



Open Innovations
Annual review 2023

#RadicallyOpen

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Who are we and what do we do?
3. Who do we work with?
 - 3.1. Sponsors
 - 3.2. Partners
4. How do we work?
5. Why does our work matter?
6. What is Our Impact & Value?
 - 6.1. Dashboard
 - 6.2. Innovation events
 - 6.3. Projects
 - 6.4. Communications
7. Events, workspace and virtual events
8. Social, charity, and sustainability
9. The future
10. The future

1. Introduction

Welcome to our Annual Review of 2023. Our review is, like all of our work #RadicallyOpen. It is concise and published openly on the web available to all.

2024 is our tenth year of operation. We are so proud of our achievements, our team, our constant evolution, our ambition and our resolve. We have lots coming up in 2024 to share but first we will reflect on our delivery in 2023.

Our #RadicallyOpen approach means that when you work with us we all work:

- In the Open
- Innovatively
- Collaboratively
- At pace
- Concisely
- On the web

Paul Connell & The Open Innovations team, January 2024.

Remember all of our work is on the web and easily found using your favourite search engine.

2. Who are we and what do we do?

We are a not for profit independent small business operating from our workspace and conference venue in central Leeds. From March 2024, we will be 'On Tour' an exciting development which will see us work closely with our sponsors & partners. There's more about [why we are closing our space and our first 10 years](#) on our blog.

We innovate in the open with data, working with our sponsors, partners, companies, organisations, governments and individuals. We help others to access, use and share data – to use the web as it was intended – and create massive surpluses of shared value.

Our team is small but knowledgeable, experienced and talented, with a mix of backgrounds including data science, data analysis, innovation, economics, marketing & comms, IT, web development, project management and much much more.



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Founder Open Innovations



Kathryn Connell

Director



Thomas Forth

Head of Data Open Innovations



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Data Projects / imactivate projects



Luke Strange

Data Scientist Open Innovations



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Amy Evans

Comms & Design Open Innovations



Marc Farr

Health Data Lead



Gareth Dennis

Transport Data Lead Open Innovations



Beate Kubitz

Transport Data Lead



Henri Egle Sorotos

Economic Data Lead Open Innovations

We are doers not talkers; we innovate iteratively on the web by working at pace, being on the web, testing rapidly, building prototypes and creating real tools/ websites and data assets and infrastructure.

Our mission led approach means that we work on stuff that matters to us, our sponsors, partners and network and ultimately everyone else. Everything we do is on [our website](#).

We focus on these key areas:

- Sponsors
- Projects
- Data Partnerships
- Innovation
- Events

3. Who do we work with?

Anyone that has an interest in data, working with data, sharing data, innovating with data, analysing data, publishing data openly on the web. So far this has been local authorities, governments, cultural programmes, think tanks, public and private sector organisations from every sector. We work in two main ways either:

