

Open Government

Presentation On Open Government By
Mirjan Merruko
M.Sc. Student in Software Development
At the University of Tampere

Note

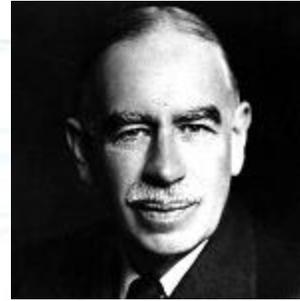
- Some text passages are copied exactly as they appear in the original articles
- Due to lack of serious sources much of the material are found in Wikipedia and are of poor quality and of a promotional-marketing character without taking a critical view
- The presentation will hopefully stir a conversation that will allow a critical examination of the existing information by the participants

Known Approaches Towards The Government

- Less Government



- More Government



- A Different Government



- No Government



About Open Government

- According to “Open Government” by Daniel Lathrop and Laurel Ruma
- **It's the notion that the people have the right to access the documents and proceedings of government**
- **The idea that the public has a right to scrutinize and participate in government dates at least to the Enlightenment**
- **Its principles are recognized in virtually every democratic country on the planet**

About Open Government

- The concept of Open Government has been influenced by the open source software movement
- The idea is that as users in open source are able to change and contribute in open source software the same applies to governments
- The citizens not only have access to the documents and the proceedings but can also participate in the processes
- There is a wide array of projects and movements which are working on building open-source governance systems

Open Government Applications

- Political party platform development, in which ideas are solicited from anyone or almost anyone and openly discussed to a point but the ranking and devotion of resources to developing ideas is reserved to party members or supporters. A variant is the non-partisan think-tank or citizen advocacy group platform development as has become common in Canada
- Citizen journalism forums obeying stricter rules to ensure equal power relationships than is typically the case in blogs, strictly designed to balance libel and free speech laws for a local jurisdiction (following laws strictly is part of the open politics ideal)

Open Government Applications

- Open party mechanisms to actually govern and operate formal political parties without the usual insider politics and interest groups that historically have taken over such parties; these experiments have been limited and typically take the form of parties run by referenda or online – none of which have achieved any representation in any parliament anywhere in the democratic world.
- Hybrid mechanisms which attempt to provide journalistic coverage, political platform development, political transparency, strategic advice, and critique of a ruling government of the same party all at the same time.

Collaborative eDemocracy Theory Components

- **Collaborative democracy** : A political framework where electors and the elected actively collaborate to attain the best possible solution to any situation using collaborative enabling technologies to facilitate wide scale citizen participation in government
- **Collaborative e-policymaking** (or CPM) is a software facilitated five phase policy process in which every citizen participates directly or indirectly. The process is conducted on a governmental social networking site in which all citizens are members. Each citizen can suggest issues, rank and evaluate the suggestions of others, and vote on the laws and policies that will affect them. CPM is a universal process that would facilitate every organisation or self-selected group to co-create their own regulations and strategies by involving all stakeholders in the corresponding decision-processes

Collaborative eDemocracy Theory Components

- Proxy voting: Direct democracy would require each citizen to vote on each policy issue each time. As this would overburden most people, the citizens in a collaborative e-democracy select trusted representatives (or proxies) to vote on their behalf on all those issues and/or domains where they lack of time, experience, or interest for direct participation. Although the proxy votes on the principals behalf, the principal retains the final voting power on each issue. Thus proxy representation combines the best features of direct democracy and representative democracy on the social networking site.

Open Government Initiative In The US

- The Open Government Initiative is an effort by the administration of President of the United States Barack Obama to "creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government." The directive starting this initiative was issued on January 20, 2009, Obama's first day in office
- The philosophy of the initiative is the government should be transparent, participatory and collaborative. Agencies across the federal government are establishing Open Government Web pages and asking the public for ideas and suggestions
- Wikileaks, the occurrence of 'cablegate' and the US government reaction to it severely tests the premises of the initiative.

