current and new reporting requirements pursuant to the DATA Act. To view resources related to the OMB memo, please follow this link.

Frequently Asked DATA Act Policy Questions from Agencies
Treasury and OMB released the first round of answers to agency policy questions in a FAQ format. In addition, a list of outstanding agency questions and their status was posted. Both of these items can accessed through the MAX page at https://community.max.gov/x/lYF7L. Treasury and OMB will continue to post updates to the FAQs.

DATA Act Office Hours
This call is the opportunity for agency staff to share their agency's feedback on the implementation process, find answers to your implementation issues, and raise OMB and Treasury's awareness of the challenges your agency has experienced. From time to time, OMB and Treasury will invite subject matter experts to address a popular concern and highlight how individual agencies are working to implement the DATA Act.

Who: Anyone working for a federal agency is welcome to call in. Those working on the DATA Act inventory or agency implementation plans at the staff level may find the calls most useful. The calls are not mandatory and will not replace existing governance structures or policy making processes.

When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.,

(b) (6)

If you would like, you may submit questions in advance to DataPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or

Spending Transparency_EOP

Resources
MAX Page: Federal Spending Transparency

This page contains information on Federal Spending Transparency activities, including updated information on DATA Act implementation and past work on FFATA implementation.

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This page provides agencies and federal shared service providers (FSSPs) with the Agency Implementation Playbook and the resources to carry out the 8-Step Plan. It includes a list of DATA Act elements, roadmap, and implementation plan guidance and estimate template. It also includes materials from the April and June DATA Act implementation workshops

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This GitHub site allows stakeholders from inside and outside the federal government to stay informed on DATA Act implementation efforts. It includes frequently asked questions, proposed data definition standards, and the DATA Act Schema.

News*
Standardizing & Simplifying the Government's Data on Federal Spending – David Mader & David Lebryk - August 31, 2015*
David Mader and David Lebryk released a joint blog on the release of final data standards for DATA Act implementation. This release completes the Federal Government's standardization effort for the 57 DATA Act data elements. To learn more, please go to either the [OMBlog](#) or the [Treasury Notes blog](#).

Senators Highlight Progress in Increasing Transparency in Federal Spending – U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs - September 1, 2015*
Senators Tom Carper (D-Del.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) highlighted important progress made in implementing the DATA Act. They urged the Administration to continue engaging with stakeholders inside and outside of government and encouraged federal agencies to fully adopt the standards. To learn more, please go here:
http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/minority-media/senators-highlight-progress-in-increasing-transparency-in-federal-spending.

Upcoming Events*
Data Transparency Coalition – September 23, 2015
Data Transparency 2015 is the third annual gathering of U.S. open data leaders – from the executive branch, the legislative branch, state and local, the nonprofit sector, and the tech and financial industries. Data Transparency 2015 is hosted by the Data Transparency Coalition. To register for this conference, please go to: http://www.datacoalition.org/events/data-transparency-2015/.

DATA Act Webinar for Govt Agencies: Creating Intelligent Data – September 28, 2015 (1PM) XBRL US and AGA are holding a practical 60-minute webinar on how the DATA Act will help agencies create more useful, transparent information. Earn CPE credit and find out what agencies can gain while implementing DATA Act requirements from the greater efficiencies enabled by standards. This is the second of 3 webinars that take a deeper dive into how the implementation will work. For more information visit: http://xbrl.us/events/data-act-webinar-for-govt-agencies-creating-intelligent-data/

DATA Act Biweekly Digest

BETTER DATA BETTER DECISIONS BETTER GOVERNMENT

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

Welcome to the "new look" DATA Act Biweekly Digest. The purpose of this digest is to keep Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff updated on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities and new developments.

DATA Act Elements Guidance

Treasury would like to know if your agency would be interested in a walk-through of the DATA Act Data Element Guidance. The latest version (released on 8/31) is located at: https://community.max.gov/x/KoHhNQ. This document will be the foundation for providing all the business rules for the DATA Act technical schema.

If you are interested in hosting a walk-through at your agency, please contact Randall.Forrester@fiscal.treasury.gov.

National Science and Technical Committee (NSTC) Fast-Track Action Council on R&D Reporting Standards

The NSTC Fast-Track Action Committee on R&D Reporting Standards (FTAC-RDRS) launched earlier this month to identify practices and opportunities to improve the quality and consistency of Federal agency R&D spending data. Agency representatives to the FTAC-RDRS may be reaching out to their SAOs and DATA Act Implementation teams to determine if linking financial and management systems under the DATA Act for data on Budget Authority, Obligations, Outlays, Program Activity, and Place of Performance will generate future long-term opportunities to provide these data for R&D spending.

For more information or questions about FTAC-RDRS, please contact Chris Pece at Christopher Pece_EOP or (b) (6).

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When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.,

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SAO Call Meeting Notes

Meeting notes from the recent September SAO call are available on MAX at: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

Data Transparency Coalition – September 23, 2015

Data Transparency 2015 is the third annual gathering of U.S. open data leaders – from the executive branch, the legislative branch, state and local, the nonprofit sector, and the tech and financial industries. Speakers include David Lebryk, Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and Mike Peckham, Director of HHS Data Act PMO. Data Transparency 2015 is hosted by the Data Transparency Coalition. To register for this conference, please go to: http://www.datacoalition.org/events/data-transparency-2015/.

DATA Act Webinar for Govt Agencies: Creating Intelligent Data – September 28, 2015 (1PM)

XBRL US and AGA are holding a practical 60-minute webinar on how the DATA Act will help agencies create more useful, transparent information. Earn CPE credit and find out what agencies can gain while implementing DATA Act requirements from the greater efficiencies enabled by standards. This is the second of 3 webinars that take a deeper dive into how the implementation will work. For more information visit: http://xbrl.us/events/data-act-webinar-for-govt-agencies-creating-intelligent-data/

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In addition, the pilot also includes work on to test how the DATA Act submission process (aka the "broker") might work. By limiting the scope of data and adhering to the principle of "minimum viable product," we've been learning lessons that will inform the answers to many agency questions. A screencast has been created to summarize the work to date (September 1, 2015). We hope the screencast can demystify the functions of the broker and clarify what agency's steps are in providing the data.

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If you have questions about the pilot, please email the Treasury DATA Act PMO at DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

DATA Act Biweekly Digest

Treasury & OMB   **10/5/2015**   Volume 2

BETTER DATA • BETTER DECISIONS • BETTER GOVERNMENT

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to keep Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff updated on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities and new developments.

SAO In-Person Meeting

Treasury and OMB will hold an in-person meeting on **October 8, 2015**, from **11am – 12pm** at GSA, 1800 F Street NW, Room 1460. This meeting is intended to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions.

Please bring a government ID to enter the building. Due to the size of the room, only 1 or 2 additional staff per SAO can be accommodated.

For past SAO meeting minutes, see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

DATA Act Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The second round of frequently asked DATA Act policy questions from agencies was released on September 29, 2015. In addition, a list of outstanding agency questions and their status was posted. Both of these items can be accessed through the MAX page at: https://community.max.gov/x/lYF7L.

Treasury and OMB will continue to post updates to the FAQs.

DATA Act Implementation Plans

Thank you for your agency's submission of the DATA Act implementation plans. OMB and Treasury are reviewing the plans and coordinating with your agency's budget contacts as part of the FY 2017 President's Budget formulation. If your agency has not submitted a plan or do not believe your agency should submit one, please verify with OMB and Treasury.

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When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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Spending Transparency_EOP

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DATA Act News
Below are links to public facing outreach efforts.

Webinar for Gov't Agencies: Creating Intelligent Data
On September 28, 2015, a 60-minute webinar was held on how the DATA Act will help agencies create more useful, transparent information. This is the second in a series of three complimentary webinars that provide practical implementation guidance and real world examples by government agencies. This program is conducted through a partnership between the Association for Government Accountants (AGA), the member organization for financial professionals in government, and XBRL US, the national consortium for the business reporting standard. For more information and to replay the webinar see: https://xbrl.us/events/govt-webinar-20150928/

DATA Act Biweekly Digest

Treasury & OMB   10/19/2015   Volume 3

BETTER DATA • BETTER DECISIONS • BETTER GOVERNMENT

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to keep Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff updated on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities and new developments.

