Governments Transparency
The impact of ITC and Internet
Poznan, October 2011
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• IT Employee at big corporations until 1986
• Consultant (1986-1990)
• Director at MBI (since 1990)
• Master in Computer Science (IME USP) and ex-professor (1988-1998)
• 32 years of experience in IT
• Member at various IT Events and Publication Editorial Councils
• Regular columnist at Information Week Brasil magazine since 1999
• Volunteering in the IT Sector:
  President at ALETI (2012-2013);
  Vice-President at Assespro Nacional (2011-2012);
  President at Assespro São Paulo (2007-2010);
  Secretary-Director at Assespro São Paulo (2003-2006)
E-Gov as a starting point

- Governments all over the world are putting online “services to citizens”. Stated goals include allowing citizens to access governments more easily, at a lower cost than through traditional ways, and to increase ‘transparency’.
- On a global level, according to ABI Research, about USD 114 billions will be saved by governments by adopting e-gov initiatives up to the year 2016.
- E-gov solutions still represent a very fragmented market, with different regions and countries over the world having very different development leves, and success track records.
- Governments want to give access to their information on a variety of levels.
- Mobile access to government services/information is rapidly getting very popular.
- The necessary investment to create, manage, maintain and market a G2C (government to citizen) portal is not trivial, and savings to be obtained are not immediate. Online e-gov services are more like an investment to get money flowing back in the future.
- In those cases where an important number of services is available to citizens through a single entry-point, citizens find it much easier to interact with e-gov services.
A progressive scale

- From minimum possible...
- ... To complete availability
  - We do not follow official definitions
- Conclusions (or Consequences)
Transparency Mode 0
Transparency Mode 0

- Available from Dictatorial or Religious Governments
- Few examples left: Cuba, Irán, Corea del Norte
- Their citizens do not have any access to inside information about their governments
Transparency Mode 1

- Governments are at least worried to bring their information to citizens
- The main channel used to inform is the press
- This kind of information cannot be sliced down by curious reporters or citizens
# Transparency Mode 1 Sample

## Your Federal Tax Receipt

Enter your federal taxes paid: **$30000**

### 2010

**third way**

**fresh thinking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>You Paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Show U.S. totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>20.4% $6,134.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>20.2% $6,051.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>13.1% $3,920.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income assistance</td>
<td>9.3% $2,785.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>7.9% $2,367.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net interest payments</td>
<td>6.6% $1,983.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment compensation</td>
<td>4.7% $1,407.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans benefits</td>
<td>3.1% $939.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Health Administration</td>
<td>1.3% $397.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs administration</td>
<td>0.1% $39.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>2.9% $868.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law enforcement and homeland security</td>
<td>2.4% $720.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>2.3% $675.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[http://www.thirdway.org/taxreceipt](http://www.thirdway.org/taxreceipt)
Transparency Mode 2

- Governments develop some kind of information system(s), which could be used by citizens to access the government’s information
- Already generates a big issue to develop appropriate user interfaces
- Drilling down is now partially available, restricted by options available through
Ejemplo de Transparency Mode 2

http://sidra.ibge.gov.br/bda/tabela/listabi.asp?z=p&o=6&i=P&c=3276
Transparency Mode 3

- Gobiernos se preocupan en hacer llegar un sistema a la ciudadanía, por medio del cual este consume la información
- Genera la necesidad de interfaces de usuario adecuadas
- No impide el desmembramiento de la información disponibilizada
Ejemplo de Transparency Mode 3
Ejemplo de Transparency Mode 3
Royal Mail postcode GIS - should be public data

I am a freelance database engineer presently serving a combination of corporate clients in the scientific and building engineering disciplines, and small public clients supporting social services. My clients increasingly need me to visualise data mashups combining sets of postal addresses, with these government data. However, as a small one-man business I do not have the financial firepower to compete directly with international corporations in subscribing to the prohibitively expensive (indeed extortionate) schemes run by Royal Mail for publishing their data.

I am also concerned that Royal Mail might even cynically use what is left of their dwindling resources to pay an army of lawyers to prosecute people like me for the mere act of creating our own (less accurate) postal-code-district geocoding databases WITHOUT recourse to any of their data. Merely being sued (even with a baseless case) would be too expensive for me.

It is my understanding that these data were originally paid for out of the public purse, though they have since been maintained by Royal Mail to accommodate gradual demographic changes. Royal Mail postal code lat/long and OS grid-reference geocoding data should be public, or else the Government should develop a real system based on OS grid references, lat/long coordinates or traditional (pre-1974) counties. Royal Mail has made a total mess of county boundaries in the UK for historical applications like genealogy (particularly where this discipline is combined with statistical sciences), and frankly I feel they should no longer be the custodians of our only viable source of geocoding data, "updating" the system according to their own commercial priorities.

Royal Mail has major financial problems on both strategic and operational levels:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8384722.stm

It is dangerous that our only viable postal geocoding data are currently the intellectual property of an organisation in this position and with this long-term outlook. It bodes ill for the future of geocoding. I believe no other advanced Western country is being held to ransom in this way.

Have you used our data to create an application?
Let us know

Have you got a good idea for the data?
We can help you find a developer....

Do you want more data?
Request new data

More like this
- Geopostcode
- UKGeocode
- Lat/Lng Easing/Nothing Postcode mashup
- Public Data should meet agreed and established Quality Standards and be reliable, factual and provable.
- Link Post Code to Government Services

http://data.gov.uk/
Conclusions

• Government Transparency and the benefits which will be generated need seamless integration of:
  – Traditional Interactive Interface
  – Internet of Services
  – Internet of Things
Thanks very much!

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