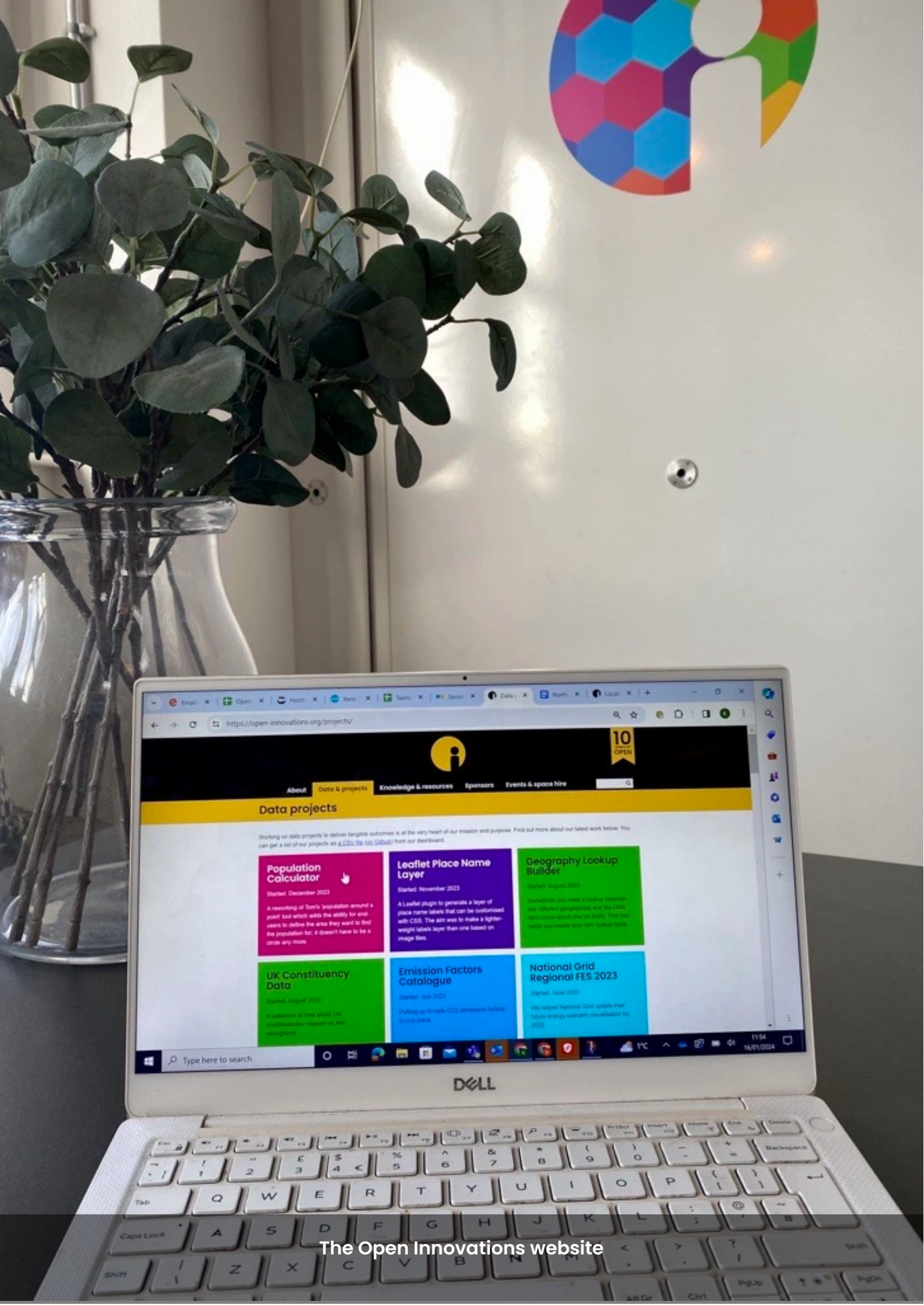
- collaboratively with our sponsor network - each year our sponsors support us with a small amount which means that we can maintain and develop our assets - the website, toolbox, mailbox help, mission led projects e.g. WarmSpaces Finder, Website Carbon Emissions, HexMaps, Constituencies tool, population around a point, parkulator and more...
- We are commissioned by clients/partners to work in partnership on a specific data project or programme - we continue to work openly on these projects so that ultimately any developments and progressions we make together can be used and shared so that others can benefit from the work too.

3.1. Sponsors



3.2. Partners





Browser tabs: Email, Open, Hoot, Xero, Trello, Server, Data, North, Local

Address bar: <https://open-innovations.org/projects/>

Navigation: About | **Data & projects** | Knowledge & resources | Sponsors | Events & space hire

Data projects

Working on data projects to deliver tangible outcomes is at the very heart of our mission and purpose. Find out more about our latest work below. You can get a list of our projects as a [CSV file](#) or [Google Sheet](#) from the dashboard.

Population Calculator

Started: December 2023

A reworking of Tom's 'population around a point' tool which adds the ability for end-users to define the area they want to find the population for; it doesn't have to be a circle any more.

Leaflet Place Name Layer

Started: November 2023

A Leaflet plugin to generate a layer of place name labels that can be customised with CSS. The aim was to make a lighter-weight labels layer than one based on image tiles.

Geography Lookup Builder

Started: August 2023

Sometimes you need a lookup between two different geographies, and the ONS don't know about one for today. This tool helps you create your own lookup table.

UK Constituency Data

Started: August 2023

A collection of data about UK constituencies mapped on hex hexagons.

Emission Factors Catalogue

Started: July 2023

Putting up-to-date CO2 emissions factors in one place.

National Grid Regional FES 2023

Started: June 2023

We helped National Grid update their future energy scenarios visualisation for 2023.

Windows taskbar: Type here to search | 11:54 16/01/2024

The Open Innovations website

4. How Do Open Innovations Work?

Open Innovations has existed since 2013 with the intention of being #RadicallyOpen making a difference in North England.

Our key USP is our website. We publish our work openly and quickly. You should be able to find what you need on our website with a simple google search e.g. HexMaps, CSV cleaner, data mapper, bins ... We pride ourselves on making our website inclusive, accessible and low in bandwidth and carbon emissions.

For the past 8 years we focused on showing and demonstrating how being open, using open data, innovating and sharing openly can and does work, making a huge difference.

Over the last 2 years we have seen a step change from:

“ show me what we can do with data and the web, so I can try to sell it back to other people ”

to

“ our organisation knows it needs to do things differently with data but we are not sure how to do it, please can you help us ”

This move from showing to doing to knowing that they need to move quicker and make progress is a confirmation that our approach is needed, as is our ever growing client list.

It also represents a response to the pandemic - people and organisations saw that whatever context (health, transport, property, HR, & many others) needed credible data at pace (real time if possible) to make informed decisions so that they could plan and update their operations in response and this data needed to be presented on the web.

