

BEST PRACTICES

The Open Data Initiative (ODI) works to ensure government finance data is consistent, transparent, and easily available. ODI is administered through Lincoln Network, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. For more information, [*please visit our website.*](#)

open data initiative

IMPLEMENTATION

- Using the best technology available does not necessarily mean the latest technology. Instead, it means the tech that your organization can best sustain after implementation.
- Establishing objectives with long-term leadership support to eliminate surprises.
- Including the various internal departments with data to be published very early on, so everyone understands the demands that will be placed on their staff.
- Either public or private Infrastructure must be available and supported. Plan ahead for long term compute, storage, or network capacity.
- Partnering with knowledgeable public groups and government entities that have experienced both success and failure. The Open Data Initiative has put together User Stories ([URL here](#)) and a Best Practices Working Group ([URL here](#)) to provide quality information.
- Hiring qualified people, from full-time employees and consultants to commercial contracts. To support any open financial data implementation, you will need a skilled web engineer with operations experience. To implement a more custom solution, you will need a team of web engineers with Linux, PostgreSQL, Jetty, SOLR, and Python -- or similar -- experience. Depending on the complexity, assume a ratio range of engineer to 100 servers.

OPERATIONS

- Establish the publishing practice with all the internal departments. The demands on staff can be minimized with procedures and automation.
- Consistent publishing of financial data will be expected by the public.
- Publishing historical financial data is a low priority compared to establishing a solid practice of publishing financial data for the future. Have separate engineering teams work on the current and historical data publishing.
- Maintain your own self transparency survey with scoring. Compare your score with other public transparency scores. Grading your progress will keep you honest.
- Maintain internally shared operations documentation, scripts, and code so that all engineering teams have access. A single person or team that does not work with the broader engineering teams is a liability.
- Create the practice of continuous deployment (automated updates) with tools, scripts, and code. Automation of production changes

<http://opendatainitiative.io> / join@opendatainitiative.io



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.