BuzzData: a social data hub

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1 Content

BuzzData is a data-sharing hub that emphasizes user visibility and interaction. While several data web services have launched over the last year (DataMarket, Timetric, Infochimps), many of them tend to focus largely on a broadcast model of data distribution in that they compile the data and then offer it to their subscribers, a largely one-way street.

The BuzzData team has been greatly influenced by the success and philosophy of Github, and has been building the platforms infrastructure similarly, with a community-first angle that predisposes users to connect with each other through data, rather than simply connecting to data alone.

BuzzData allows users to build a visible profile that shows their activity, connections and data. Users will also be able to search for topics and people, in addition to datasets. Every dataset published in BuzzData is accompanied with a summary page, links page, and questions/discussion page such that data is released with context, rather than standing alone.

A key feature of BuzzData is the ability to track activity related to given data, as well as changes to a dataset. Should a given dataset, topic or person interest you, you will be able to tag it such that youll be notified when something new has occurred in association with it. Further, BuzzData allows for version control users can clone data, edit it, and merge it, while the source and revision history of the data always remains visible.

BuzzData's vision for data use falls closely in step with those of CKAN.net. As such, it has begun discussing data interoperability issues such as open licensing with members of the Open Data Knowledge Foundation as well as the Creative Commons.

2 About the Author

Pete Forde is the co-founder of BuzzData, based in Toronto, Canada. A programmer since childhood, Pete founded the web development firm Unspace in 2004, after transitioning from proprietary Microsoft development and becoming one of the first adopters of Ruby on Rails.

Over the last year, Pete's vision for BuzzData has grown around his support of the open data movement and his belief that with the right infrastructure and

collaborative tools, open data communities can be as vibrant and innovative as open-source communities are today.

An avid traveler and occasional touring rock drummer, Pete is also passionate about music and film photography.