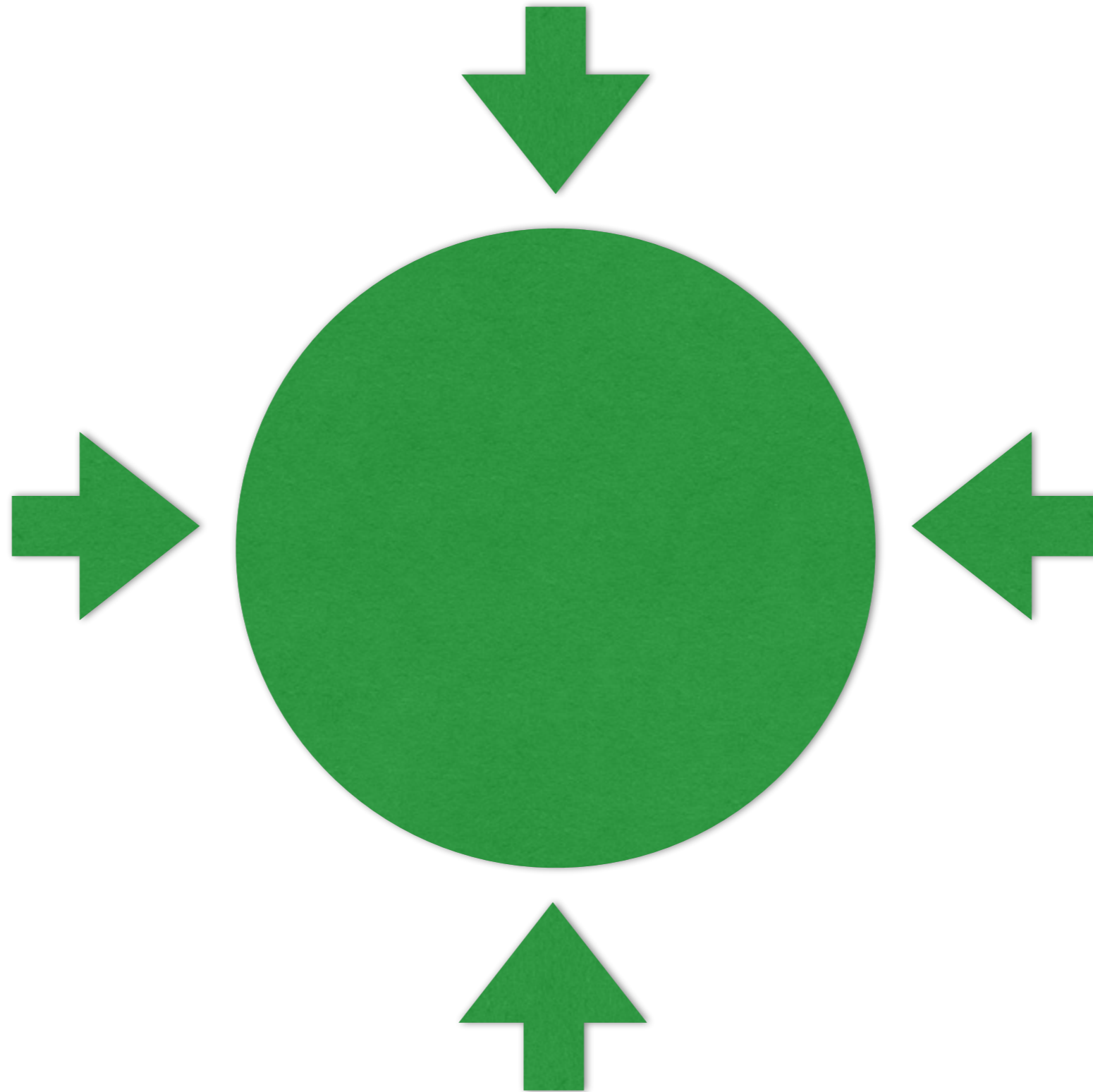


The construction of open government data

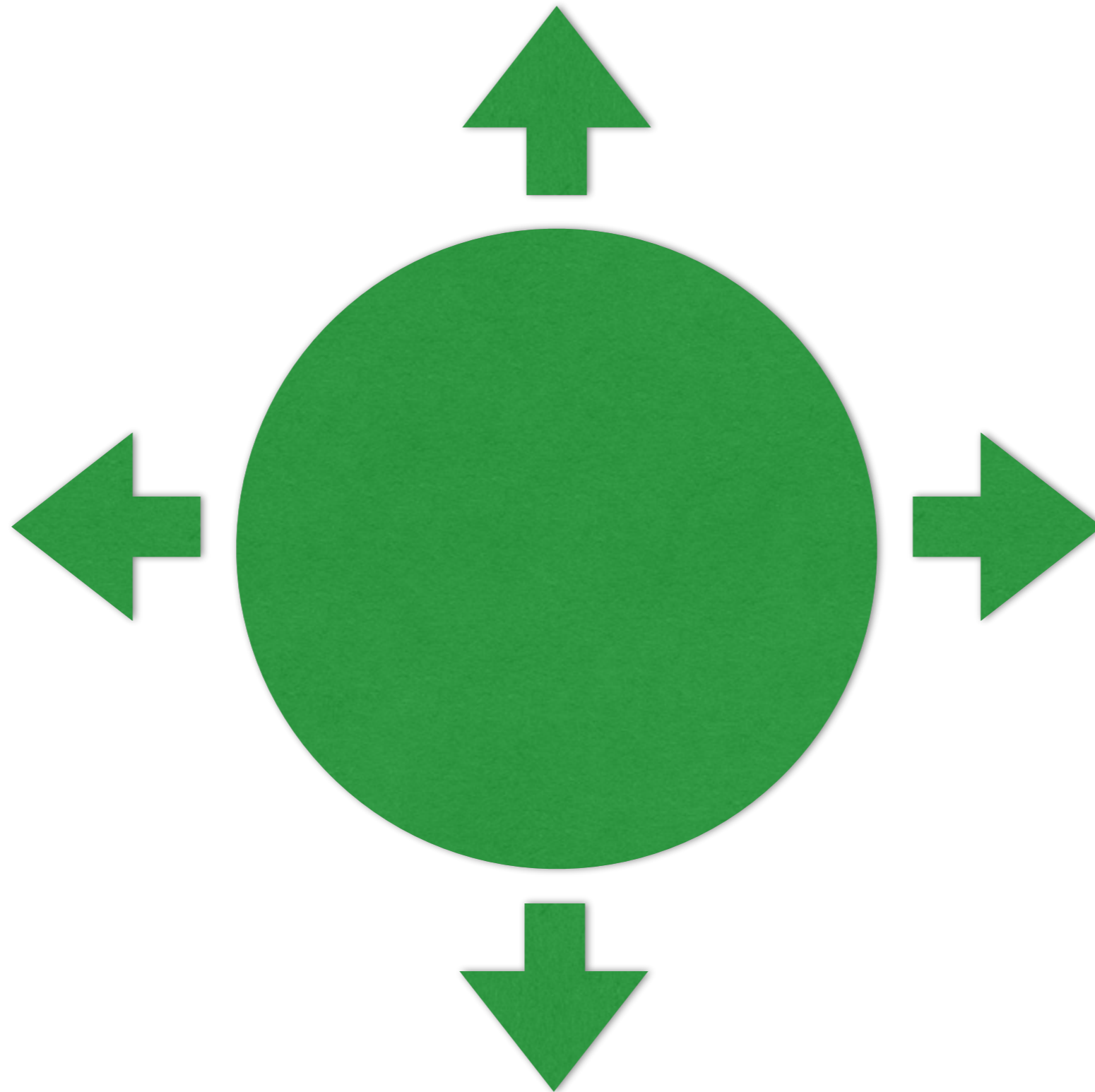
ICA Pre-conference: Data & Discrimination -
converting critical concerns into productive inquiry