New Updates:

DATA Act Resources Guide

A DATA Act resources guide has been posted on MAX. This document provides a comprehensive overview of the various resources available to help with DATA Act implementation, including links on where the resources are posted. The guide can be found on the main page of the Federal Spending Transparency MAX page under "Events/Resources." It can also be accessed at the following link:
https://community.max.gov/download/attachments/254050873/DATA%20Act%20Resource%20Guide%2010-19-2015.pdf?api=v2

If you have questions or comments about this guide, please email
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SAO In-Person Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came to the October SAO In-Person Meeting. Treasury and OMB plan to hold another in-person SAO meeting on November 5, 2015 from 11am – 12pm. Location information will be sent out closer to the date.

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DATA Act Biweekly Digest

Treasury & OMB   11/2/2015   Volume 4

BETTER DATA ● BETTER DECISIONS ● BETTER GOVERNMENT

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New Updates:

SAO In-Person Meeting
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For those who cannot attend in person, the call-in information is as follows:

(b) (6)

Meeting notes from the recent October SAO meeting are available on MAX at:
https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

Feedback Request on V 0.6 the DATA Act Schema
Treasury has posted version 0.6 of the DATA Act Schema and is requesting feedback. DATA Act Schema v0.6 includes:

- A data dictionary that provides a human-readable listing of the data elements with definitions and other metadata;
- A single downloadable file that contains the XML Schema files.

To review and provide feedback on both the data dictionary and the schema see:
http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-exchange-standard/

DATA Act Data Elements
The final versions of the DATA Act data standards white papers are available on MAX at the following location:
https://community.max.gov/x/A4byL

Treasury and OMB have compiled a crosswalk that shows the relationship between the original 83 data elements, the 57 data elements, and the final data elements. You can access this document at the following link:
https://community.max.gov/download/attachments/754091523/Crosswalk%20Data%20Elements%20from%2083%20to%2057.xlsx?api=v2

FSSP Workshop
Treasury and OMB held a workshop for the federal shared service providers (FSSPs). We reviewed their implementation plans and progress, discussed roadblocks, and what Treasury and OMB can do to help. Discussions topics included: communication with customers, ongoing work on program activity codes, Award ID linkage, and building a process to extract data in the DATA Act Schema format.

FSSP customers should feel free to raise issues regarding DATA Act to their providers, and to Treasury and OMB as needed.

Information from previous digests:

DATA Act Resources Guide
A DATA Act resources guide has been posted on MAX. This document provides a comprehensive overview of the various resources available to help with DATA Act implementation, including links on where the resources are posted. The guide can be found on the main page of the Federal Spending Transparency MAX page under "Events/Resources." It can also be accessed at the following link:
https://community.max.gov/download/attachments/254050873/DATA%20Act%20Resource%20Guide%2010-19-2015.pdf?api=v2

If you have questions or comments about this guide, please email DataPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

DATA Act Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
The second round of frequently asked DATA Act policy questions from agencies was released on September 29, 2015. In addition, a list of outstanding agency questions and their status was posted. Both of these items can be accessed through the MAX page at:
https://community.max.gov/x/lYF7L.

DATA Act Implementation Plans
Thank you for your agency's submission of the DATA Act implementation plans. OMB and Treasury are reviewing the plans and coordinating with your agency's budget contacts as part of the FY 2017 President's Budget formulation. If your agency has not submitted a plan or do not believe your agency should submit one, please verify with OMB and Treasury.

DATA Act Elements Guidance Update
Treasury would like to know if your agency would be interested in a walk-through of the DATA Act Data Element Guidance. The latest version (released on 9/30) is located at:
https://community.max.gov/x/KoHhNQ. This document will be the foundation for providing all the business rules for the DATA Act technical schema.

If you are interested in hosting a walk-through at your agency, please contact Randall.Forrester@fiscal.treasury.gov.

DATA Act Office Hours
This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process, find answers to your implementation issues, and raise OMB and Treasury's awareness of the challenges your agency has experienced. The calls are not mandatory and will not replace existing governance structures or policy making processes.

When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

(b) (6)

If you would like, you may submit questions in advance to DataPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

DATA Act Pilot with the Small Business Administration (SBA)
Treasury is currently piloting with SBA. At this time, the pilot is tightly scoped to include financial assistance data, but will be expanded in the future to include procurement data. The goal of the pilot is to clarify the steps and tools agencies will need as they undertake DATA Act compliance. Additional information regarding the SBA pilot is at this site:
https://github.com/18F/data-act-pilot

In addition, the pilot will test how the DATA Act submission process (aka the "broker") might work. By limiting the scope of data and adhering to the principle of "minimum viable product," we've been learning lessons that will inform the answers to many agency questions. A screencast has been created to summarize the work to date (September 1, 2015). We hope the screencast can demystify the functions of the broker and clarify what agency's steps are in providing the data. Screencast Link: https://github.com/18F/data-act-pilot/blob/master/assets/screencast/data_act_pilot_screencast_sept_2015.avi.
If you have questions about the pilot, please email the Treasury DATA Act PMO at DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

DATA Act Biweekly Digest

BETTER DATA ● BETTER DECISIONS ● BETTER GOVERNMENT

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest
The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities.

New Updates:

SAO In-Person Meeting
Thank you to everyone who came to the November SAO In-Person Meeting. We'd also like to say a big "thank you" to USDA for hosting the meeting in the beautiful Williamsburg Conference Room. Key items discussed included the roadmap for the DATA Act Schema and Operating Infrastructure and a Controller Alert and forthcoming policy guidance incorporating decisions based on the data standards white papers.

Meeting notes from the recent SAO meeting will be available on MAX at:
https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

OpenBeta.USAspending.gov
The DATA Act beta website, OpenBeta.USAspending.gov, was launched on November 10th. This site will allow users, both federal and non-federal stakeholders, to provide input on how data will be published in the new USApspending.gov site, as well as what consumption models will be made available.

DATA Act Broker Sandbox
Treasury will make available a "sandbox" for agencies to test their data files using the prototype broker that has been developed. Agencies interested in testing with the sandbox must have their data files ready for use. The first opportunity for this will be on December 3rd. If your agency is interested in testing your files, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

Information from previous digests:

Feedback Request on V 0.6 the DATA Act Schema
Treasury posted version 0.6 of the DATA Act Schema and is requesting feedback. Schema v0.6 includes:

- A data dictionary that provides a human-readable listing of the data elements with definitions and other metadata;
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When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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If you would like, you may submit questions in advance to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or

Spending Transparency_EOP

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In addition, the pilot will test how the DATA Act submission process (aka the "broker") might work. By limiting the scope of data and adhering to the principle of "minimum viable product," we've been learning lessons that will inform the answers to many agency questions. A screencast has been created to summarize the work to date (September 1, 2015). We hope the screencast can demystify the functions of the broker and clarify what agency's steps are in providing the data. Screencast Link: https://github.com/18F/data-act-pilot/blob/master/assets/screencast/data_act_pilot_screencast_sept_2015.avi.
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DATA Act Biweekly Digest

BETTER DATA ● BETTER DECISIONS ● BETTER GOVERNMENT

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest
The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities.

New Updates:

DATA Act Workshop
Treasury and OMB will hold a DATA Act Workshop at GSA (1800 F Street NW) on December 8th and 9th to update agencies on DATA Act implementation and activities. The workshop will provide information on upcoming policy guidance and the DATA Act Schema, as well as the agency submission/validation process (i.e., the broker) and the Treasury DATA Act operating infrastructure. It will also be an opportunity to collaborate with other agencies, ask questions, and provide feedback to OMB and Treasury.

Workshop Dates and Time:

Tuesday, December 8, 2015
- 9-11am
- 1-3pm
- 3-5pm

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
- 9-11am
- 1-3pm
- 3-5pm

To sign up, one representative per agency should email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov to sign up on behalf of your agency. Please provide the date/time/# of people attending from your agency.

SAO In-Person Meeting
Thank you to everyone who came to the November SAO In-Person Meeting. There will be no SAO meeting on December 3, 2015, due to the DATA Act Workshop next week. The monthly meeting will resume its regular schedule in January 2016.

Meeting notes from the November SAO meeting are available on MAX at:
https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

DATA Act Broker Sandbox
Treasury will make available a "sandbox" for agencies to test their data files using the prototype broker that has been developed. Agencies interested in testing with the sandbox must have their data files ready for use. The first opportunity for this will be on December 3rd. If your agency is interested in testing your files, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

DATA Act Elements Guidance Update
Treasury released an updated version of the DATA Act Data Elements Guidance on November 19. This version 0.1.3 incorporates agency feedback, as well as updated information from recent OMB policy decisions. It is located at: https://community.max.gov/x/KoHhNQ.

This document will be the foundation for the business rules under the DATA Act technical schema. If you are interested in hosting a walk-through at your agency, please contact Randall.Forrester@fiscal.treasury.gov.