Government 2.0

- Web 2.0 harnessed the power of collaboration and collective participation and was a radical change from the static web
- Government 2.0 is described as rediscovered and re-imagined, where there is an analogy of “Government As a Platform”
- The use of collaborative web 2.0 technologies is considered a crucial part in order to collectively solve problems at city, state, national and International level

What Is Government Anyway?

Different Opinions And Weird Analogies

- Government is, by its very nature, all about community. Government is a group of people - citizens or constituents - doing together what they can't do as individuals or otherwise obtain from private business
- “We were never meant to have a highly centralized government. Power was meant to be maintained by checks and balances not just in the three branches of federal government but by the states, the states by county and local governments. And the final check was the American people – us”
- Market analogies are used and competition and open markets are praised and a particularly weird analogy about the number of phones appearing in the market every year and the “government 2.0” services which would pop-up like phones in an “explosion” of innovation

What Is Government Anyway?

Different Opinions And Weird Analogies

- “We should expect the same practice [opening things to competition and keeping what's useful while throwing away things that are not] from our government whose very job is the promotion of market economies and democracy”
- The author then proceeds to suggest that the government should be “allowed” to be involved in issues such as health care but “it should do so not by competing with the private sector to deliver health services, but by investing in infrastructure that will lead to a more robust private sector ecosystem”. Suddenly the praise of competition is out of the window....

What Is Government Anyway?

Different Opinions And Weird Analogies

- Agile development practices are praised in an uncritical manner and are in a strange way suggested as something that government organizations should adopt
- The Government is a platform for innovation, private profit and a new market for IT companies to exploit [note : this is my impression of the 2nd chapter of “Open Government” by O'reilly]

Big Statements

- Thanks to web-savvy agitators, insiderism and elitism are under heavy attack. The era of top-down politics is over.
- Now, it's easy to look at this process and blame the politicians. They are certainly culpable. But let's look at the other end of the Washington purse strings. Who buys the politicians? It's the corporations who would rather game the system than create something of value in a competitive marketplace.
- Our politics is not transparent and it needs to be. I am heartened by the community of bloggers who have begun to hold politicians and the big media that cover them more accountable.
- So, yes, technology can help in the form of decentralized tools, greater transparency and principle-based communities that use them. The challenges are to develop both the tools and the community practices in a synergistic way.

Active Democracy

A Swedish Party

- “Aktiv Demokrati (swedish for “Active Democracy”) is a non-political party for realizing direct democracy in the swedish parliament, using a mix of delegation and direct voting through the Internet.”
- Our basic idea is that all citizens from different parts in the society should be able to influence important issues both directly and indirectly straight into parliament through an internet based democracy system.
- Too many full-time politicians seem to be controlled by short term greedy interests or common incompetence at the same time as the citizens basic interests are being ignored. Politicians with moral courage and idealism can no longer be seen in leading positions in any political party.
- *The very fact that an inherently political issue is called non-political, and a political party calls itself non-political is indicative of the level of maturity of this movement*

Active Democracy

A Swedish Party

- In Sweden we have a rule that shuts any initiative below 4% of the voters out from influencing the politics (in other countries it is even worse. Some countries do not even have proportional representation), but these small initiatives do deserve attention and possible influence. We, the people, should, for this reason, take the direct responsibility for what is happening to us by creating a real democracy in Sweden
- *What is “real” Democracy?*

Active Democracy

A Swedish Party

- The political elite knows what means with democracy (Democracy means people rule), but they gladly misunderstand what democracy really is to guard their power and live well on the big piece they grabbed for themselves. They lack good arguments for an open debate in front of the citizens. They claim that their competence can't be compared to the peoples competence. We all know that this is not the case. It is quite embarrassing all too often.
- We cannot let this “few-people rule” become norm for “democracy” because then dictatorship is not far away. The same tendencies that came before Hitlers abuse of power is now to be seen. Increased unemployment, increased criminality, increased racism and increased poverty. Politicians are responsible, but it is not a new Hitler that is the salvation against a disfigured “representative democracy”. History made that very clear to Germany. Instead it is increased democracy that is the solution. You are also responsible to make it happen.