Tim Davies (@timdavies) - tim.davies@soton.ac.uk

The construction of open government data



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Definitions



Accessible

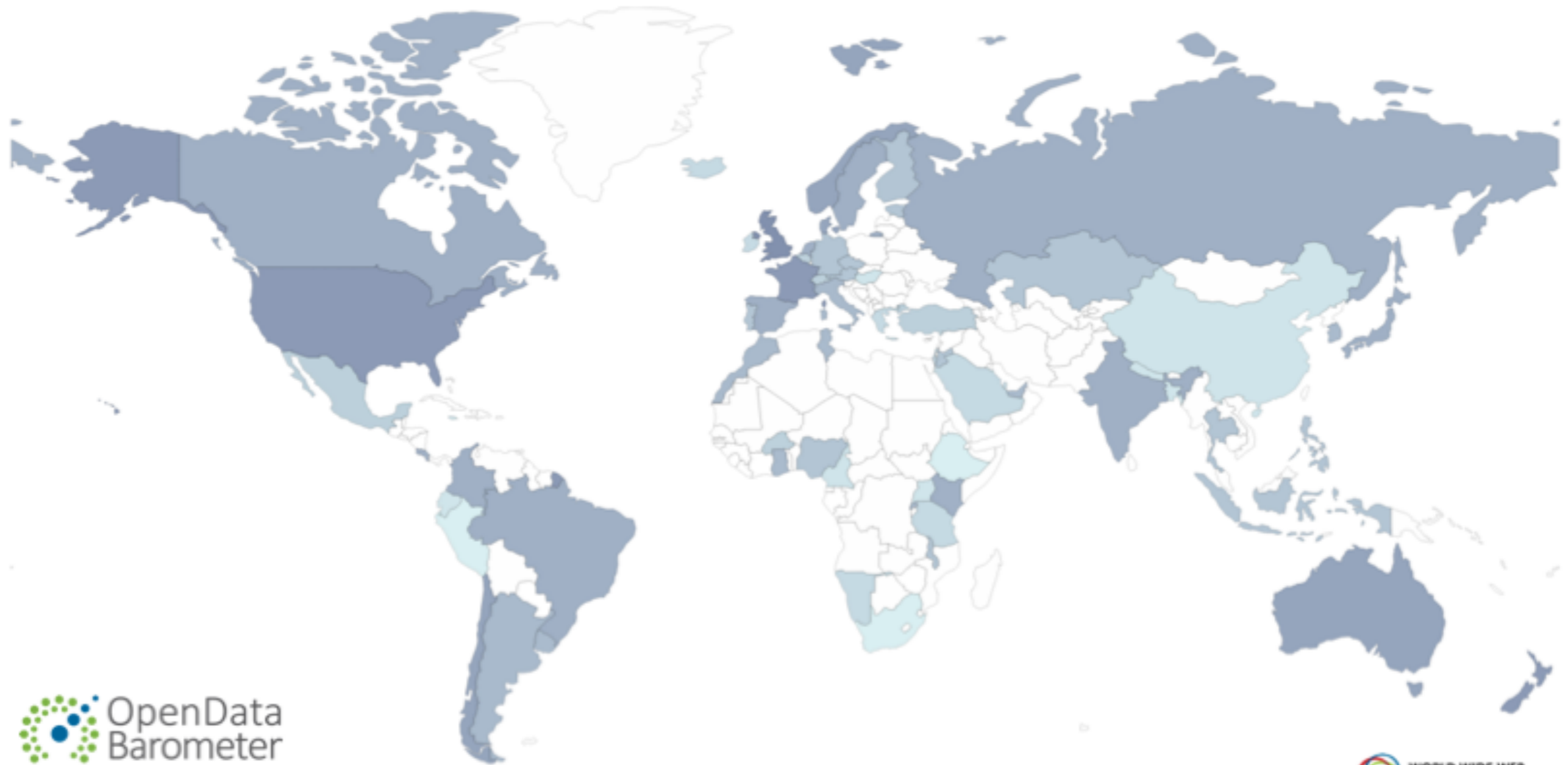
Machine-readable

Openly licensed

(Not personal data)

Open government data initiatives

55% of countries surveyed in the 2013 Web Index / Open Data Barometer had an open data policy of some form