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DATA Act Office Hours
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When: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

(b) (6)

There will be no office hours on Thursday, December 24.

If you would like, you may submit questions in advance to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

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Treasury is currently piloting with SBA. The goal of the pilot is to clarify the steps and tools agencies will need as they undertake DATA Act compliance. Additional information regarding the SBA pilot is at this site:
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DATA Act

Biweekly Digest

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about a recent broker sandbox session, implementation plan feedback, the weekly office hours call, and other important reminders.

SPOTLIGHT

DATA Act Broker Sandbox Sessions

Treasury is working with agencies to test their data on the DATA Act prototype broker and collect feedback on the data extracts and the broker development. So far, five agencies tested their data in the "sandbox."

At the initial testing session on December 3rd, agencies saw how their data extracts work within the current prototype broker environment. The result of these tests will influence future iterations of the broker. We will be converting agency feedback into user stories and incorporating them as we develop the production ready broker. Overall, the agencies that tested with the broker sandbox learned valuable information to help them refine their data extracts and understand any data gaps, as well as aid them in developing future internal processes in preparation for DATA Act reporting. A second session is planned for December 17[h].

(b) (6)

NEWS & UPDATES

DATA Act Broker Testing

Treasury will host additional broker sandbox sessions in January for agencies to test their data files using the prototype broker and provide feedback on the broker and data validations.

If your agency is interested in testing your files, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

Implementation Plan Feedback

Treasury and OMB are in the process of providing feedback to agencies on their DATA Act implementation plans. Treasury will alert agencies by email when feedback is complete. The feedback will be uploaded to the same MAX Collect page where the plans were originally submitted: https://max.omb.gov/exercises/collect/x/2vl1VV

Please contact OMB and Treasury if you want to discuss your feedback in greater detail.

OpenBeta.USAspending.gov
The DATA Act beta website, OpenBeta.USAspending.gov, was launched on November 10th. This site allows users, both federal and non-federal stakeholders, to provide input on how data will be published in the new site, and what consumption models will be made available.

FEDERAL SPENDING TRANSPARENCY
DATA Act and FFATA Collaboration Space

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When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

Note: There will be no office hours on Thursday, December 24 or Thursday, December 31.

You may submit questions in advance to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

REMINDERS

DATA Act Resources Guide
The DATA Act Resources Guide provides an overview of the resources available to help with DATA Act implementation. The guide can be found on the main page of the Federal Spending Transparency MAX page under *Events/Resources*. It can also be accessed at the following link:
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DATA Act Data Elements
The final versions of the DATA Act data standards white papers are available on MAX at the following location:
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Treasury and OMB have compiled a crosswalk that shows the relationship between the original 83 data elements, the 57 data elements, and the final data elements. You can access this document at the following link:
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DATA Act

Biweekly Digest

Better Data.
Better Decisions.
Better Government.

December 29, 2015
Volume 8

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about an upcoming webinar on the broker and data analysis, details for the January SAO in-person meeting, the recently released DATA Act frequently asked questions, and other important reminders.

SPOTLIGHT

DATA Act Webinar for Government Agencies, January 5 at 2 PM ET

In this practical 60-minute webinar, hear from government and data standards experts on how agencies can leverage structured data required through the DATA Act to map to internal systems and perform more timely, accurate analysis. This webinar provides an in-depth discussion of the broker that every agency will use to prepare their internal data, plus a review of the kind of analysis your agency will be able to conduct.

Topics include:

- Framing the Discussion – why this is important for agencies
- The Broker – deep dive into how it works
- Performing Analysis – what will government agencies be able to do with structured data?
- Case Study: FDIC example on mapping and analysis
- Case Study: Public company financial analysis

Register at xbrl.us/events/govt-webinar-20160105/

This program is conducted through a partnership with the AGA, the member organization for financial professionals in government, and XBRL US, the national consortium for the business reporting standard.

NEWS & UPDATES

Object Class & Program Activity Reporting

Circular A-11 sections 82 and 83 required agencies to submit object class and program activity data to OMB in preparation for DATA Act implementation. If you have questions regarding the upcoming object class and program activity reporting exercises, please email the OMB Budget Review Division at Accounting_EOP First round submissions are due between January 22 – 30, 2016.

DATA Act Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The third round of frequently asked DATA Act policy questions from agencies was released on December 23, 2015. In addition, a list of outstanding questions and their status was posted. Both of these items can be accessed through the MAX page at: https://community.max.gov/x/IYF7L.

DATA Act Broker Testing

Treasury will host broker sandbox sessions in January for agencies to test their data files using the prototype broker and provide feedback on the broker and data validations. If you are interested in testing your files, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

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The DATA Act beta website, OpenBeta.USAspending.gov, was launched on November 10th. This site allows users, both federal and non-federal stakeholders, to provide input on how data will be published in the new site, and what consumption models will be made available.

January SAO In-Person Meeting

Treasury and OMB will hold an in-person meeting on January 7, 2016, from 11am – 12pm at NASA, 300 E Street SW. This meeting is intended to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions.

Please bring a government ID to enter the building. Due to the size of the room, only 1 or 2 additional staff per SAO can be accommodated. For past SAO meeting minutes, see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

DATA Act Office Hours

There will be no office hours on Thursday, December 31.

This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process and find answers to your implementation questions.

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

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DATA Act Agency Contact List
Agencies and shared service providers who are interested in collaborating on DATA Act implementation efforts can share their contact information on MAX at the following link: https://community.max.gov/x/_oJ3Og

DATA ACT PMO TEAM
DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov

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DATA Act
Biweekly Digest

Better Data.
Better Decisions.
Better Government.

January 11, 2016
Volume 9

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about the recently released DATA Act Schema V0.7 and Data Elements Guidance V0.1.4.1, object class and program activity reporting, the DATA Act Office Hours, and other important reminders.

SPOTLIGHT

DATA Act Schema and Data Elements Guidance Updates

On December 31, 2015, Treasury released the next version of the DATA Act Schema (v 0.7) on GitHub and an updated version of the Data Elements Guidance on MAX (v 0.1.4.1). In addition to the Data Elements Guidance, the new release contains documents that you have seen before - a webified data dictionary and XML schema files (or a technical representation of the schema). We have added some new items, including diagrams depicting the structural relationships and hierarchies of the data fields, as well as some additional contextual information for the data elements to make them more complete and uniform. This entire package of information is called the DATA Act Information Model Schema (DAIMS). In the coming weeks and months, work will be focused on building out the full reporting submission structure (RSS).

As work continues on the schema, we welcome additional agency feedback. The Treasury PMO team is available for one-on-one meetings with agencies to discuss the various schema components and answer any questions. Thank you for your continued engagement with us.

To review and provide feedback on the schema, go to: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-exchange-standard/

The updated Data Elements Guidance can be found at: https://community.max.gov/x/KoHhNQ

NEWS & UPDATES

Object Class & Program Activity Reporting

Circular A-11 §§82 and 83 requires agencies to submit object class and program activity data to OMB in preparation for DATA Act implementation. If you have questions regarding the upcoming object class and program activity reporting exercises, please email the OMB Budget Review Division at Accounting_EOP First round submissions for object class data are due between January 22 – 30, 2016.

DATA Act Blueprints

Treasury and OMB posted version 2.0 of the Blueprints (i.e., data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements and where they are currently reported.

More information can be found at: https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL

January SAO Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came to the January SAO In-Person Meeting. We'd also like to say a big "thank you" to NASA for hosting the meeting. Timothy Randle, technical architect of the DATA Act Schema, gave a presentation on the recently released version 0.7 of the schema. Meeting notes will be available at: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL

OpenBeta.
USASPENDING.GOV

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DATA Act

Biweekly Digest

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Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about updates to the DATA Act Broker and submission specifications, the upcoming February SAO Call, and more.

Packaging and Submitting Data to the DATA Act Broker

Treasury recently released updated versions of the DATA Act Schema and the Data Elements Guidance. The development team is currently working to align the prototype broker to the recently released versions. As part of this process, Treasury will provide agencies with clear and consistent instructions for data submission. This document is called the Reporting Submission Specification (RSS). The RSS contains background information; detailed field-level instructions on what data to submit, including required vs. optional, field length, and other context; sample data that conforms to the instructions; and an overview of the process for submitting data. More information about the RSS will be shared on this week's office hours call on January 28th.

