

39th International Conference Closed Session in-depth Discussion

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SHARING: PROTECTING SENSITIVE DATA, PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION AND MANAGING RISK

Additions in blue colour font from NZ

Around the world, governments are under increasing pressure (from both political and economic forces) to breakdown silos around information-holdings, whether in pursuit of new commercial opportunities, wider distribution of knowledge, increased transparency or sought-after efficiencies.

These external-facing open government / open data efforts have been accompanied by parallel internal campaigns and efforts to lower perceived barriers around exchange of information between government agencies, in support of a broad range of services and activities.

These arguments frequently find common champions and, often, echo with comparable promises, but do they bear scrutiny and where do these efforts leave commitments to data protection?

The Hong Kong Closed Session will aim to examine these threads through three separate panels: one, on the contemporary mediation of information-sharing and how PEAs have traditionally approached data-exchange within government; two, how new technologies (esp. those that offer an automated, secure, auditable set of business rules, like distributed encrypted ledger systems) may offer some promise as a warning system within a fully digital government data exchange; and three, how government uses for data can trigger public concerns about discrimination and protection of sensitive information

To advance these three topics, yet advance the discussion from within the PEA community, we have proposed three panels of three (one hour each) followed by three breakout discussion sessions (one hour each) where the attendees will share experiences of their own, suggest useful follow-up, comment on the advice they've heard and provide critical feedback.

Detailed panel descriptions and possible speakers follow.

Panel One: Back to Basics: Why Agencies Share, Who Oversees It and When Jurisdiction Comes into Play

The first panel would focus on current practice in government information-sharing and how Privacy Enforcement Agencies (PEAs) oversee circulation of personal data. It would serve both as background and lay the foundation for discussion of current practice (e.g. privacy impact assessments and information sharing agreements) as well as gaps between reality and technical capacity.

Panelists include:

- TBC

Proposed panelists:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Panel Two: By the Numbers: How New Tech and Big Data Transform Sharing

This panel will examine new technologies – for example automated, secure, auditable business rules, or distributed encrypted ledger software – that have potential as warning systems within government implementations of Big Data models. New commercial processes to processing and leveraging sensitive data (e.g. political preferences, health concerns, etc.) are also up for discussion. Panelists include:

- TBC

Proposed panelists:

1. [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

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4.

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Panel Three: Discrimination, Risk and Sensitivity – How Uses for Data in Government Can Outpace Public Concern

This panel will look at questions of risk management, ethical analysis around avoiding discrimination and unpack the complexities of sharing between jurisdictional partners but within a common government program where often dozens of individual health, educational or social services agencies may be engaged in highly sensitive interventions. [In addition this panel will discuss the use of administrative datasets to research the determinants of social or health outcomes, and the development of predictive risk modelling tools as a result. Predictive models can then be used to design services based on characteristics of a population, or even interventions targeted at individuals. Advocates believe Predictive risk modelling has great promise for improving the outcomes from government investment in social services, however it is also a means of profiling, which carries significant risks to individual privacy, autonomy. The panelists will discuss both sides of this story: the reliability of the data science and modelling that underpin the tools, and their relative fitness for use to inform policy or research at a macro level, versus the potential utility and risks of using such tools to allocate resources, or prompt government interventions into the lives of individuals identified by the algorithm as being at greater risk. The discussion should identify; the ethical, legal and other risks involved with their development and use; and the ways in which predictive risk models are being used by governments today.](#)

Speakers to include:

- TBC

Proposed Panelists:

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

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