This has meant that in addition to our work with our Sponsors we have grown our delivery capacity (Who we are) and developed long term delivery partnerships with organisations that need support to innovate with data to support their work e.g.

- Youth Futures Foundation
- Leeds 2023
- Leeds Digital Festival

- West & North Yorkshire Chamber - LSIP
- Northern Powerhouse Partnership
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Leeds City Council Economic Development

Our work is dominated by the public and regulated sectors or delivering publicly funded programmes. Much of the failure of delivery in excellent data projects or programmes that we experience emanates from the UKs centralised institutions that in our opinion have made limited progress or actually “Done Anything”- our approach provides organisations alternative credible approaches that focus on outputs and progress that suit their budgets, ambitions and imperatives.

5. Why Does Our Work Matter?

Our most important success is that Open Innovations is still here after 10 years, still relevant, still ambitious and still aiming to be a new type of organisation in North England.

As a self-funded, independent, not-for-profit organisation we need to be aware of our commercial situation to stay in business.

Our revenue streams are made up of workspace hire, sponsor support and our data partnerships and projects.

6. What is Our Impact & Value?

It is not that difficult to put a value on our work as we measure it openly for anyone to see via our dashboard - but here is a list of our impact & value:

- Team - small talented, high performance experienced, knowledgeable team
- Website - our website is an invaluable resource which takes high level maintenance. This is reflected in an increase of views of 43% to over 300,000
- Projects - Our #RadicallyOpen approach means all of our projects outputs are shared so others can learn & benefit
- Tools - we have spent time and effort developing tools which can help others use data more efficiently
- Insight - We are asked for help and advice on a daily basis from all over the world - students in Tokyo, teachers in Garforth, London think tanks, National & regional news channels, a swimmer in Ilkley, Local authorities across the UK and more
- Network & Reach - We have an extensive comms program which in 2023 delivered at least 575,000 impressions.
- 65 events reaching over 1,700 people in 2023 - our lowest since our opening year, which is a major reason to close our space
- Recognition - In 2023 we were shortlisted for 2 awards, Leeds Digital Festival Facilitator, and Tech Climbers
- Events - Northernlands, Levelling Up, Northern Economic Data User Group, Open Data Saves Lives, Powered Up, Data Ethics Forum, Showcase
- PR - We regularly are asked to provide comment and features for the FT, Guardian, Channel 4, BBC, local and regional news, Digital specialist features, and at conferences across the UK.

6.1. Dashboard

At Open Innovations, we measure our work openly. Our dashboard is used to measure our progress and success. It is updated automatically, regularly and is open to all. We report on our sponsors, projects, revenue, events and social media. At a glance you can immediately see the value we deliver.



6.2. Innovation events

Innovation is what Open Innovations is all about. We have spent a lot of time on research and development to create our own methods and tools to do open innovation with a purpose.

The #RadicallyOpen approach means that all the assets, conversation, and development is done in the open - we start small, have clear problems to fix, and engage as many and as diverse types of people and organisations as possible. You can access and use all of our tools and assets for free at any time.

- **#OpenDataSavesLives & COVID-19** (2020-03-26 - ongoing)

Using open data and open innovation to better understand the coronavirus crisis and help guide us into a post-pandemic world.

- **Levelling Up** (2021-12-08 - ongoing)

A project to explore 'levelling up' from a Northern perspective, by working in the open, inviting discussion and suggestions, and developing a prototype visualisation with open data at its foundation.

- **Northern Economic Data User Group** (2022-11-24 - ongoing)

We're seeking to build a network of willing collaborators who will share their experiences, their research, their code, their data and their expertise to advance economic research and understanding across North England.

- **#PlanetData5** (2023-01-18)

In this event we focused on how we plan for and manage real time response to changing climate for major infrastructure communications with People & Customers who may be vulnerable & also assisting Primary Care response

- **Open Data Saves Lives** (2023-05-10)

Our continuing events series to convene and collaborate to help the NHS use open data to address Health Inequalities

- **Leeds Data Ethics Forum** (2023-06-08)

Working with DLA Piper we are hosting the Leeds Data Ethics Forum to build initiative in this area to work on making Leeds a leading Safe Digital City

- **Net Zero: Hack For Impact** (2023-12-05 to 2024-01-31)

We're working with Northern Powergrid in their ambition to support our region to meet its decarbonisation pledge.

6.3. Projects

This is at the heart of what we do best. Our team of data scientists, analysts, and developers work on your behalf to design, deliver & maintain some pioneering projects which impact us all. During 2023 we worked on **13 new projects**:

- **West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce LSIPs**

A live dashboard of vacancies and job seekers to assist West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce in facilitating for training and educational curricula to be tailored to the specific needs of the local business community.

- **Northern Powerhouse Partnership Tax Devolution**

A web app to see how much you can raise through different local taxes.

- **OI Lume Viz**

With an increasing number of partner projects microsites, we've encapsulated a number of our charting libraries into a Lume library to make it easy to deploy our common types of visualisations.