Active Democracy

A Swedish Party

- The most refined about this party is that it has an *unpolitical*[?] ideology that completely ignores thinking in red or blue and leaves every decision to the citizen, all according to direct democratic principals in harmony with true representative democracy, also called “representative direct democracy”
- The most characteristic property of the voting system of this party is that all voting are continuous. A continuous voting starts at a certain time but it is not predetermined when it will end. All voters can also propose a vote to be taken around an important issue at any time. A voting can be compared to a tug-of-war, which ends when one team wins. In this tug-of-war, all participants are equally powerful and all voters can jump into the tug-of-war on the side he or she wants to support. It is also allowed to switch side during an ongoing tug-of-war if one should change one’s mind.

Open Source Democracy

- Written In 2003
- “The birth of the internet was interpreted by many as a revolution. Those of us in the counterculture saw in the internet an opportunity to topple the storytellers who had dominated our politics, economics, society and religion - in short our very reality - and to replace their stories with those of our own.”
- “This is why it might be more useful to understand the proliferation of interactive media as an opportunity for renaissance: a moment when we have the ability to step out of the story altogether.”
- “When actual e-commerce didn't work, the internet was rebranded yet again as an investment platform” - 2004 , I highly doubt that this is even remotely true

Wikicracy

- Wikicracy, or Wikidemocracy is a model of government based on the open source and "wiki" concepts that have already been brought to the private sector, i.e. Wikipedia
- Just like the facilitation of knowledge creation by wiki that occurs in an article, the wiki tool can become, if adapted, the ultimate tool for building political platforms, public budgeting, and all kinds of public consultation processed
- That is, it can become a basic tool for more powerful, more efficient forms of democracy. The efficient facilitation of wide consensus could be achieved

Wikicracy

- “Today, what I propose is to build together the tool that will allow a better democracy, this has been called by others political wiki”
- Requirements:
 - Accessible from anyone in the world with internet access
 - Enabling efficient online proposals study/amendment
 - Vote/adoption procedures and elections
 - Robust for virtually any kind of group, association, political party, city board, country, international institution
 - Adaptable to business e.g. shareholders meeting.

Wikicracy Example

Wikicracy - Meta - Mozilla Firefox

文件 (F) 编辑 (E) 查看 (V) 历史 (S) 书签 (B) 工具 (T) 帮助 (H)

http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikicracy

Vmandrilly my talk my preferences my watchlist my contributions log out

proposals & amendments + / - votes edit history

Category: Leisure > Issue: Adoption of a pet

Dupont family (5 members) [1/5 (20%) voted to delete this issue - I vote to DELETE this issue (min 75% votes needed)] Priority: 3 Up ↑ Down ↓

Vote information [edit]

Object: Hi. My siter and I would like to adopt a pet, like our neighbors! [David] Sure they would feel less lonely after class.[Mum] OMG! [Dad]

Deadline: Tomorrow! [David] No, we need time to make everyone agree, let's say we decide by Christsmas, ok? [Mum]

Voting rules: 5 out of 5 members (100% votes) needed for this proposal to be adopted

Status: Not yet open to vote. Vote will be automatically open to vote 2 weeks before deadline or if no new changes have been made during one whole week. You will then have 2 weeks to cast your vote. It is not possible to change the proposal during voting time.

Contents [hide]

- Proposition 1 Let's adopt a little doggy!
 - 1.1 Race
 - 1.2 Name
 - 1.2.Amendment.1 alternative name
- Proposition 2 Let's buy a new computer game instead.
- Proposition 3 Let's adopt a cat!

Proposition 1 Let's adopt a little doggy! [edit]

Race choice [edit]

Let's adopt a Yorkshire

Categories: Leisure

Wikicracy project

Privacy policy About Wikicracy Disclaimers

Powered By MediaWiki

完成

Metagovernment

- The Metagovernment project supports internet tools to enable collaborative governance. We are a global community of people working on numerous projects which further this goal
- In all representative democracies (from national governments to condominium boards), political power is consolidated in the hands of a few elected officials. Most of us have little or no say in how those officials act
- Metagovernment's solutions are collaborative, consensus-based, and synthesis-oriented. In this way, we avoid the traditional limitations of direct democracy and allow everyone to be involved without degrading into mob rule, tyranny of the majority, or demagoguery.