Sandbox Testing

The purpose of the broker sandbox environment is to help both agencies and Treasury better understand the process of submitting data. Treasury will provide the Reporting Submission Specification (RSS) described above to agencies who have expressed an interest in testing the prototype broker when it becomes available. The preliminary version of the RSS has been field-tested with an agency and the feedback has been incorporated into the construction of this RSS. If your agency is interested in testing in the prototype broker, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

Treasury welcomes agency feedback on this approach, document, and process. Feedback can be given through the DATA Act PMO mailbox at DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov. The Treasury PMO team is also available for one-on-one meetings to discuss the schema components and answer any questions.

February SAO Call

Treasury and OMB will hold the next SAO meeting via conference call on February 4, 2016, from 11am – 12pm. This meeting is intended to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions.

(b) (6)

For past SAO meeting minutes, see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL

Object Class & Program Activity Reporting

Circular A-11 §§82 and 83 requires agencies to submit object class and program activity data in preparation for DATA Act implementation. First round submissions for object class data are due between January 22 – 30, 2016. In April, agencies will report both object class and program activity to OMB in a single file. For questions regarding the upcoming object class and program activity reporting exercises, please email Accounting_EOP

DATA Act Blueprints

Treasury and OMB posted version 2.0 of the Blueprints (i.e., data models) for grants, procurement, loans, and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements and where they are currently reported. To review, go to the following link: https://community.max.gov/x/BYbyL

The DATA Act beta website, OpenBeta.USAspending.gov, was launched on November 10th. This site allows users, both federal and non-federal stakeholders, to provide input on how data will be published in the new site, and what consumption models will be made available.

DATA Act Office Hours

This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process, find answers to your implementation issues, and raise OMB and Treasury's awareness of the challenges your agency has experienced. The calls are not mandatory and will not replace existing governance structures or policy making processes.

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

You may submit questions in advance to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

REMINDERS

DATA Act Resources Guide
The DATA Act Resources Guide provides an overview of the resources available to help with DATA Act implementation. The guide can be found on the main page of the Federal Spending Transparency MAX page under *Events/Resources*. It can also be accessed at the following link: https://community.max.gov/download/attachments/254050873/DATA%20Act%20Resource%20Guide%2010-19-2015.pdf?api=v2

DATA Act Data Elements
The final versions of the DATA Act data standards white papers are available on MAX at the following location: https://community.max.gov/x/A4byL

Treasury and OMB have compiled a crosswalk that shows the relationship between the original 83 data elements, the 57 data elements, and the final data elements. You can access this document at the following link: https://community.max.gov/download/attachments/754091523/Crosswalk%20Data%20Elements%20from%2083%20to%2057.xlsx?api=v2

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Agencies and shared service providers who are interested in collaborating on DATA Act implementation efforts can share their contact information on MAX at the following link: https://community.max.gov/x/_oJ3Og

DATA Act Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
This link provides access to the frequently asked DATA Act policy questions from agencies. In addition, you can find a list of outstanding agency questions and their status. https://community.max.gov/x/IYF7L

DATA Act

Biweekly Digest

Better Data.
Better Decisions.
Better Government.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY · 1789

February 10, 2016
Volume 11

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about the DATA Act Elements Guidance Feedback Tracker, meeting notes from the recent February SAO Call, prototype broker sandbox sessions and more.

SPOTLIGHT

Packaging and Submitting Data to the DATA Act Broker

Treasury recently released updated versions of the DATA Act Schema and the Data Elements Guidance. The development team has aligned the prototype broker to the recently released versions. As part of this process, Treasury is providing clear and consistent instructions for the prototype broker. This document is called the Reporting Submission Specification (RSS). The RSS contains background information on the prototype broker; detailed field-level instructions on what data to submit, including required vs. optional, field length, and other context; sample data that conforms to the instructions; and an overview of the process for submitting data.

Sandbox Testing

The purpose of the broker sandbox environment is to help both agencies and Treasury better understand the process of submitting data. Treasury will provide the Reporting Submission Specification (RSS) described above to agencies who have expressed an interest in testing the prototype broker. The preliminary version of the RSS has been field-tested with an agency and the feedback has been incorporated into the construction of this RSS. If your agency is interested in testing in the prototype broker, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

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NEWS & UPDATES

February SAO Call

Thank you to everyone who called in for the February SAO Meeting on February 4th. During this meeting, we discussed an Oracle update, the DATA Act Prototype Broker Sandbox, ongoing oversight activities, and the agency progress report.

Meeting notes will be available at: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL

DATA Act Elements Guidance Feedback Tracker

The DATA Act Elements Guidance Feedback Tracker was posted recently to MAX at the following link: https://community.max.gov/x/KoHhNQ. The DATA Act PMO has received numerous insightful and useful comments on the latest Data Elements Guidance released on December 31, 2015. This feedback will be tracked and answered in the document on MAX. To share additional feedback or questions, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

DATA Act Blueprints

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DATA ACT PMO TEAM
DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov

Better Data.
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DATA Act
Biweekly Digest

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about the upcoming March SAO Call, prototype broker sandbox sessions and more.

SPOTLIGHT

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(b) (6)

Treasury has begun holding sandbox testing with the updated prototype broker. On February 11th, five agencies joined Treasury to test their data extracts and provide feedback on the prototype broker. If your agency is interested in attending a future testing session, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 25th – Prototype Broker Sandbox Testing

February 25th – DATA Act Office Hours

March 3rd – SAO Call

March 3rd – DATA Act Office Hours

DATA Act Office Hours

This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process, find answers to implementation issues, and address challenges your agency has experienced. Submit questions in advance to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

March Senior Accountable Official (SAO) Call

Treasury and OMB will hold the next SAO meeting via conference call on March 3, 2016, from 11am – 12pm. This meeting is intended to highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions.

Call-in info: **304-480-5000, x 451137**

For past SAO meeting minutes, see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL

REMINDERS

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Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about the DATA Act broker wireframes exercise, an agency spotlight with USDA, and more.

SPOTLIGHT

Fine-Tuning the Broker through Wireframe Usability Testing

If you've been to a recent sandbox session, you may have also participated in a 30-minute Wireframe Usability Testing. Wireframes are like blueprints for the layout and functionality of a website. We want you to interact with the layouts that represent the future state of the Broker before any code is developed.

Wireframes Usability Testing helps to identify areas where designs can be improved to be more intuitive. After the first sessions in February, ten improvements were identified for the future Broker design based on what we learned from agency participants. Agencies are making an impact!

No prep work is required to take part in a session and remote sessions are available. Wireframe testing sessions kick off with a few background questions about the participant's role in uploading data. Participants then walk through specific scenarios, interacting with the layouts and thinking out loud as they take each step to complete the tasks. Observation and user comments provide us insights into the effectiveness of labels, visual cues, and the workflows of a design. Sessions wrap up with questions to rate different aspects of the experience.

Remote Sessions

Would you like to contribute to the success of the Broker? We are extending our reach by offering remote testing sessions to all agencies. If your agency is interested, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov to schedule a session. User testing will continue throughout the development lifecycle. Visit the revised GitHub site to learn more about our User-Centered Design process.

NEWS & UPDATES

Federal Spending Transparency Collaboration Page Update

The Federal Spending Transparency Github collaboration page was recently updated. This site is a resource for both agencies and the general public to access information about the DATA Act implementation. To view the site, please visit: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/.

DATA Act at DOJ

The DATA Act implementation team is always pleased to highlight positive partnerships that help move our mutual objectives forward. The Department of Justice has been an energized partner agency with the Treasury PMO team. Their extra efforts have contributed to the DATA Act broker development. We greatly appreciate DOJ's strong engagement and want to share their recently published quarterly newsletter about their DATA Act efforts. We have included a copy of their newsletter at the end of this digest.

The PMO always appreciates hearing from agencies about their DATA Act successes and efforts. Please feel free to send these to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov so we can include them in future editions.

Welcome to the Agency Spotlight

Welcome to the new Biweekly Digest feature - Agency Spotlights! In each Biweekly Digest, an agency or Federal Shared Service Provider (FSSP) will share their implementation experience, advice, and guidance. We hope you enjoy these glimpses into agencies' and FSSP's DATA Act efforts!

Over the last several months, agencies participated in broker testing and communicated their feedback to Treasury, allowing Treasury to make refinements that better accommodate agencies' needs. USDA has been deeply invested in DATA Act implementation efforts and was among the first agencies to participate in this testing. Our Treasury PMO Team sat down with Tyson Whitney, USDA Director of the Transparency and Accountability Reporting Division, to discuss the agency's testing and implementation progress. In this interview, USDA discussed their broker testing preparation efforts, lessons learned, and successes.

Tyson explains that in preparation for the testing the agency created prototype file layouts to internally test the four DATA Act files and pulled Fiscal Year 2015 procurement and financial assistance data from USAspending.gov. Once the agency had the data readily available, it was able to run it through the data validation process. Most importantly, through the testing, USDA gained tremendous insight into the data and formats. Now, the USDA team has a better sense of what data they will ultimately have to submit.