- **Placename heatmap**

Create a heat map of UK place names based on patterns you want to match.

- **Leeds Schools Cultural Engagement**

Creating a prototype resource to map cultural engagement in schools across the city to support evidence-based policy making.

- **JRF Northern Insight Finder**

A data and insight hub that, by linking up existing open-source datasets, aims to provide ease of access to data for the North of England that would be, otherwise, scattered across different websites, and that would require time, skills and resources to be joined up, analysed and visualised.

- **Leeds City Council Economics**

- **National Grid Regional FES 2023**

We helped National Grid update their future energy scenario visualisation for 2023.

- **Emission Factors Catalogue**

Putting up-to-date CO2 emissions factors in one place

- **UK Constituency Data**

A collection of data about UK constituencies mapped on hex cartograms.

- **Geography Lookup Builder**

Sometimes you need a lookup between two different geographies and the ONS don't know about one (or both). This tool helps you create your own lookup table.

■ **Leaflet Place Name Layer**

A Leaflet plugin to generate a layer of place name labels that can be customised with CSS. The aim was to make a lighter-weight labels layer than one based on image tiles.

■ **Population Calculator**

A reworking of Tom's 'population around a point' tool which adds the ability for end-users to define the area they want to find the population for; it doesn't have to be a circle any more.

6.4. Communications

Open Innovations is #RadicallyOpen. We work in the open. All our work is published on our website almost instantaneously. This agile, fast paced, approach is possible because of our specialist team and the support of our sponsors and clients who are happy for us to work like this to make a difference quickly. It is an innovative approach which sets us apart.

We publish many articles and blogs, these are available on our website and are often reshared and published by others.

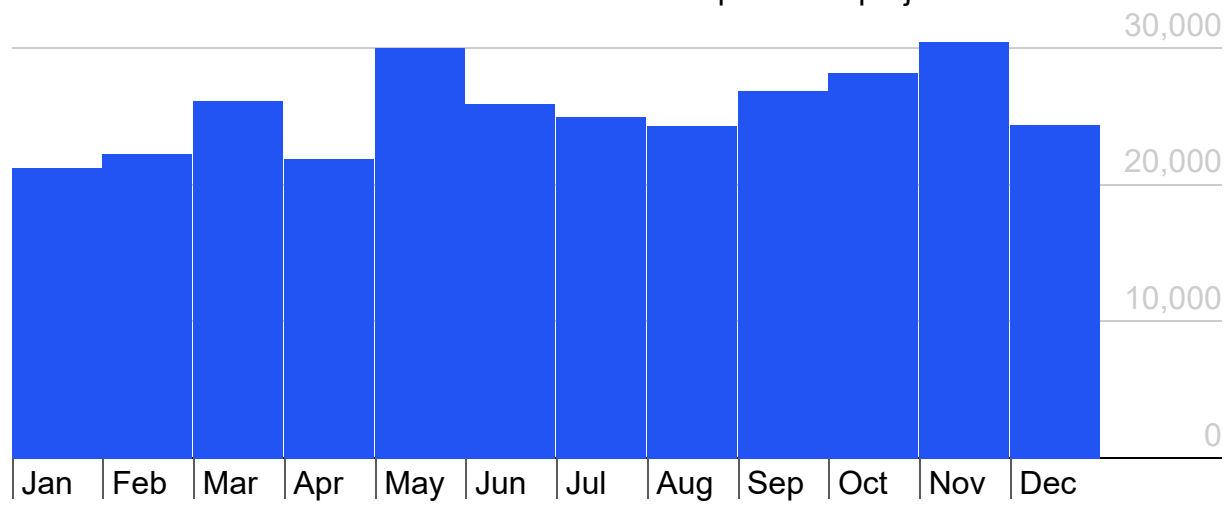
We have a very active and engaged social media profile covering Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube. It enables us to engage with an audience that covers the whole of the UK and beyond, sharing our news, project outcomes, innovation work, and more. Please do follow us and join in with our open conversations, and share your stories and priorities with us so we can share them. This social media presence is important in raising awareness, sharing info, and also has a monetary value relative to our sponsors, partners and clients.

