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OPENING UP SPACE DATA FOR ALL

Abstract

Releasing data from space missions has a long history. However, that data is often formatted in ways that are usable by isolated research communities or not accessible or understandable by the general public. This paper outlines successful open data portals that have made Earth science and space data available for the masses, releasing hundreds of thousands of datasets in use by thousands of businesses and millions of people. Cases from the governments in the United States (www.data.gov and nasa.data.gov), India (data.gov.in), the United Arab Emirates (bayanat.ae) will be discussed in collaboration with commercial services such as Planet (https://www.planet.com), Esri, and the Africa Regional Data Cube. The release of this data drives entrepreneurship and innovation and new and exciting ways that can measurably improve economic growth and new ideas and enterprises. The paper will include models for business growth in the U.S. and India around open space data, the use of innovative techniques like hackathons in the U.A.E. to train college students, and new training using open space data in Ghana and Sierra Leone.