USDA identified areas for improvement for future testing and provided additional suggestions to Treasury. In future validations, Tyson plans to add additional scrutiny to File D, which displays awardee unique identifiers and funding entity information. Recognizing that grant, loan, and financial assistance data each have unique requirements, USDA has coordinated with other agencies to exchange ideas and validate approaches for how these requirements could be addressed.

Tyson also highlighted the support from USDA's senior leadership and how this support was essential to successful broker testing and implementation efforts. He stated that senior leadership endorsement and involvement fostered openness, progress, and flexibility. This flexibility encouraged USDA to participate in Treasury initiatives such as the broker testing. In addition to this, the agency also formed working groups focused on Financial Assistance, Grants, Procurement, and Loans data to promote internal communication and advocacy. These groups allowed USDA to prioritize files A – D and resulted in a notable achievement as USDA developed a department-wide Data Collection Approach for these files. Tyson is excited to see the DATA Act one day be able to deliver self-service analytics and reduce labor-intensive data calls at the agency.

If you would like to contact Tyson regarding USDA's implementation efforts, please email him at Tyson.Whitney@cfo.usda.gov.

March SAO Call

Thank you to everyone who called in for the March SAO Meeting. During this meeting, we discussed updates related to DATA Act reporting and the roadmap, ERP vendor engagement, and the prototype broker sandbox sessions.

Meeting notes will be available at:
https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL

DATA Act Office Hours

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DATA ACT PMO TEAM
DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov

DOJ

DATA Act
Digest

DATA Act Highlights

DATA Act Target: May 2017

By May 2017, agencies must report in great detail their spending, linked to award data for procurements, grants, and loans. This will provide unprecedented transparency into federal spending for the public and Congress.

DOJ DATA Act Pilot

JMD is leading a pilot to submit data to Treasury on a pilot basis. OJP and DEA are the participating components. Bi-Weekly meetings occurred in November and December between Treasury and DOJ.

OJP and DEA each generated four flat files containing financial data, and we submitted these to Treasury for analysis by the prototype "data broker," which assesses the files' compliance with data standards. The objectives of this exercise are to determine the level of effort to create the files and feasibility of submitting data.

On December 3, 2015, the initial testing was successfully conducted and agencies were able to see how the submission process for the data extracts worked in the test environment. The results of these tests will influence future iterations of the broker.

People often ask the question, *"As a taxpayer, where does my money go?"* **Well DATA Act has the answers!!!**

Introduction

The Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA) Act was signed into legislation **May 9, 2014**, the purpose of this act is to:

- Amend the Federal Funding Accountability Transparency Act of 2006
- Establish government-wide standards for financial data
- Pilot to simplify reporting for entities receiving federal funds
- Improve the quality of data submitted to USAspending.gov
- Apply approaches developed by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board

DATA Act Impact:

- Mandates uniform coding for Federal spending
- Easier tracking for Federal spending
- Saves the government potentially billions of dollars
- Improves performance and reduces waste and fraud
- Display of all Federal spending on USAspending site or reported to the general public

DATA Act Final Results:

Accountability:

Financial statements, budgets actions, grant reports will be available as open data, rather than trapped in inaccessible documents.

Treasury will be able to make the data fully searchable for citizens, taxpayers, and companies.

Management:

Agency management, Congress, and the public will have more up to date data to evaluate programs and understand spending.

Automation:

When federal agencies begin collecting grant and contract reports as standardized data instead of as documents, automated solutions will help grantees and contractors comply with existing reporting requirements cheaper than they can today.

Continued from DATA Act Highlights

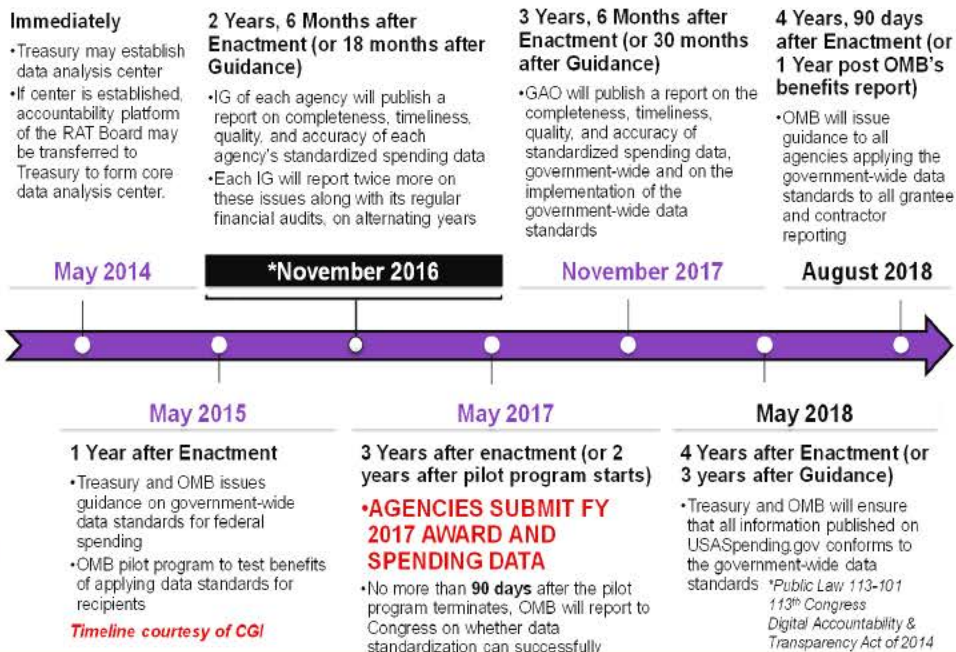**DATA Act Schema and Data Elements Guidance Update**

On December 31, 2015 Treasury released the next version of the data schema on GitHub and an updated version of the Data Elements Guidance.

Treasury and OMB have posted version 2.0 of the Blueprints for grants, procurement, loans and financial lines of business. They depict relationships between the DATA Act data elements and where they are currently reported.

OpenBeta.USASpending.gov
The DATA Act Beta Website was launched in November 10th, this site allows users both federal and non-federal stakeholders to provide input on how data will be published. on the new site, and what consumption models will be made available.

DATA Act – Timeline

Immediately
- Treasury may establish data analysis center
- If center is established, accountability platform of the RAT Board may be transferred to Treasury to form core data analysis center.

2 Years, 6 Months after Enactment (or 18 months after Guidance)
- IG of each agency will publish a report on completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of each agency's standardized spending data
- Each IG will report twice more on these issues along with its regular financial audits, on alternating years

3 Years, 6 Months after Enactment (or 30 months after Guidance)
- GAO will publish a report on the completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of standardized spending data, government-wide and on the implementation of the government-wide data standards

4 Years, 90 days after Enactment (or 1 Year post OMB's benefits report)
- OMB will issue guidance to all agencies applying the government-wide data standards to all grantee and contractor reporting

May 2014   ***November 2016**   **November 2017**   **August 2018**

May 2015
1 Year after Enactment
- Treasury and OMB issues guidance on government-wide data standards for federal spending
- OMB pilot program to test benefits of applying data standards for recipients

Timeline courtesy of CGI

May 2017
3 Years after enactment (or 2 years after pilot program starts)
- **AGENCIES SUBMIT FY 2017 AWARD AND SPENDING DATA**
- No more than **90 days** after the pilot program terminates, OMB will report to Congress on whether data standardization can successfully consolidate data to reduce the life

May 2018
4 Years after Enactment (or 3 years after Guidance)
- Treasury and OMB will ensure that all information published on USASpending.gov conforms to the government-wide data standards *Public Law 113-101 113th Congress Digital Accountability & Transparency Act of 2014*

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **Assistant Director, Financial Management Initiatives Group Finance Staff, Justice Management Division**

"This Department will have increased transparency and control over its data quality as a result of DATA Act efforts"

DOJ Point of Contacts:
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reed.v.waller@usdoj.gov
202-353-8904

(b) (6)
kyle.farris@usdoj.gov
202-353-0576

Thoughts from Mark Lane, *Associate CFO, OJP*

"Treasury and OMB have developed initial draft guidance to provide federal agencies more information on the DATA and FFATA elements. The guidance divides the DATA Act elements into six categories: 1) Appropriations Account, 2) Program Activity and Object Class, 3) Award Financial Attributes, 4) Award Attributes, 5) Awardee Attributes and 6) Subaward attributes. This refinement adds a tremendous amount of clarity to the questions of how the elements relate to each other, the level of detail required and **the**

timing of when information is to be reported. This notional model along with the evolving DATA Act Schema definition found on the GitHub page provides a foundation for compliance. OMB and Treasury will refine the requirements in this document based on feedback from agencies. Agencies should submit their feedback via the feedback tracker worksheet on MAX at https://community.max.gov/x/KoHhNQ."