 From the Open Data Barometer: 2013 Global Report - www.opendatabarometer.org

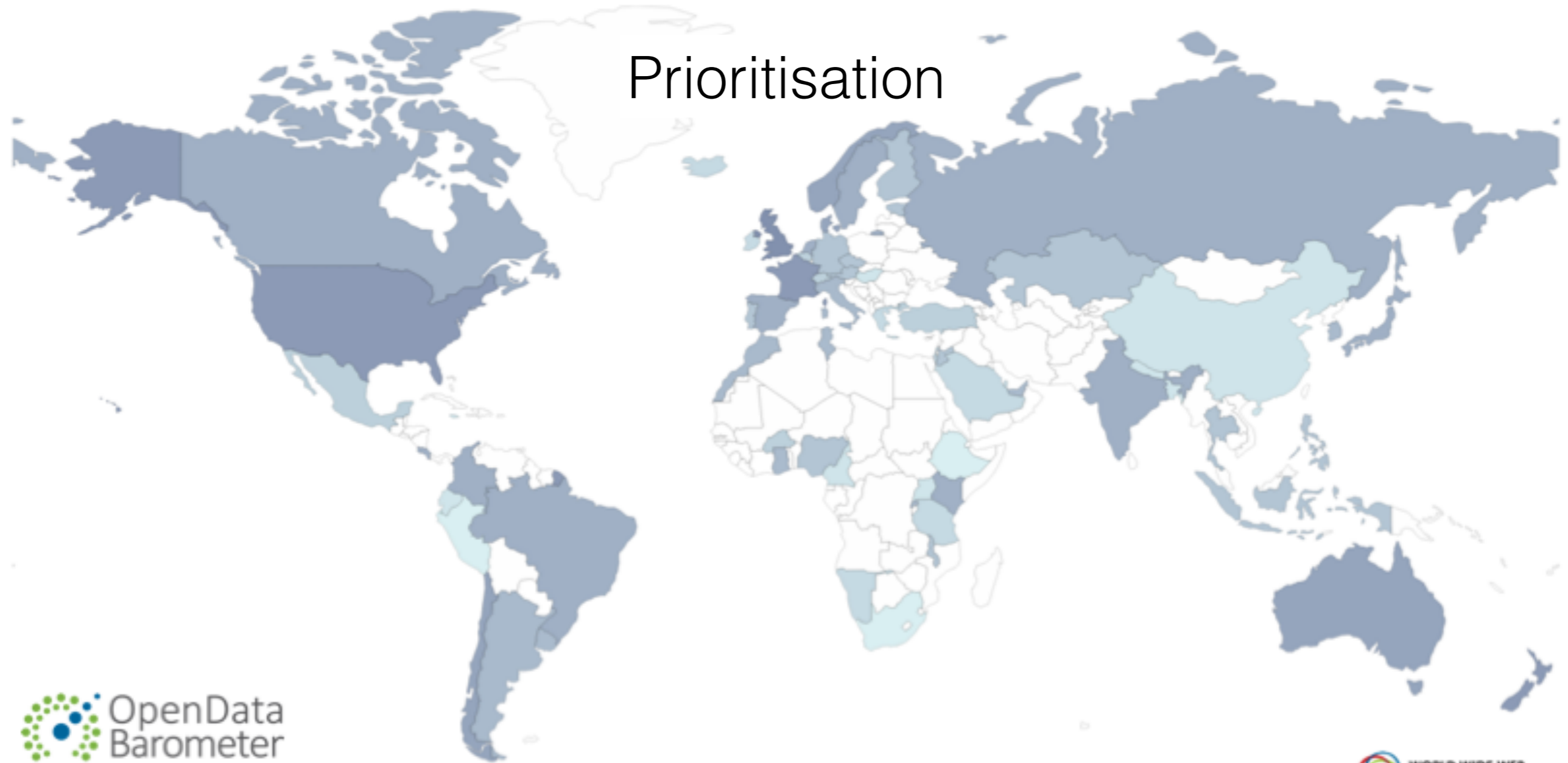


Figure 1: Heatmap of scores for expert survey question: "To what extent is there a well-resourced open government data initiative in this country?" Higher scores (darker colours on the map) indicate