

In-Depth: Cities and Their Data

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Cities in Comparison

- Chicago: data.cityofchicago.org
- Berlin: daten.berlin.de
- Rostock: opendata-hro.de

Key Aspects

- Design
- Usability
- Data Quality
- Data Policy

Basic Facts

Website published

- Chicago: May 2010
- Berlin: September 2011 (Public Beta)
- Rostock: January 2013 (Prototype)

Technology

- Own software
- Open source software (CKAN)
- Third party software (Socrata)
- Mixed form (building own framework around existing software / CMS)

Design + Usability

- Intuitive Design
- Ease of Learning
- Efficiency of Use
- Memorability
- Error Frequency and Severity
- Subjective Satisfaction

Key Features

- Dashboard or similar?
- Interactive / Feedback Component?
 - Suggestions ("Request a dataset")
- Transparency: Release Schedule?
- Usage Examples and Apps
("Inspirational Uses")
- Tutorials on how to use data?

Data Policy: Chicago I

- Shift after Rahm Emmanuel's election as mayor in 2011 (former White House Chief of Staff)
- Strategy: Open Data as essential part
radar.oreilly.com/2011/08/chicago-data-apps-open-government.html
- 100 day plan (searchable city budget)
- 1st year plan ("Open311 + Apps for Metro Chicago")
cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/311.html
- New positions: CTO (John Tolva - @ChicagoCTO)
+ Chief Data Officer (Brett Goldstein - @ChicagoCDO)

Data Policy: Chicago II

- Academic Partnership: Urban Data Institute at University of Chicago
- Number of Hackdays + App Contests, including "Code for America"
codeforamerica.org/category/chicago
- Thorough API Access (Socrata Open Data API):
cityofchicago.org/city/en/narr/foia/sample_code0.html
- Many directly usable cases, such as snow plow tracker:
cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mayor/iframe/plow_tracker.html

Data Policy: Berlin

- Initiated by small mixed group
(administration, civic society, scientists)
- Declared as test operation from 2011 to 2012
- Transition into regular operation as of 2012, funded with 100,000 € per year
- Number of datasets slowly increasing
- CIO (Andreas Statzkowski), not in charge of Open Data
- No CTO or CDO, no direct federal Open Data policy
- History: opendataberlin.wordpress.com

Data Policy: Rostock

- By decision of local parliament (November 2011)
- Prototype, small number of datasets
- Developed by City, Surveying Office in charge
- Mayor's office responsible for data
- Strict CKAN basis
- Revision history: opendata-hro.de/revision
- API exists, with documentation

Further Information

- Interview with Chicago's Chief Data Officer Brett Goldstein:
socrata.com/open-data-field-guide/socrata-interview-brett-goldstein-city-of-chicago
- Usage Example - Chicago Lobbyists:
chicagolobbyists.org
- Berlin's Strategy:
berlin.de/projektzukunft/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/sonstiges/Berliner_Open_Data_Strategie_2012_kurz.pdf
- Rostock:
195.37.188.171/bi/vo020.asp?VOLFDNR=1005575