Open Data AWOL

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Open Data AWOL
Free!
Steve Coast
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Some Open Data

DNA(hack.com)

Wikipedia(.org)

OpenStreetMap(.org)
OSM Workshop
Wednesday Lunchtime
Versailles
Where does OD come from?

Government (US, mostly static)

Academia (closing off)

You (growing very fast)
Where does OD come from?

Government (US, mostly static)

Academia (closing off)

You (growing very fast)

Firm/Market based
Where does OD come from?

Government (US, mostly static)

Academia (closing off)

You (growing very fast)

peer based
Coase’s Penguin
(Yochai Benkler)

Commons-based Peer Production:

• Non-monetary motivation
• Discrete multi-size pieces
• Low-cost integration
Coase’s Penguin

(Yochai Benkler)

Commons-based Peer Production:

• Fun
• Takes 5 minutes
• Easy
Where does OD go?

Companies (lots)

Academia (a bit)

You (growing very fast)
Open Systems Are a Done Deal

eg, Ubuntu
Open Data Is Not

e.g., OpenStreetMap
Open Data

Pure Necessity

(There isn’t any)
Open Data

Pure Necessity

(It’s stopping us doing cool stuff)
Open Data

Pure Necessity

(It’s stopping us doing cool stuff)

(we’re reaching limits of what we can do with just the software (eg gpsdrive))
Open Data

Isn’t as cumulative as Open Systems

(lots of people think they need 100% or nothing)
Open Data

Everything is being closed off

(Treating copyright etc as ‘property’ so we can use Econ 101)
Open Data

not creative
(mostly)
Data as ‘Property’
Data as 'Property'

(Infringement is not theft)
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This definitely does!
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Uh-Oh!
Data:
UK-US comparison
US GeoData Maket

Price

'Quality'  100 %
US GeoData Market

Price

'Quality'

TIGER-derived (mostly)

100 %
I’m ignoring ex-copyright data as its place is very debatable.
UK GeoData Market

Price

OSM

'Quality'

100 %

OS
We’ve seen this before
OS Market

Linux

(Think price per feature)

Windows

Price

Quality

100 %
Critique cheat sheet

“You can’t trust it like Britannica”

(Quality)
Critique cheat sheet

“It will never be as big as Britannica”

(Quantity)
Responding to Open Data

Look the other way
(eg, Google)
Responding to Open Data

Enact/use bad laws

(eg, Disney)
Responding to Open Data

Move up the chain

(eg, IBM)
Responding to Open Data

NC licenses

(Will slow but not stop open data)
The Future

We need a movement that demands open data just as we demand open code for practical, ethical and political reasons.
EOF
Thanks for listening

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