a well-resourced initiative, with strong political commitment. Countries in white were not included in the Open Data Barometer study.



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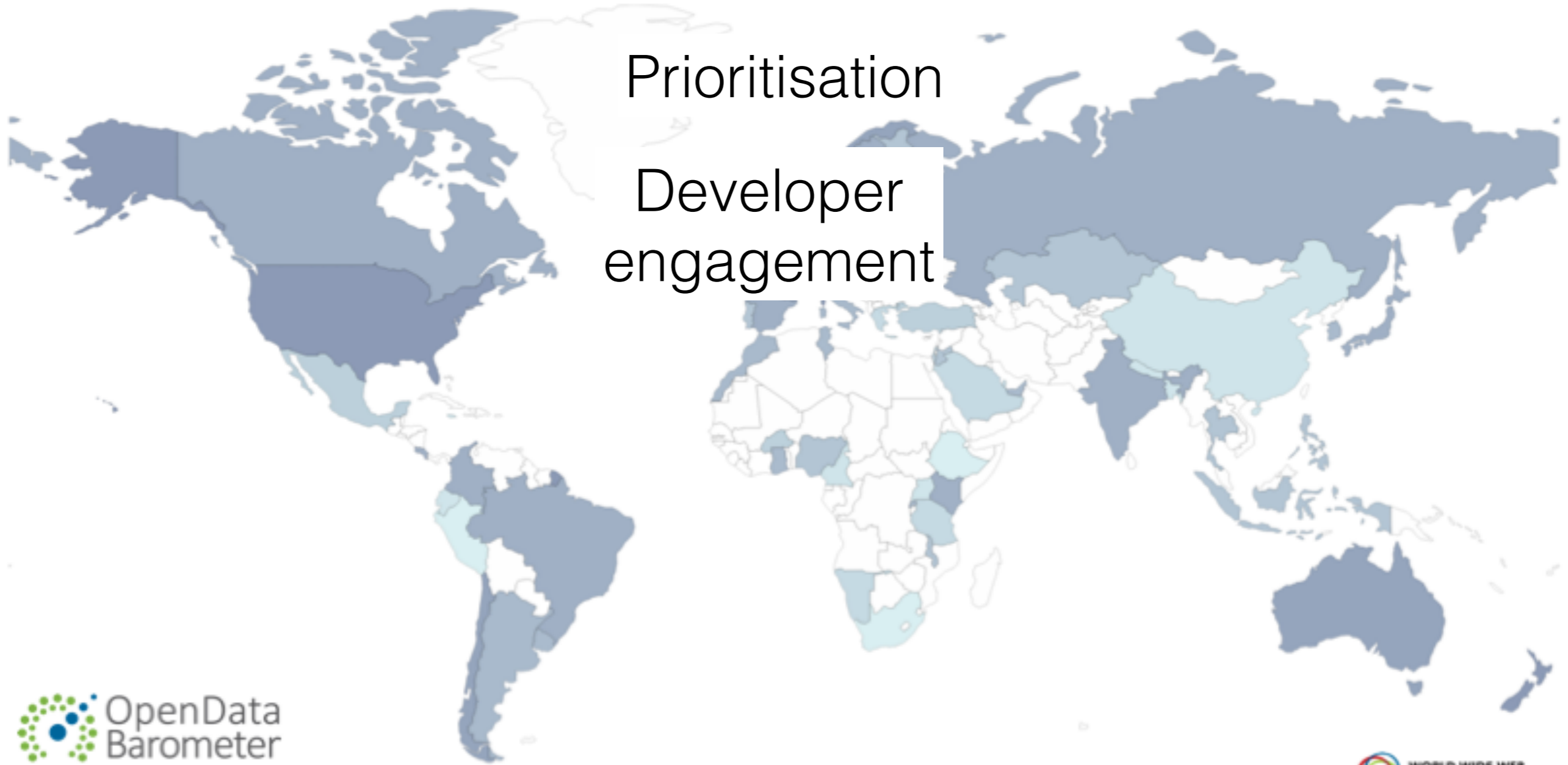
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Prioritisation
Developer
engagement