Summary

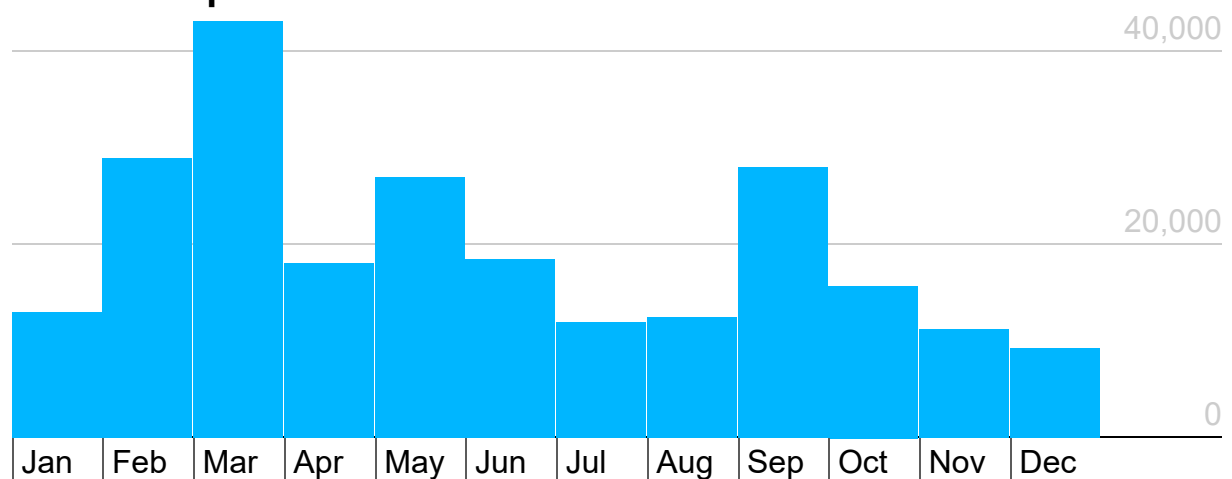
Website visits:	306,816
Tweets:	707
Twitter impressions:	237,400
New Twitter followers:	431
Facebook posts:	3,499
Facebook impressions:	14,136
Facebook reach:	8,481
LinkedIn impressions:	15,498
Youtube viewing time (across all videos):	2,294 minutes
Youtube unique views:	1,332
Total online engagement: (measured in number of times a tweet, post, link, page, etc, has been seen)	575,182

Website visits

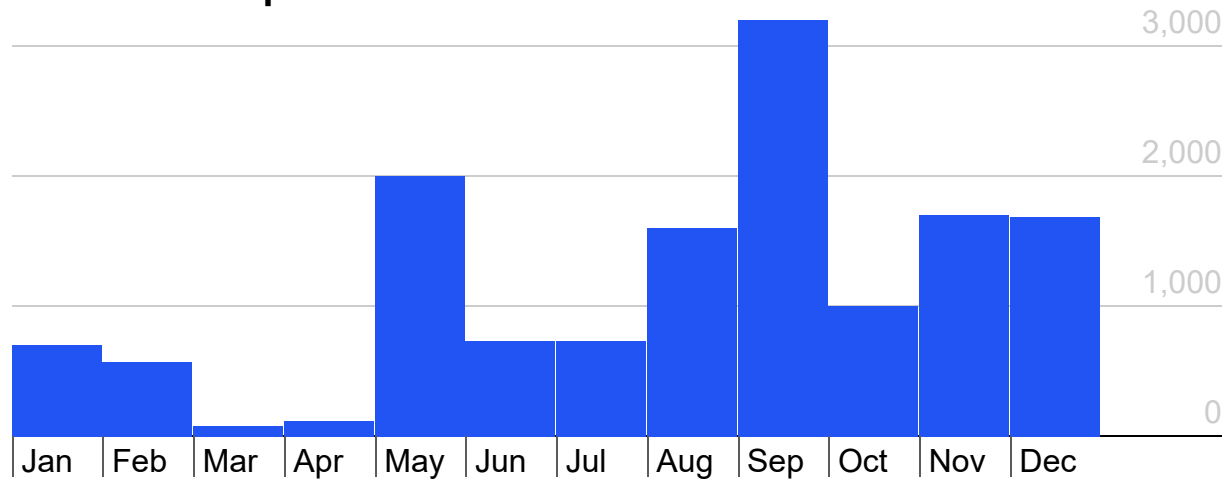
Across our main website as well as microsites for particular projects.



