

Statistical Community of Practice and Engagement (SCOPE)



**CENDI PRESENTATION
MARCH 13, 2014**

History



- **Summer 2009** - ICSP developed a proposal for the Federal Statistical System 2.0
 - Increase the capacity “to meet data needs more efficiently, completely, and seamlessly”
 - Reduce redundant investments for similar data collections, analysis capabilities, and data dissemination tools
 - Improve user access to data through increased sharing of statistical protocols and tools
- Supports the **Mar. 9, 2009**, Scientific Integrity Presidential Memorandum & **Dec. 8, 2009**, Open Government Directive

Mission



“ Provide a collaborative community for statistical agencies to produce relevant, accurate, timely, cost-effective data and insightful research disseminated through shared state-of-the-art best practices to support data-driven decisions throughout the Nation”

Structure



- Governed by OMB/SSP & ICSP
- ICSP approves projects and provides oversight
- Funded by ICSP agencies' contributions (Economy Act)
- Staff participation from interested volunteer agencies (including IT professionals, statisticians, program staff)
- Current SCOPE Team is approximately 50 volunteer staff from 15 agencies; meets monthly
- Multiple sub-teams focused on specific projects/activities
- Managed by PMO, often with support of detailee(s)

Goals



SCOPE goals include:

- Increase efficiency of statistical agency operations, resources
- Provide a collaborative structure for agencies to develop and share best practices
- Support harmonization of definitions, metadata, dissemination and data visualization mechanisms
- Identify solutions across the life-cycle of the data, from collection through dissemination
- Address the challenge of safeguarding confidentiality in the age of open government

Overall leading to improvements in data quality and interoperability of federal data collections, data dissemination tools and user access, and information security

Efficiencies of Scale



- Reduce number of agencies re-creating similar software tools, analytical models, collecting similar data
- Improve security through collaboration among agency security experts, implementing best practices
- Decrease procurement costs through aggregation, open source
- Support Data.gov through standardized metadata models, concept definitions, quality control procedures, data visualization
- Develop models for joint data access to survey microdata among agencies whose individual statutes permit such access and who choose to participate

SCOPE Projects



FEDSTATS – Formerly the ‘one-stop source of Federal statistical data’

- Modernized format, content, content management system (WordPress)
- Focus is now a dissemination platform for SCOPE
- Hosts ‘Best of Show’ tools, apps, etc. across statistical agencies
- Relocating to a cloud environment (GSA host)

SCOPE Projects



SCOPE Data Enclave - Statistical 'sandbox' for data and tools

- Contracted with NORC to create cloud environment, collect data and tools from agencies
- SCOPE members access via thin clients
- Utilizes case studies to demonstrate value of leveraged data sets and tools
- Addressing issues with metadata & comparability
- Future use for testing confidentiality protection procedures?

SCOPE Projects



Metadata - Interoperability and Common Usage Definitions

- Metadata are 'data that describe the data' including processes
- Building on existing international and national efforts
- Interoperability is achieved by compliance with common standards

SCOPE Projects



Metadata — Continued

- Formed in June 2013
- 8 (of 15) Agencies represented
- Meet in-person and teleconference bi-weekly
- Vision –
 - Facilitate analytically valid data interoperability for US federal statistical data

SCOPE Projects



Metadata - Continued

Major projects –

- ✦ Review of core metadata scheme
- ✦ Extend metadata core to statistical realm
- ✦ Best practices for metadata management
- ✦ Classification management
- ✦ Cross-agency terminology system

SCOPE Projects



Metadata - Continued

Future Goals –

- 1) Best practices for metadata management
- 2) Classification management
- 3) Cross-agency terminology system

SCOPE Projects



Visualization and Section 508 Compatibility - Current practices and tools used to meet section 508 requirements

- Reviewed current practices and tools across agencies used to meet section 508 requirements
- Evaluated additional need for tools
- Developed tools/plugin that could be shared across agencies to make visualizations Section 508 compliant

Other SCOPE Activities



- Drafted recommendations for Executive Order 13556 Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)
- Collaborated on response to cybersecurity and Einstein III
- Use study and showcase of mobile applications and APIs
- Experiences with Cloud Migration
- Feasibility for consolidated COOP
- Coordination on related efforts (Statipedia, CIOpedia)

Summary



Interagency collaboration & cooperation under SCOPE benefits the data user community through:

- Increased efficiency of statistical agency operations, resources
- Enhanced adoption of best practices
- Harmonization of definitions, metadata, dissemination and data visualization
- Supports E-Gov and Data.gov through collaboration, standardized metadata models, concept definitions, quality control procedures, data visualization, etc.
- While continuing to protect confidential data

SCOPE provides an integrated means of identifying mutual challenges and opportunities, and then jointly developing and disseminating practical and effective solutions.

Contact



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