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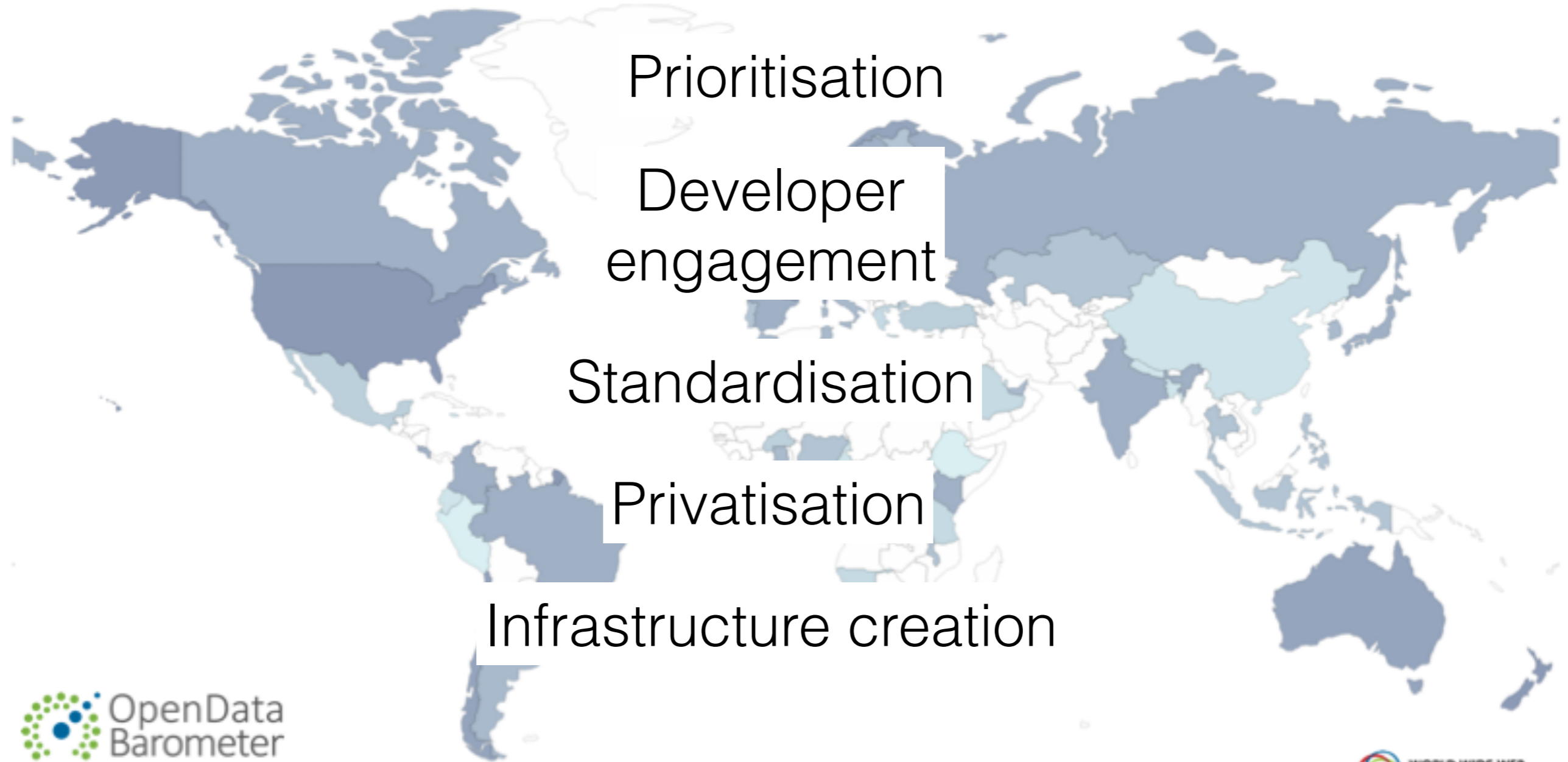
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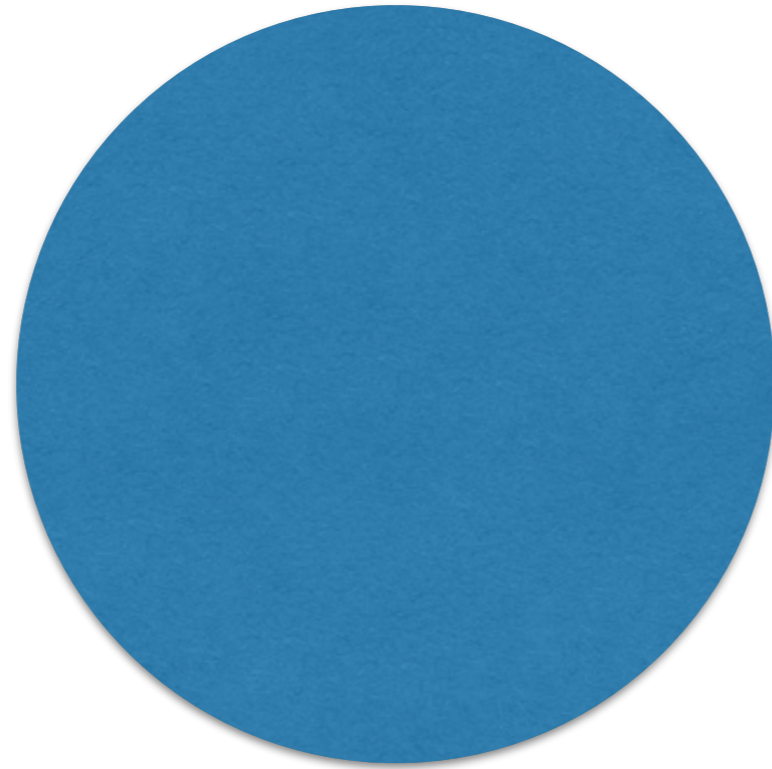
Winners and losers

