

## Transforming the way people use Legislation information *Peter Camilleri*





Agenda

About TSO

The transformation of Legislation publishing

Linked data- what is it and how is it used

Latest projects





#### TSO - who we are

Part of Deutsche Post DHL A strong business backed by	"The people government trust to publish"	Opening up Government data		
global market leader	Long heritage as no-fail publishing partner to Government Publish Legislation, Parliamentary papers, guidance and regulatory materials	OpenUp® platform unlocking and enriching data to improve transparency		
Transforming digital transactions	Award-winning solutions	Proven ability to deliver savings		



#### **Our solutions - helping organisations interact more efficiently**

#### Publishing

#### Enabling access to information in the formats users want

#### Content creation

#### Content management

- Multi-format delivery
- Multi-channel dissemination

#### Data

Unlocking data to improve transparency and re-use

- Data harvesting and capture
- Data enrichment
- Linked Data
- APIs

#### Digital

#### Using technology to deliver better services

- Online capture
- Automated processes
- User-friendly interfaces
- Service integration
- eCommerce



#### **Our clients publish important information**





#### **Digital access to important information**





#### www.legislation.gov.uk



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#### **TSOs Legislation Journey**





#### www.Legislation.gov.uk

Developed by TSO for



- The Official Portal for UK Legislation
- 1267-Present
- Contains enacted and revised legislation
- One of Government's most visited sites

Home Abou	It Us Browse Legislat	tion New Legislation	Changes to Legislation		Search All Legislation
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Welcome	United Kingdom	Scotland Wales	Northern Ireland		
New Legislatio	n		Frequently Asked Quest	ions	Most requested Acts



#### Motivation behind the new legislation.gov.uk system

#### Built to consolidate two legacy websites:

- OPSI for Enacted (New) Legislation
- Statute Law Database for revised legislation
- Each was run by 2 different Govt entities (OPSI & SPO which merged)
- High costs maintaining two sites
- Users were using wrong sites (didn't know where to look)
- Needed to reduce Govt sites to save costs
- Legislation needed to be more accessible to the new mobile devices
- Moving from a "Push" to a "Pull" world

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#### **Requirements for the database**

- Had to be Open Standards based
- Data format to be flexible, open and accessible
- Had to be very fast
- Had to support Native XML
- Metadata as RDF
- Had to support Linked Open Data (Government's Transparency Agenda)
- Data needed to be portable

## Needed a trusted vendor

Needed proven technology



#### **Database Selection Process**

- 2 month process
- Evaluated about 12 solutions
- Selection Criteria

Functionality	Robustness	XML	Support
Scalability	Performance	Standards based	Belief in the vendor

- Needed to try to get the best value for the taxpayer
- Started working with an Open Source XML solution
- Concerns about its scalability, resilience & support





#### Why we used MarkLogic

Performance

Functionality

**Support** 

Robustness

XML

# MarkLogic

**Standards based** 

**Belief in the vendor** 

**Scalability** 

TSO – Sensitive – Part of the Williams Lea Group



#### **Transforming the legislation capture process**

- Streamlined the way legislation is submitted
- Removal of the manual processes
- Validation
- Automated extraction of metadata
- User certifies submission
- Tracking





#### **Streamlining the registration process**

- New tools for the Statutory Instruments Registrar
- Streamlining the registration process
- Joining up the legislation publishing lifecycle
- Approval checks
- Automation of existing processes

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#### **Dissemination – the Legislation.gov.uk site**

- Award winning website
- Fast search and retrieval
- Ease of use and many ways to access legislation
- "Points in time" view of legislation
- URIs- access granular levels on one of the second secon
- Feature-rich



(excluding draft)

### 'Best example of ICT-enabled innovation and enterprise'

Adobe Act 1985

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**PDF** 

(UK Public Sector Awards 2011)

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#### The First Linked Data Statute Book in the World

In response to the Government's "Linked Data" Initiative





**Linked Data** describes a method of publishing structured data so that it can be linked to other data and become more useful.

Rather than data available purely to serve web pages for *human* readers, it extends data so it can be read automatically by *computers*.

Enables data from different sources to be connected and queried.



#### The benefits of unlocking data

Structured data becomes more useful	Data can be automatically read by computers	Enables data from different sources to be connected
Improves transparency	Enables re-use	McKinsey report estimates \$3 trillion of additional economic value could be delivered by open data



#### Legislation.gov.uk data re-use by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties

#### **Examples:**













#### What can you do with Linked Data?

#### "Mash ups"- pulling data from various sources- Visualisations





#### Legislation.gov.uk - part of "The Semantic Web"





#### **OpenUp® - TSO's Linked Data Platform**



Automated processes that deliver reliable data



#### Using OpenUp® to publish linked data

- Harvests data
- Enriches the content via the Data Enrichment Service
- Creates the URIs
- Creates RDF triples
- Stores RDF in the TSO triple store
- Exposes RDF for querying via SPAQRL endpoints and APIs
- Third parties access RDF and pull it from the store



## Flint- TSO's SPARQL Editor - Open Source- "TSO's contribution to the semantic community"

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## Updating legislation- complex process: assisted by Semantic technologies





#### Semantics assist locating legislation that has been affected





#### **Bottle-neck in updating legislation**



#### **25,000 changes per year**

Too many changes for in-house editors to cope with

#### **Expert Participation Model**

- Sustainable way to revise legislation
- Tools & techniques to update legislation
- Vetted users from law firms and voluntary organisations assist with updating of legislation



#### www.thegazette.co.uk

- The Gazette the official public record for over 350 years
- More than 200,000 notices published each year
- Used by legal professionals, banks, genealogists and the general public
- New online service meets the needs of today's customers





#### User-focused interfaces built on a core database





"We are extremely proud of what has been achieved with TSO, it really is a **world first** and an exemplar for what can be achieved with open data if it is approached correctly. Third parties are already building mobile device and other online applications that use the data and API we created. There is a vast community accessing one dataset, in different ways, through different means, freely and easily. That is exactly what we wanted."

John Sheridan, Head of Legislation Services, The National Archives







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