The DATA Act: an overview

The Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) passed both houses of Congress unanimously. The DATA Act is part of the U.S. government's long journey toward open data for federal spending.

Under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, OMB must publish summaries of federal grants and contracts on the USASpending.gov website.

In 2006, the USASpending.gov website was launched. The Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act), Public Law No. 113-101, which had been passed unanimously by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The DATA Act is part of the U.S. government's long journey toward open data for federal spending.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) gives citizens the right to request any information - including details on spending - from the federal government.

The 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act signed into law by President Obama directs OMB to launch USASpending.gov. This includes both reports by the agencies and reports by recipients of federal grants and contracts. This marked the first year that recipients were required to report data to OMB.

The DATA Act does not change the content of the existing reports, it standardizes spending data on USASpending.gov.

On May 9, 2014, President Barack Obama signed the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act), Public Law No. 113-101, which had been passed unanimously by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The DATA Act is part of the U.S. government's long journey toward open data for federal spending.