Metagovernment

- Collaborative governance is a new and rapidly evolving concept: it is not yet ready to take on the administration of huge national governments. Rather, we expect that small communities will be the early adopters. As these smaller groups use and adapt the software, we intend to evolve it to be able to handle larger and larger systems.
- Adoption of collaborative governance requires no official mandate. An interested community may set up an instance of open source governance software and invite its members to begin using it. If the software is successful, they will eventually invite the entire community to switch its formal governance mechanism over to the software using the accepted mechanisms of the existing mechanism.
- This transition scheme allows any community, from a small club to a large government to make the transition to collaborative governance.
- You can take the first step in this transition by beginning to document your own goals and objectives in open format such as StratML. Then you can encourage others to do likewise, and the network effect can begin

Metagovernment Projects

- Adhocracy — A drafting and (delegated) voting tool for small and medium-sized groups
 - It is used by the SPD the German Social Democratic Party, in fact it's nothing more than a social media website with comments and votes
- Candiwi – A different type of wiki where changes to an article are only made when other users accept them
 - When you want to change something, you create a proposal. In your proposal you can edit, add, remove or rename articles at will. All changes made in a proposal are isolated and have no effect on the articles in the "Trunk". Other users can also collaborate on your proposal. When you're finished editing, you can submit the proposal for everybody to vote on. If it is accepted, the changes are applied to the "Trunk".

Metagovernment Projects

feedback

[Blog](#) [Resources](#) [Learn about Congress](#)



Like 1k

Join Login

[Bills in Congress](#) [Scoreboard](#) [Organizations](#) [Congress Weekly](#)

HR.2587 Protecting Jobs From Government Interference Act

To prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from ordering any employer to close, relocate, or transfer employment under any circumstance.

People's Vote	Gov Vote	Outcome	Your Vote
<input type="button" value="NO"/>	<input type="button" value="YES"/>	<input type="button" value="NO"/>	<input type="button" value="YES"/> <input type="button" value="NO"/>

0 Like Send

[EMBED BILL on your website](#)

Recent Member Votes

- YES Vote on HR.3835 VOTE BY:GSP
- YES Vote on HR.525 VOTE BY:GSP
- YES Vote on HR.525 VOTE BY:NICOLIAS DOCANTO
- YES Vote on HR.2883 VOTE BY:ALISETH GUEVARA
- NO Vote on S.2035 VOTE BY:BARACK OBAMA

My Representatives

- Frank R. Lautenberg Voted:
- Frank R. Lautenberg Voted:

7 comments 7 people listening

Sign in 

+ Follow conversation Post to Post comment as

Sponsored by Rep. Tim Scott (SC Republican)

Open Government In Canada

- Aims : “The expansion of open government will give Canadians the opportunity to access public information in more useful and readable formats, enable greater insight into the inner workings of the Government and empower citizens to participate more directly in the decision-making process.”
- Methods Used:
 - Open Data, offering Government data in a more useful format
 - Open Information, which is about proactively releasing information, including on government activities, to on an ongoing basis
 - Open Dialogue, which is about giving a stronger say in Government policies and priorities, and expanding engagement through Web 2.0 technologies.

Open Government In The State of Tennessee

- It offers :
 - Information directed towards Residents, Businesses and Visitors is offered
 - Access to Financial Figures
 - Access to Audits
 - Employees' Salaries are displayed
 - Information of public meetings where citizens may participate

OpenGovernment.org

- Its an open source platform to promote government transparency
- It currently offers informations on the states of California, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas and Wisconsin
- It's a type of social networking website with four major categories
 - Bills : A list of the bills that are introduced, where people who introduced them are shown as well as the votes that the bill has collected
 - People : It didn't work when I checked it, but it says there is supposed to be a list of the members of the State Legislature
 - Issues : 44 Areas and the bills under them, although since this is an independent project some data are kept closed by the corresponding states
 - Campaign Contributors : Lists all publicly-available information about campaign contributions made to members of the State Legislature