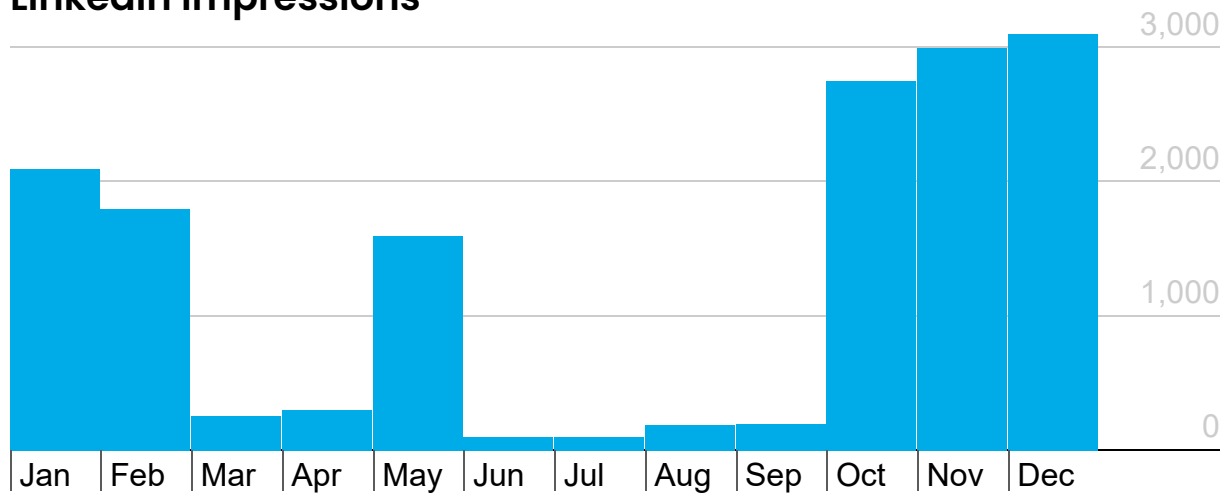
Twitter impressions



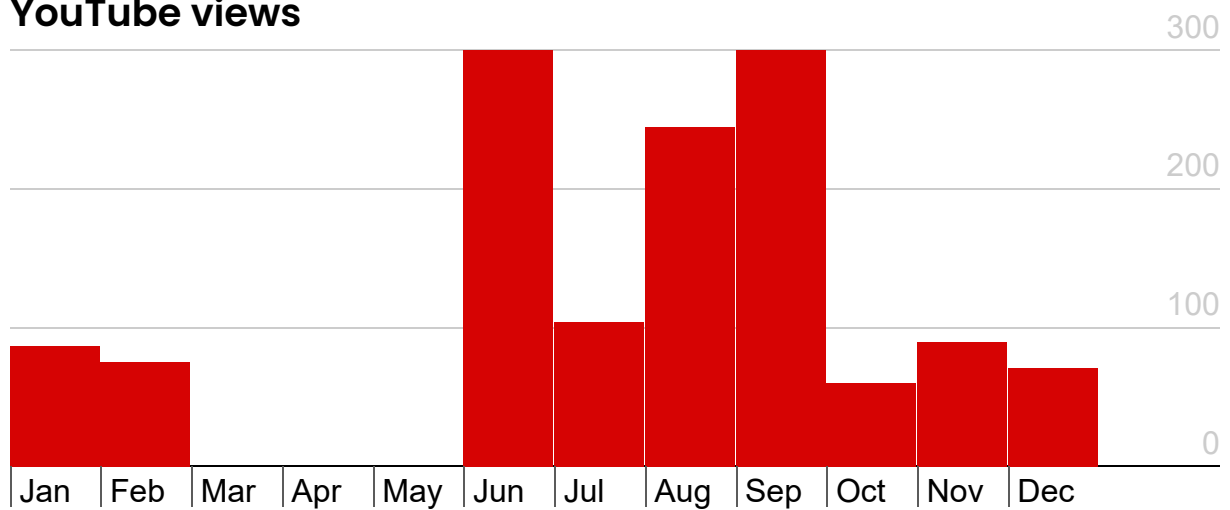
Facebook impressions



LinkedIn impressions



YouTube views





Munro House

7. Events, workspace, and virtual events

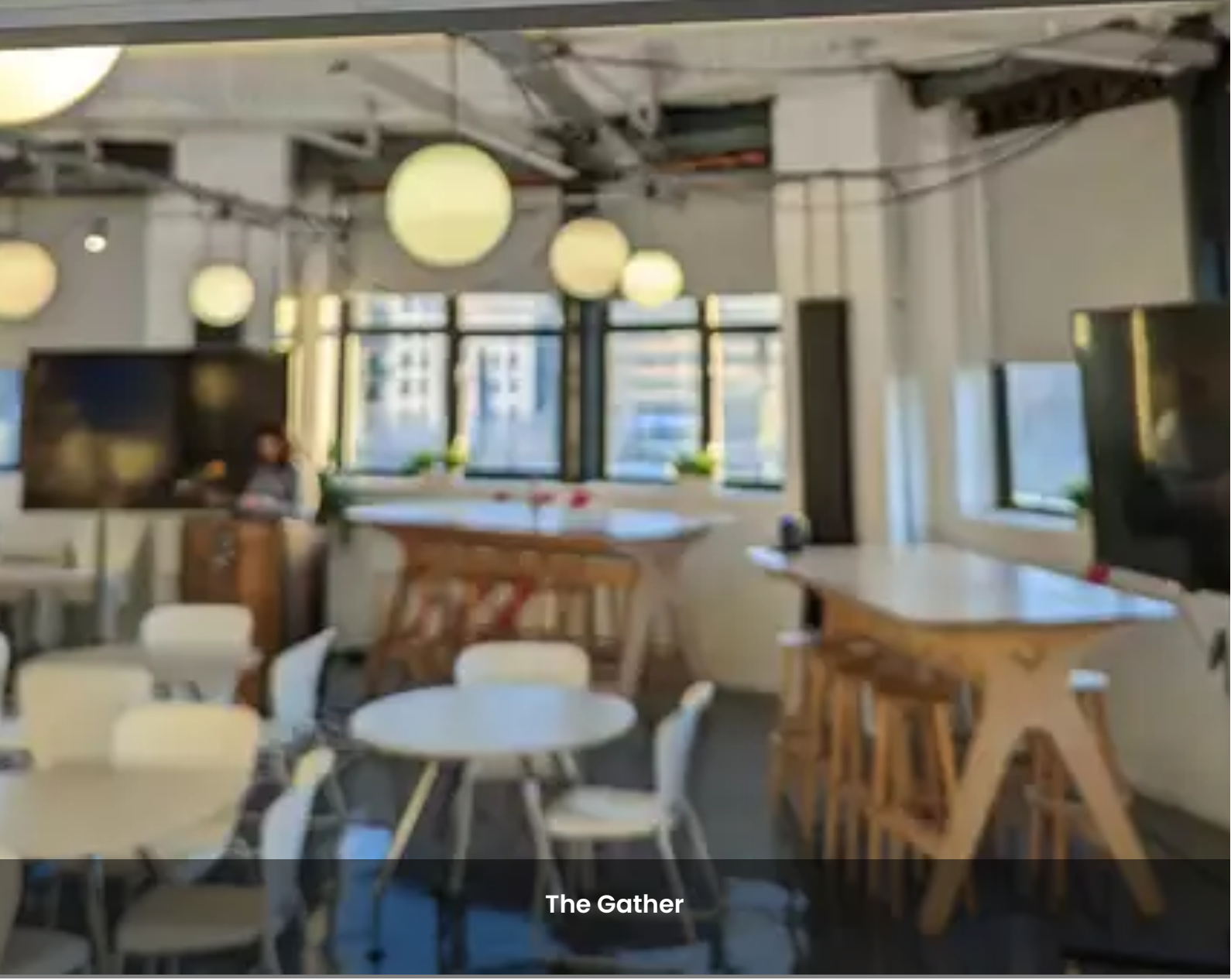
After 10 busy years at Munro House, we enter a new, exciting phase for 2024. After February, Open Innovations will be 'On Tour'. We wrote about [why we are closing our space and our first 10 years in this blog](#). In 2024 we will be operating from a mix of venues:

- The Data City HQ
- Arup HQ
- Virtually
- More TBA

We will continue to host events virtually and in person. Our first 'Tour' date of 2024 is 20 March, How Can The North Win? Which will be hosted at Arup's new Leeds offices on Wellington Place.

Thank you to everyone who has hosted or attended a meeting, conference or hack at Munro House over the last 10 years, we have loved it. As you know we have lots of kit and furniture in the space - we will be selling, repurposing, recycling and donating it all. If you would like to make use of any kit, or know of any worthy causes please get in touch as soon as possible.

e Gather



The Gather

8. Social, charity, and sustainability

Our work, our impact, our knowledge and our workspace are great so it's no surprise that we get asked a lot by a wide variety of organisations to use our space, resources, and services for free. As a not for profit, non funded organisation we simply cannot operate on this basis. However, we do choose a couple of relevant projects each year to support with some of the funds raised by sponsorship and events.

Open Innovations will be making a cash donation this year to Zarach.org - helping ensure children don't go without a bed to sleep in.