Resources/Links

For more information on DATA Act please visit

♦ **DATA Act Data Elements:**
http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/dataelements/

♦ **DATA Act OMB MAX Community Page:**
Data Elements: https://community.max.gov/x/V47JL

♦ **DATA Act Data Standards:**
http://max.gov/datastandards

♦ **OpenBeta.USASpending.gov:**
http://www.OpenBeta.USAspending.gov

DATA Act

Biweekly Digest

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SPOTLIGHT

Federal Spending Transparency Collaboration Page Gets a Refresh

Many of you have probably visited the DATA Act collaboration space at fedspendingtransparency.github.io. In the past, we've used this space to post background information, and facilitate public comment on data definitions for some DATA Act elements.

Now that the data definitions are complete, we wanted to update the site to make it more relevant to current DATA Act work. Additionally, many agencies and external stakeholders have said that it's difficult to find all of the artifacts associated with the DATA Act. We're hoping that the new organization on the site makes it easier to navigate DATA Act resources and helps to better explain some of the unique aspects of our development process, such as using agile development methodologies and user-centered design.

Agencies can visit the Get Involved page to find dates for all of our sandbox sessions, office hours, and any other agency outreach events in one place. This is also where members of the public can find any events that might be relevant to them. Some information on the site, especially related to data submission, is not available to the public. This information will still be linked from the site, but if you click on these links, you'll be prompted to log in to OMB MAX and then will be redirected to the agency-only content.

We'll be updating the site on a more frequent basis to keep it current. If you have any suggestions for content, or think anything is missing, please let us know by emailing DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov.

NEWS & UPDATES

April SAO Meeting

Treasury and OMB will hold an in-person SAO meeting on April 7, 2016, from 11am – 12pm at GSA, 1800 F Street NW, Room 1153. This meeting will highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions.

Due to the size of the room, only 1 or 2 additional staff per SAO can be accommodated. For past SAO meeting minutes, see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

DATA Act Office Hours

This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process and find answers to your implementation questions.

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

OMB Policy Guidance

A draft OMB DATA Act policy guidance was sent out for agency comment and review through the LRM process on 3/16. Your feedback is very important to OMB and Treasury. As detailed in the LRM, we are requesting consolidated agency feedback to be sent through the usual LRM process by 4PM on 3/25. If you have any questions about the LRM process or the draft policy guidance, please email Spending Transparency_EOP

Administrative Resource Center
Bureau of the Fiscal Service

Recently, Treasury's DATA Act PMO Team had the opportunity to sit down with the Administrative Resource Center (ARC) DATA Act Team to discuss their implementation journey thus far. ARC is part of Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service and is a federal shared service provider, offering cost effective administrative services to 37 customers. ARC's dedicated DATA Act Team, which includes Amanda Cayton, Scott Bixman, Richard McFee, and Debra Daniell, is responsible for ensuring the service provider implements the DATA Act requirements in a timely fashion. In this interview, the team shared their successes, challenges, and excitement about the future of the DATA Act.

ARC's DATA Act Team has been making considerable strides towards implementation. Debra shared a few of the team's victories thus far. "We have been successful in addressing two key data element gaps within our financial system and also meeting the A11 reporting due date, which focused on reporting obligations by budget object class," Debra explained. She credits her team's cross-functional approach and support from upper management for much of this success. The early set of OMB required reconciliations were also a key resource for her team, and were shared on a quarterly basis with customer agencies to highlight financial and award data linkage issues and to better understand the data. ARC has also worked to better understand the FPDS and USASpending data, and has developed a strong working relationship with Treasury's DATA Act Team and DATA Act PMO office. This has been essential to learning, sharing information, and preventing roadblocks.

As would be expected of any effort of this magnitude, the team has hit a few bumps in the road; yet ARC's implementation progress has not lost momentum. "The greatest challenge for us has been understanding different practices among customer agencies. Each agency may have a unique way to report program activity data. As a result, we have reached out to agencies to gather information and better understand their accounting structures and budget reporting methods," added Debra. ARC has constructed a derivation table that allowed agencies to cross walk their processes to program activities. In addition to this, to further advance their progress, ARC has been proactive about collaborating with other groups. As Debra described, "We work with other FSSPs that use Oracle to share information about the requirements, the solutions we are considering, and new Oracle platform upgrades that may assist implementation."

Although DATA Act implementation is a complex endeavor, understanding the impact of this legislation has made the ARC DATA Act Team's implementation efforts all worthwhile. "DATA Act is an added responsibility for our team and all agencies who need to become compliant, but it is evolving our federal financial reporting. We are excited about the solutions and analysis that will be generated as a result of our efforts."

RESOURCES

Please click the following resource titles to access the resource.
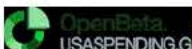
- **DATA Act Resources Guide**
- **DATA Act Data Elements**
- **DATA Element Crosswalk**
- **DATA Act Agency Contact List**
- **OpenBeta.USAspending.gov**
- **DATA Act FAQs**

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DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov

DATA Act
Biweekly Digest

Better Data.
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April 4, 2016
Volume 25

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about the draft RSS and IDD version 1.0 release, an agency spotlight with GSA, the upcoming April SAO in-person meeting, and more.

UPDATES

DATA Act Reporting Requirements Draft Version 1.0

Last week, Treasury released the draft Reporting Submission Specification (RSS) version 1.0 and related materials for agencies to review. The draft reporting requirements were developed collaboratively by Treasury and OMB and includes feedback from federal agencies. You can access the draft RSS at the following MAX page:
https://community.max.gov/x/9IDQPQ

There are two primary documents for review and comment: the Reporting Submission Specification (RSS) and the Interface Definition Document (IDD). Also included is a Domain Values spreadsheet and an information flow diagram. Combined, these documents will be used to develop the processes to gather data from your agency's reporting applications.

Agency feedback should be submitted through the reporting requirements feedback tracker spreadsheet posted on the draft reporting requirements MAX page. Comments can also be provided by emailing DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov. The review period will end on **April 11th** at **5pm (ET)**.

The final schema version 1.0 will be released at the end of April, including artifacts such as the web-based data dictionary, RSS, IDD, and the XBRL schema

We hope you were able to join the webinar Treasury held on March 31, 2016, to discuss the recently released draft RSS documents. If you were unable to attend the webinar, the video is available at the following link:
http://www.yorkcast.com/treasury/events/2016/03/31/data-act/

NEWS & EVENTS

April SAO Meeting

Treasury and OMB will hold an in-person SAO meeting on April 7, 2016, from 11am – 12pm at GSA, 1800 F Street NW, Room 1153. This meeting will highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions.

For those who cannot attend in person, the call-in information is as follows:

(b) (6)

Virtual meeting space:
https://meet.gsa.gov/dataact

For past SAO meeting minutes, see:
https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

DATA Act Office Hours

This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process and find answers to your implementation questions.

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

Please submit questions in advance to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

OMB Policy Guidance

Thank you to everyone who reviewed and submitted feedback through the LRM process to the draft OMB policy guidance. OMB is currently reviewing the over 100 comments and questions submitted by 32 agencies.

As an agency that provides services ranging from travel to technology, GSA is keen to leverage the DATA Act to generate insights on government spending. GSA has numerous procurement systems, which makes agency-wide data analysis difficult and limits the availability of information on peer agencies' expenditures. The implementation of the DATA Act will allow staff to access standardized data, expedite internal spending analysis, and better understand customer agencies' spending patterns. This week, the Treasury PMO team sat down with Anne Shimabukuro, Director of Business and Financial Analytics at GSA, to discuss the agency's implementation progress.

GSA's cross-functional team and strong leadership have been instrumental in driving towards successful implementation and producing strong results for the agency. Shimabukuro explained that "having a lot of people with the necessary expertise involved contributed to our ability to successfully complete early reporting exercises." To get the appropriate subject matter experts actively involved in implementation efforts, GSA stood up working groups to tackle specific DATA Act challenge areas.

The groups assemble to focus on areas including financial data, IT systems, government-wide policy, database creation, and GTAS-specific items. GSA was among the first agencies to participate in the DATA Act prototype broker sandbox sessions and provided valuable feedback on the sample files and data extract process.