Protect America Act

- The bill, known as the Protect America Act, removes the prohibition on warrantless spying on Americans abroad and gives the government wide powers to order communication service providers such as cell phone companies and ISPs to make their networks available to government eavesdroppers.
- Prior to the law's passage, the nation's spy agencies, such as the National Security Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency, didn't need any court approval to spy on foreigners so long as the wiretaps were outside the United States
- Now, those agencies are free to order services like Skype, cell phone companies and arguably even search engines to comply with secret spy orders to create back doors in domestic communication networks for the nation's spooks. While it's unclear whether the wiretapping can be used for domestic purposes, the law only requires that the programs that give rise to such orders have a "significant purpose" of foreign intelligence gathering.

iPhones and SmartPhones

- The fact that the iPhone or iPad are capable of logging location data. Services like Foursquare, Facebook Places, mapping apps, and turn-by-turn navigation all rely on that functionality. But, the world does seem to be shocked by the privacy implications of the revelation that Apple is storing that data on the iOS device for anyone to access.
- The type of data being stored by Apple on iPhones and iPads is not any different than the sort of location logging that is already done by the wireless provider.
- Andrew Storms, director of security operations for nCircle, claims, "Apple has made it not just possible, but relatively easy, for almost anyone with access to your iOS device to get detailed information about where you have been, without your consent or knowledge."

iPhones and SmartPhones

- Storms cautions, "We already have a third party app available that can read and plot the data. It would be pretty easy for a Trojan app to do exactly the same thing. I can imagine a lot of law enforcement applications that would not exactly thrill users."
- Fred Touchette, senior security analyst at AppRiver, says, "Imagine what evildoers could do with that info; they could easily recognize daily patterns and know how long you'll be away from your home or office. There is also a possibility such information can be accessed remotely with custom crafted malware, and then sold on the black market much like cyber criminals currently sell credit card information."

Personal View

- The depth of the political insight is very shallow
- Some value it simply as a new market ready to exploit
- Others take a purely idealistic stance believing that the lack of involvement will be fixed by the Internet and every kind of problem will be solved by the “magic” of Internet fueled democracy
- The ideology behind this does not mention concrete economic interests but everything is discussed at a very abstract level with either talks of “evil corporations” unwilling to compete or some abstract kind of democracy
- Despite the weaknesses in theory the applications developed and the government initiatives are quite interesting

Is This Decision Making Process Panacea?

- “One of the arguments I have with many of my students and also with some of the people in social movements is they are often a bit of a victim of what I call fetishism of organizational forms”
- “Imagine you are on jet flying across the Atlantic and the pilot comes and says : 'We have a bit of a hold-up here, the air traffic controls in New York city have gone into assembly mode and are deciding whether they prefer united airlines to continental in terms of their labour practices' ”
- “There are many aspects of the contemporary world which are what I call tightly-coupled systems which need instantaneous decision making, I wouldn't want my anarchist friends in charge of a nuclear power station for example”

From the lecture “End of Capitalism?” by David Harvey Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY)

References

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_government
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Government_Initiative
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_source_governance
- http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2004/PIP_Political_Info_Report.pdf.pdf
- <http://aktivdemokrati.se/manifesto/>
- <http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikicracy>
- <http://www.alternet.org/election04/20076/>
- <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,1675012,00.asp?kc=PCRSS03079TX1K0000584>
- http://www.metagovernment.org/wiki/Main_Page
- <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2004/10/17/EDG8O98IQ01.DTL>
- http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/225781/why_is_your_iphone_or_ipad_spying_on_you.html
- <http://www.digitalcommunities.com/articles/102472664.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaborative_e-democracy
- Open Government Book By O'Reilly
- <http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/10753/pg10753.html>
- <http://www.phf.upenn.edu/11-12/harvey.shtml> - “The End of Capitalism?” Talk by David Harvey