We operate a commercial non-profit model - which means that we use profits to work on our mission led projects. In simple terms this means that sponsorship and other revenues can support work and projects that make a difference.

The fact that we have established Open Innovations as a business with stable revenues means that your sponsorship can be directed towards these mission led projects and we can provide technical support, space for meetings and collective pooling of resources to make the most of all of our investments.

All of our current work has started with us completing self funded activity (Meetings, Conversations, Events, Web Communications) and doing innovation (Data Projects/Visualisations/Tools).

In 2023 this has meant that our collective investment has allowed projects including #OpenDataSavesLives #PlanetData #NED #PoweredUp, Population around a Point, Parkulator, Constituencies HexMaps and the WarmSpaces Finder tool to make a difference for everyone.

As part of our sustainable ethos, we try our best to be as green as we can - recycling, reusing, using local suppliers and products, cycling, walking and using public transport for getting to work and meetings, promoting sustainable projects, running events like Planet Data, and introducing vegetarian and vegan only catering. We hope you will support us in this campaign.

9. What next?

Lots more, we have an ambitious programme already for 2023 with innovation events including, Net Zero Hack, How Can the North Win? Northernlands5, OpenDataSavesLives as a start. We are continuing our work with Youth Futures Partnership, legacy work with Leeds 2023, DFES updates for National Grid and Northern Powergrid plus many new projects in the pipeline on the economy, education and inclusivity.

So please join in, share, get involved and get in touch. Working together is more impactful and more fun.