Recently, GSA has focused on ensuring system fields are linkable through a common Award ID. "Linking data through the Award ID is challenging but it is worthwhile," Shimabukuro added. She explained that this exercise provides an opportunity to clean up data sets that have needed attention since before the implementation of the DATA Act started. The GSA team has also been collaborating with contacts at the National Finance Center (USDA FSSP) and other agencies that use the CGI Momentum platform. These relationships have been helpful to solve technical issues and engage with a broader DATA Act peer network.

After implementation, Shimabukuro hopes that the DATA Act will allow GSA to promote data-driven decision making. Leveraging the improved data quality and field formatting standards will allow GSA to better identify its own agency needs and provide better products and communications for federal government offices.

If your agency would like to participate in a Biweekly Digest Agency Spotlight, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov

Please click the following resource titles to access the resource.
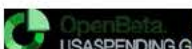
DATA Act Resources Guide   **DATA Act Data Elements**   **DATA Element Crosswalk**

DATA Act Agency Contact List   OpenBeta.USAspending.gov   **DATA Act FAQs**

DATA ACT PMO TEAM
DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov

DATA Act

Biweekly Digest

Better Data.
Better Decisions.
Better Government.

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about the DATA Act's user-centered design process, the draft RSS/IDD v1.0 feedback tracker, the weekly DATA Act Office Hours call, and more.

SPOTLIGHT

The DATA Act's User-Centered Design

The DATA Act team strives to gain a better understanding of those who will be using the new USAspending.gov site and those responsible for uploading data to it. Our user-centered design process starts with user research (learn); applies it to sketches, page designs, and functionality (make); and then returns to users for testing (test). This cycle will continue throughout the design and build phases until project completion.

Through meetings, workshops, analytics, and user interviews, the DATA Act team has worked to learn about users' needs, including what they want from the data, their technical environments (e.g., browsers, other software used), and their "pain points" with the current system. From that, we have developed a preliminary set of targeted user types, called "Personas."

A persona is a design tool that enables us to take information about users—their habits, their traits, demographic information, wants and needs, goals, motivations, market research, analytics—and distill it into a profile (or set of profiles). Although personas represent audience segments, they are given individual names and photos that let the design team relate to them on a more personal level. To read more about the current personas being used for the DATA Act implementation, please visit:
http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/user-centered-design/

The personas continue to be a work in progress and are subject to change as we continue to learn more about our users.

Over the next few months, we will share profiles for these personas in the Biweekly Digest. This week, we are sharing the Data Owner persona (please visit page 2).

NEWS & UPDATES

DATA Act Office Hours

This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process, find answers to your implementation issues, and raise OMB and Treasury's awareness of the challenges your agency has experienced.

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

Submit questions in advance to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

Draft RSS/IDD v1.0 Feedback Tracker

Thank you to all who submitted feedback on the draft Reporting Submission Specification (RSS). The DATA Act PMO received over 500 comments during the review period. The PMO is working to incorporate these into the RSS/IDD feedback tracker to provide responses. The final schema version 1.0 will be released at the end of April.

Policy Guidance Call

OMB will host a call on Thursday, April 21st from 12-1pm to discuss agency comments received during the LRM process and how feedback was incorporated into the guidance. To join the call, dial (b) (6) (b) (6) Contact Bertram Wyman_EOP with any questions related to the call.

(b) (6)

THE DATA OWNER

Name (b) (6) **Age:** 34 **Occupation:** Lead Accountant, Veterans Benefits Administration, VA **Location:** Washington, D.C.

(b) (6) was recently promoted to Lead Associate after being a staff accountant for 6 years. Her boyfriend is a Veteran and she is proud to play a role in serving vets.

In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and entertaining. She also serves as a mentor for kids at a youth program in Montgomery County.

> "I need a painless way to upload my data, correct errors and submit with confidence."

Goals & Tasks

- Validate and submit monthly uploads to USASpending on time
- If errors are found, return them to appropriate staff accountant(s) for correction and resubmit correct records
- View submission status and history; ensure agency performs well, and see that the program spending matches what was authorized

Attitudes & Motivations

- Wants to make sure agency is compliant with DATA Act
- Wants to guard the reputation of her agency
- Feels reporting is burdensome. Wants to see less redundancy and time spent reporting

Pain Points

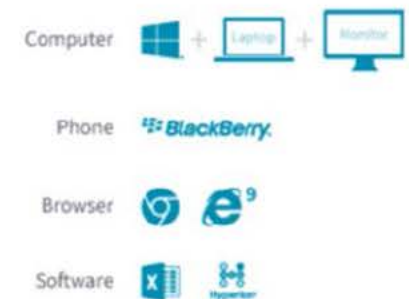- Non-technical: Managing multiple stakeholder relationships; antiquated systems

Skill

Financial

Technological

Tools

Computer

Phone BlackBerry.

Browser

Software

Design Implications

- Clean, uncluttered interfaces
- Clear and detailed error identification
- Inline help

Better Data.
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DATA Act

Biweekly Digest

Two Year Anniversary

DATA Act Signed into Law May 9, 2014

Welcome to the Biweekly Digest

The purpose of this digest is to update Senior Accountable Officials (SAOs) and agency staff on recent and upcoming DATA Act activities. In this edition, learn about the release of the DAIMS (DATA Act Information Model Schema) v 1.0, an agency spotlight with NSF, the May SAO call, and more.

SPOTLIGHT

DATA Act Information Model Schema Version 1.0 Release

On April 29th, Treasury released the DATA Act Information Model Schema Version 1.0 (DAIMS v 1.0). This technical guidance is the culmination of the work led by Treasury, in collaboration with agencies and the broader federal communities over the past year to iteratively develop the DATA Act reporting requirements.

Included in the release are: 1) an Information Flow diagram, 2) Reporting Submission Specification (RSS), 3) Interface Definition Document (IDD), 4) DAIMS Diagrams, 5) Online Data Dictionary, and 6) XBRL Schema Files. More information on these documents can be found at: http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/data-model/. Federal agencies can access the full RSS and IDD documents at: https://community.max.gov/x/CIbyL.

If you have questions regarding the guidance, please contact the DATA Act PMO via email at DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov. In addition, we will be taking questions about the guidance on the weekly DATA Act Office Hours call on Thursday, May 5th at 4pm.

The DATA Act team appreciates your continued engagement on this important initiative. We look forward to continuing to work with your agency on your implementation efforts.

NEWS & UPDATES

May SAO Call

Treasury and OMB will hold an SAO call on May 5, 2016, from 11am – 12pm. Call-in information for this call is: (b) (6) This meeting will highlight developments related to DATA Act implementation and field questions.

For past SAO meeting minutes, see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

DATA Act Office Hours

This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process and find answers to your implementation questions.

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

DATA Act Hearing

On April 19, Treasury and OMB testified before two House Oversight & Government Reform Subcommittees regarding the DATA Act.

A video of the hearing is available at: https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/data-act-monitoring-implementation-progress/

National Science Foundation (NSF) is a leader in the area of data quality - the heart of the DATA Act. In an effort to share NSF's best practices with our broader agency community, our Treasury PMO Team met with **(b) (6)** the Chief Technology Officer and NSF DATA Act Lead, to discuss NSF's DATA Act implementation efforts and the methods the agency uses to ensure high data quality.

NSF senior managers anticipated early on that the DATA Act would require significant effort and coordination, and encouraged the agency to get a head start on implementation efforts. To expedite their implementation, NSF created two active working groups with team members possessing the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve their goals. The team, comprised of both senior leaders and subject matter experts, meets periodically. One team, the DATA Act Working Group (DAWG), meeting weekly, is comprised of knowledgeable staff on information systems, financial systems, budget, grants, and procurement. The second team, meeting quarterly but receiving periodic updates, consists of NSF senior leadership including the CFO and the CIO. Developing collaboration tools such as a team SharePoint site has led to further progress. Without an active team, NSF would not have been able to submit an implementation plan to Treasury in a timely manner or participate in early sandbox testing.

A successful inventory of the data was critical for NSF's implementation efforts.

(b) (6) explained, "The workgroup meets once a week and during the initial meetings, using the resources such as the Playbook and the blueprints, the team members reviewed the data inventory spreadsheet." After reviewing the documents provided by Treasury, the NSF team identified NSF subject matter experts (SMEs) that could identify agency data sources, and ultimately address these gaps. To complete these steps, "We [NSF] found that the blueprints were enough, but the playbook was also useful because it allowed us to understand the steps that we needed to follow," **(b) (6)** **(b) (6)** added. Adopting this process allowed the groups to identify gaps and effectively address them

Prior to the DATA Act, NSF implemented a series of data management practices and continues to update these practices as necessary. Dr. Muñoz explained, "NSF reconciles internal data with the data submitted to USASpending on an ongoing basis." This allows NSF to ensure that data discrepancies are addressed as soon as they emerge.