“Treating government data as an asset and making it available, discoverable and usable - in a word, open -
strengthens democracy, drives economic opportunity, and improves citizen’s quality of life.”

Big Data: Seizing Opportunities, Preserving Values
The White House, 2014

Winners and losers

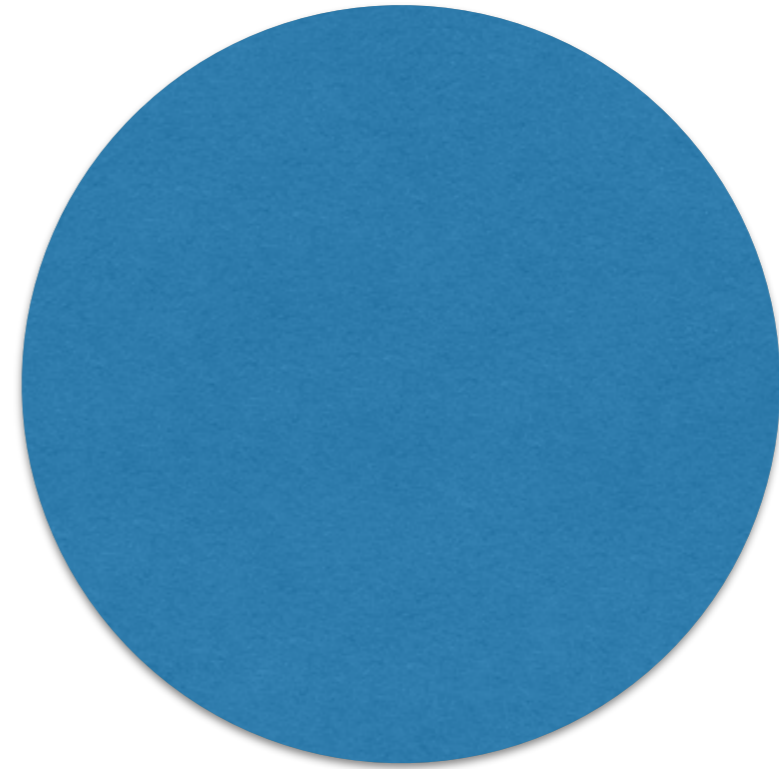
Everyone



Benefit