10. How can you help?

Simple, use our website, share our work, ask us for help, come to our events and if you would like to host us as part of our 'On Tour' year then please get in touch.

Paul and the Open Innovations team

Acknowledgements & Notes

Links

Who are we and what do we do?

- why we are closing our space and our first 10 years: open-innovations.org/blog/2024-01-10-goodbye-to-munro-house
- Our team: [/about/team](#)
- Paul Connell Founder Open Innovations: <mailto:paul.connell@open-innovations.org>
- Kathryn Connell Director : <mailto:kathryn.connell@open-innovations.org>
- Thomas Forth Head of Data Open Innovations: <mailto:tom.forth@open-innovations.org>
- Giles Dring Head of Delivery Open Innovations: <mailto:giles.dring@open-innovations.org>
- Stuart Lowe Data Projects Open Innovations: <mailto:stuart.lowe@open-innovations.org>
- Tazmin Chiles Data & Innovation Consultant Open Innovations: <mailto:tazmin.chiles@open-innovations.org>
- Christian Spence Economics Data Lead Open Innovations: <mailto:christian.spence@open-innovations.org>
- Daniel Billingsley Data Projects / imactivate projects : <mailto:dan.billingsley@open-innovations.org>
- Luke Strange Data Scientist Open Innovations: open-innovations.org/search/?author=lstrange
- Michelle Brook Open Data Associate Open Innovations: open-innovations.org/search/?author=mbrook
- Amy Evans Comms & Design Open Innovations: open-innovations.org/search/?author=aevans
- Marc Farr Health Data Lead : </search/?author=mfarr>
- Gareth Dennis Transport Data Lead Open Innovations: </search/?author=gdennis>
- Beate Kubitz Transport Data Lead : </search/?author=bkubitz>
- Henri Egle Sorotos Economic Data Lead Open Innovations: </search/?author=hsorotos>
- our website: open-innovations.org/

How Do Open Innovations Work?

- Youth Futures Foundation: open-innovations.org/blog/2022-07-08-a-new-collaboration-with-youth-futures-foundation-to-improve-the-lives-of-young-people
- Leeds 2023: open-innovations.org/projects/leeds2023/
- Leeds Digital Festival: open-innovations.org/blog/2021-09-10-leeds-digital-festival-data-partners
- West & North Yorkshire Chamber - LSIP: www.wnychamber.co.uk/local-skills-improvement-plan/
- Northern Powerhouse Partnership: github.com/open-innovations/tax-devolution
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation: open-innovations.org/projects/jrf/north-insight-finder/

What is Our Impact & Value?

- Team: open-innovations.org/about/team/
- Projects: open-innovations.org/projects/
- Tools: open-innovations.org/data/toolbox
- Network & Reach: open-innovations.org/dashboard/?impact=2023#social
- Northernlands: open-innovations.org/events/northernlands/
- Levelling Up: open-innovations.org/projects/levelling-up/
- Northern Economic Data User Group: open-innovations.org/projects/northern-economic-data-user-group/
- Open Data Saves Lives: opendatasaveslives.org/
- Powered Up: open-innovations.org/blog/2022-02-01-powered-up-january-2022-session-summary-and-useful-resources
- #OpenDataSavesLives & COVID-19: open-innovations.org/covid19
- #PlanetData5: open-innovations.org/events/planetdata/5/
- Open Data Saves Lives: opendatasaveslives.org/events/session-38-rap-for-health-inequalities
- Leeds Data Ethics Forum: open-innovations.org/events/e/ldf
- Net Zero: Hack For Impact: 16
- West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce LSIPs: isip-data.wnychamber.co.uk/
- Ol Lume Viz: open-innovations.github.io/oi-lume-charts/
- Placename heatmap: open-innovations.org/projects/placename-heatmap/
- Leeds Schools Cultural Engagement: open-innovations.github.io/leeds-schools-cultural-engagement/
- Leeds City Council Economics: github.com/open-innovations/lcc-economics/
- National Grid Regional FES 2023: www.futureenergyscenarios.com/2023-FES/
- Emission Factors Catalogue: open-innovations.org/projects/emission-factors-catalogue/
- UK Constituency Data: constituencies.open-innovations.org/
- Geography Lookup Builder: open-innovations.github.io/geography-lookup-builder/
- Leaflet Place Name Layer: open-innovations.org/projects/leaflet-place-name-layer/
- Population Calculator: open-innovations.github.io/population-calculator/

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- The Gather: Open Innovations / CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0

Data sources

- Sponsors: /dashboard/data/sponsors.csv
- Event statistics: /dashboard/data/events_monthly.csv
- Projects: /dashboard/data/projects.csv
- Themes: /dashboard/data/themes.csv
- Innovation events: /dashboard/data/innovation.csv
- Website monthly statistics: /dashboard/data/web-open-innovations.org.csv
- Social media monthly statistics: /dashboard/data/socials.csv



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