Overall, NSF's structured and collaborative data quality processes and proactive data management approach allows the agency to sustain high data quality over time. Once the DATA Act is successfully implemented, NSF anticipates that research institutions will leverage the data to better understand where federal funding is headed. NSF is excited to assess how other grant making organizations are spending their money, and would like to gain a comprehensive picture of which projects or initiatives various science agencies are funding.

NSF Data Inventory Process

- Form Focus Groups
- Review Data Inventory Spreadsheet
- Identify SMEs
- Data Gathering & Analysis
- Identify Data Gaps
- Address Data Gaps

DATA Act

Biweekly Digest

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May 16, 2016
Volume 28

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DATA ACT UPDATES

Issuance of MPM 2016-03

On May 3, 2016, OMB released Management Procedures Memorandum 2016-03 (OMB MPM 2016-03) titled "Additional Guidance for DATA Act Implementation: Implementing a Data-Centric Approach for Reporting Federal Spending Information". The MPM provides guidelines on the linkage between financial and management systems, new requirements for reporting financial assistance data, new information about agency assurance of internal controls over the data, and information about the authoritative sources for data.

MPM 2016-03 was created in collaboration with agencies and Federal councils. We appreciate your feedback to the document throughout its creation, from early discussions at IAC, SAO, and other various council meetings, to the comments submitted by agencies to OMB through the LRM process. On April 21, 2016 OMB hosted a call to discuss major comments received on the draft guidance and OMB's response. The full text of the MPM and a summary of the April 21 meeting are linked here: https://community.max.gov/x/OYIkDw

For questions about the MPM 2016-03, please contact OMB at Spending Transparency_EOP

SPOTLIGHT

DATA Act's User-Centered Design (Part 2)

Last month, we shared the Data Owner user persona the DATA Act team is using in the user-centered design process to build the new USAspending.gov site. Our user-centered design process starts with user research (learn); applies it to sketches, page designs, and functionality (make); and then returns to users for testing (test). This cycle will continue throughout the design and build phases. This week, we are sharing the profile for Agency Developer (please visit page 2).

To read more about the current personas being used for the DATA Act implementation, please visit:
http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/user-centered-design/

NEWS

DATA Act Office Hours

This call is the opportunity to share your agency's feedback on the implementation process, find answers to your implementation issues, and raise OMB and Treasury's awareness of the challenges your agency has experienced.

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

Submit questions in advance to DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov or Spending Transparency_EOP

May SAO Call

Thank you to everyone who called in to the May SAO call on May 5th. This meeting highlighted developments related to DATA Act implementation and was used to field agency questions.

For SAO meeting minutes, see: https://community.max.gov/x/WxNjL.

Upcoming Key Dates

May 12th: DATA Act Office Hours
May 19th: DATA Act Office Hours
May 26th: DATA Act Office Hours
June 2nd: DATA Act SAO Call

(b) (6) THE AGENCY DEVELOPER

Name: (b) (6)   **Age:** 29   **Occupation:** Contractor   **Location:** Herndon, VA

(b) (6) grew up in Fairfax Station, VA and studied Computer Sciences at George Mason University, where he met his wife, Kat.

(b) (6) have two dogs and love Star Wars.

> "The USAspending submission process is very rudimentary. It feels like data submission circa 1996."

Goals & Tasks
- Pulls data from awards management system using SQL query
- Combines data from different databases into single CSV
- Runs validations and uploads to data broker
- Will eventually use API to automate the process

Attitudes & Motivations
- Wants to automate things as much as possible
- If data already resides in a system, pull it in automatically
- Deon and Kat have sizeable loans with Fannie Mae and don't want their future kids to take on similar debts
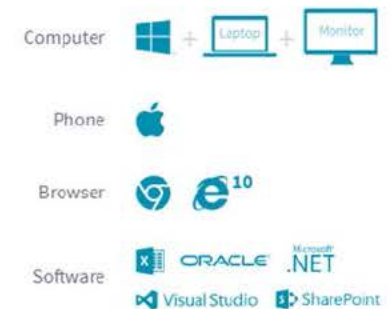
Pain Points
- If a file contains an error, the entire submission fails, and he must resubmit the entire file
- 3rd party look-ups, like DUNS, NAICS, and highest compensated officers, are not built into the system
- Definitions and instructions are in a PDF on another site

Skill
Financial
Technological

Tools
Computer
Phone
Browser   10
Software   ORACLE   .NET   Visual Studio   SharePoint

Design Implications
- Reuse existing data sources as much as possible
- Build API to pull data
- Consider a section of site for developers

Welcome to the DATA Act Digest

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SPOTLIGHT

Agency Engagement on the new USAspending.gov

Agencies are a core constituency of the user base of USAspending and domain experts on the data. The DATA Act implementation team continues to rely on their support and contributions to create an engaging, informative experience for users of the new USAspending.

Agencies can get involved in the development of the new USAspending.gov site in any of the following ways:

1. Participate in Design Studio
2. Comment on Wireframes and Mocks Posted on Open Beta
3. Participate in User Interviews

Prerequisites for Testing
Because interviews and design studios are individual and small group activities, we have a limited number of slots available each two-week sprint. We ask that agencies who attend are willing to participate and contribute ideas. Additionally, we ask that agencies who participate provide real data in line with the final 1.0 schema. This will allow us to create interactive web views based on the mocks and the data so that we can surface any issues with the display early.

For additional information about specific agency engagement activities available now, please see page 2.

DATA ACT UPDATE

DATA Act Alpha Broker Live

Treasury has launched an Alpha Release of the DATA Act Broker. The DATA Act Broker is a software layer that ingests, validates against the DATA Act Schema, and ultimately allows agencies to submit their data for publication. Treasury will continue to iterate on the Broker to add additional validations and increase user functionality.

If you are interested in signing up for an alpha broker account, please email DATAPMO@fiscal.treasury.gov

NEWS & INFORMATION

A Note on the Digest

We will be transitioning the Digest from its current biweekly format to one that will be released the first Monday of every month. This will allow us to provide more content and the release will be timed to coincide with the monthly SAO meeting to provide you with the information needed to prepare for that meeting.

The Digest archives can be found on MAX at:
https://community.max.gov/x/TQJ1O.

DATA Act Office Hours

This call is the opportunity to share feedback on the implementation process, find answers to your implementation issues, and raise OMB and Treasury's awareness of the challenges your agency has experienced.

When: Thursdays 4:00–5:00pm

(b) (6)

Agency DATA Act Responsibility FAQ

OMB and Treasury recently posted a FAQ document in response to agency questions regarding responsibility to report for DATA Act purposes. You can access this document at:
https://community.max.gov/x/IYF7L

For many months now, the DATA Act team has been using a human-centered design process to develop the future USAspending.gov. Agencies can get involved in this process by providing feedback on the wireframes and mockups on OpenBeta.usaspending.gov. Treasury will use these comments to revise the concepts and include features that users desire.

Comment on the Wireframes and Mocks Posted on Open Beta
Commitment: variable, as little as 5 minutes, any location
Number of Participants: unlimited
Participation Level: Passive

The forum on Open Beta allows users to discuss different aspects of the site among themselves, which may generate new feature ideas for the site. Agencies can get involved by providing feedback on the wireframes and mockups posted on Open Beta. Treasury will post the initial wireframes in June and July and update these wireframes based on feedback later this year.

Participate in a Design Studio
Commitment: 2 hours, on site in McLean, VA (metro accessible)
Number of Participants: Limited to 2 participants per session
Participation Level: Active
Contact the PMO Office (datapmo@fiscal.treasury.gov) to sign up

Design studios are an exercise the DATA Act team uses to kick off our design process for a particular aspect of the site. Each design studio lasts a few hours, and is focused on a specific aspect of the site that we want to create or improve. The subject of the design studio can be large, such as mocking up the search results page, or small, such as enabling users to sign up for email updates.

Participate in User Interviews
Commitment: 1 hour, remotely or in person
Number of Participants: Limited to 1 participant per session
Participation Level: Active
Contact the PMO Office (datapmo@fiscal.treasury.gov) to sign up

These interviews are similar to the interviews and usability tests we conducted for the Broker and the related wireframes. We start with a short interview to document the needs and goals of the user, then we ask them to complete certain tasks to assess the usability of the product.

RESOURCES

Please click the following resource titles to access the resource.
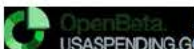
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