Winners and losers

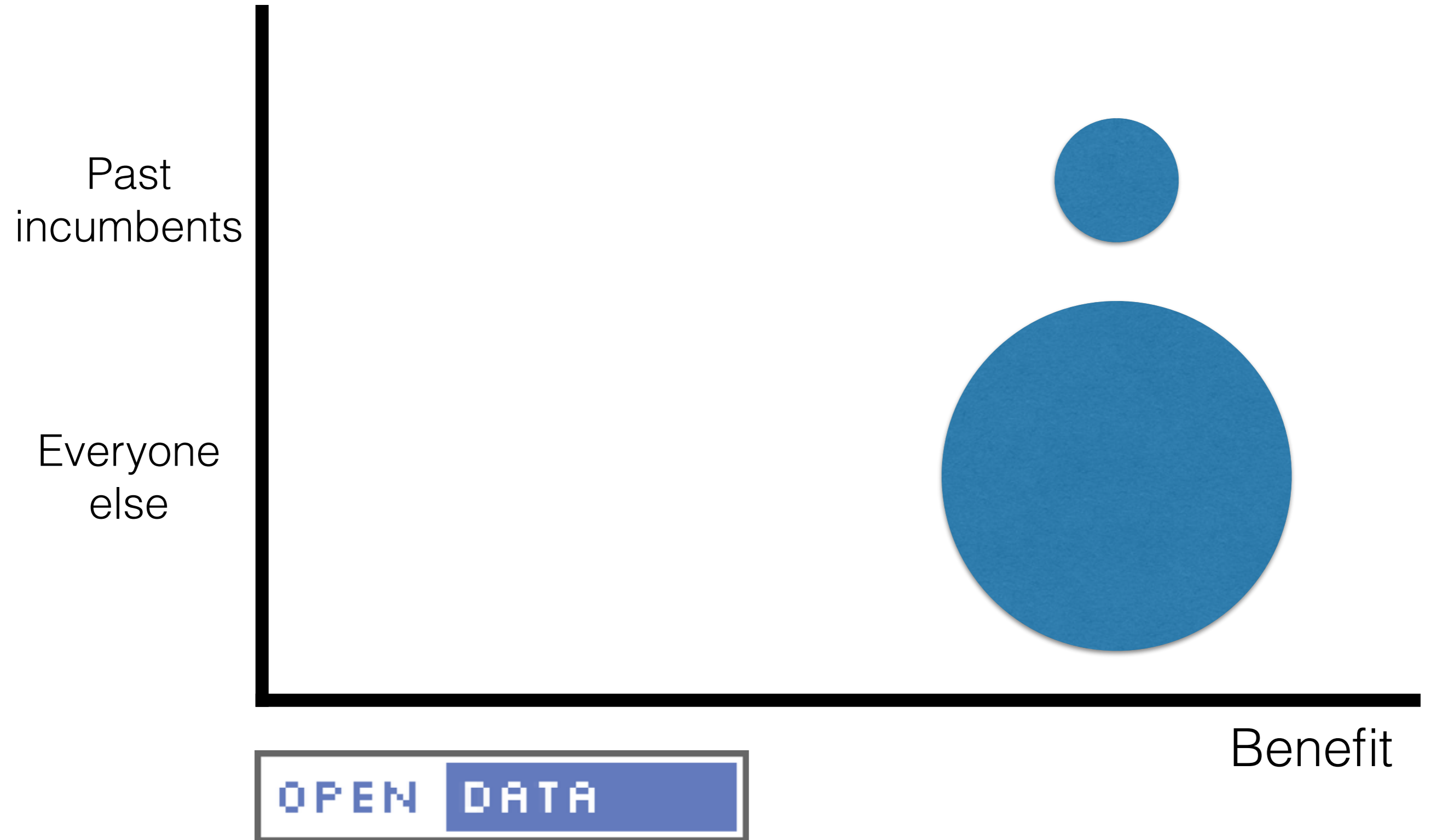
Everyone



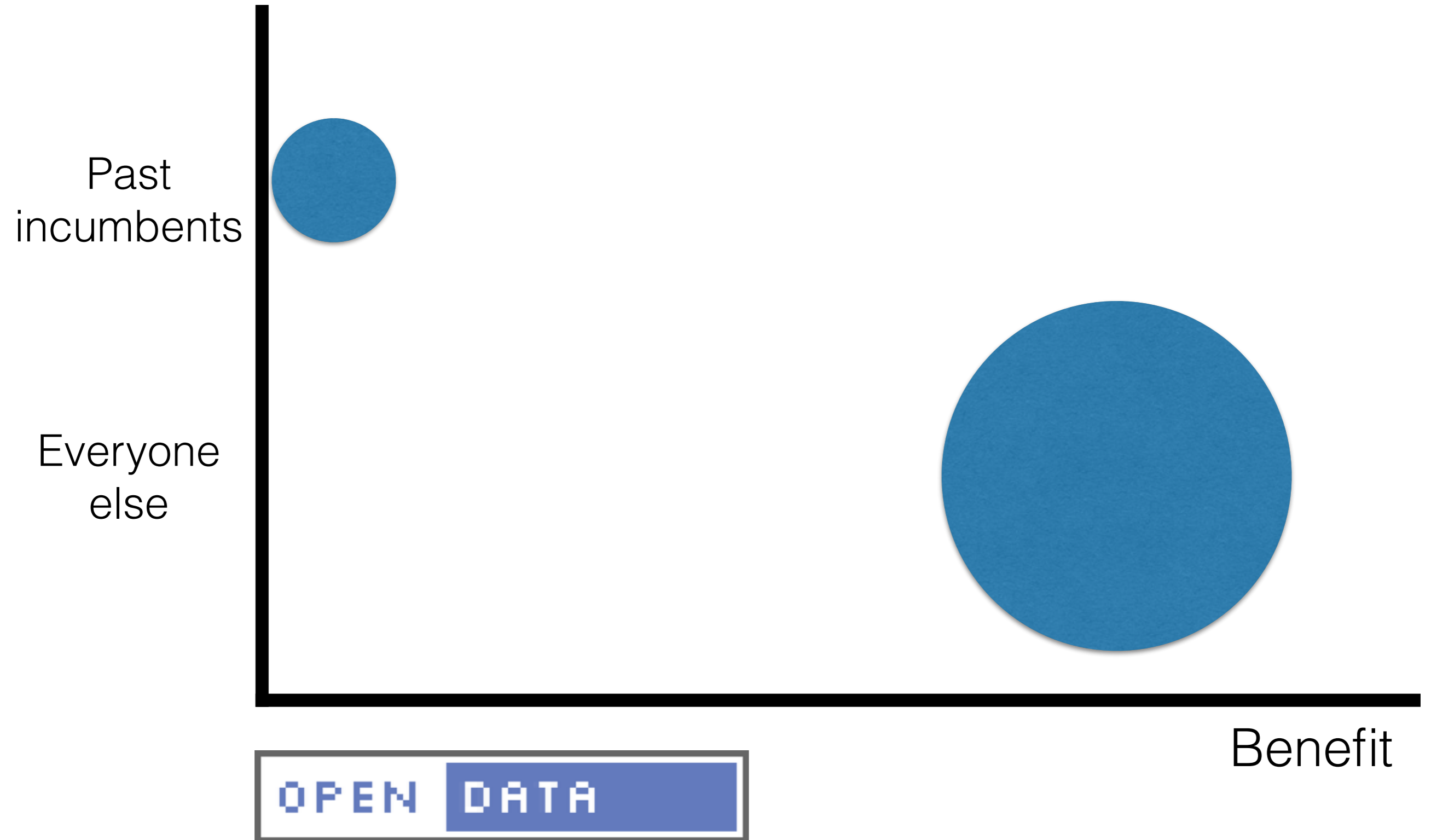
Benefit



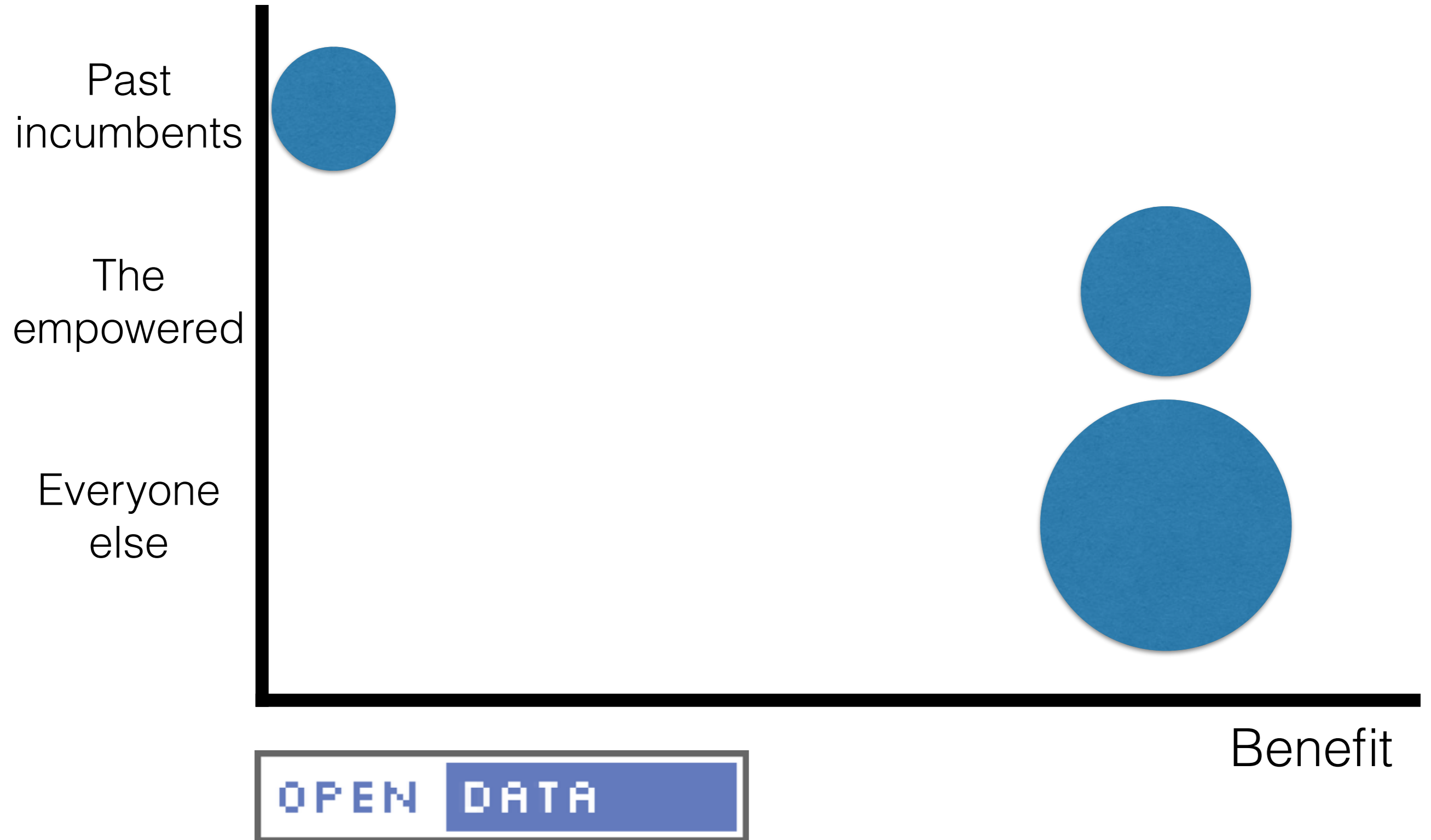
Winners and losers



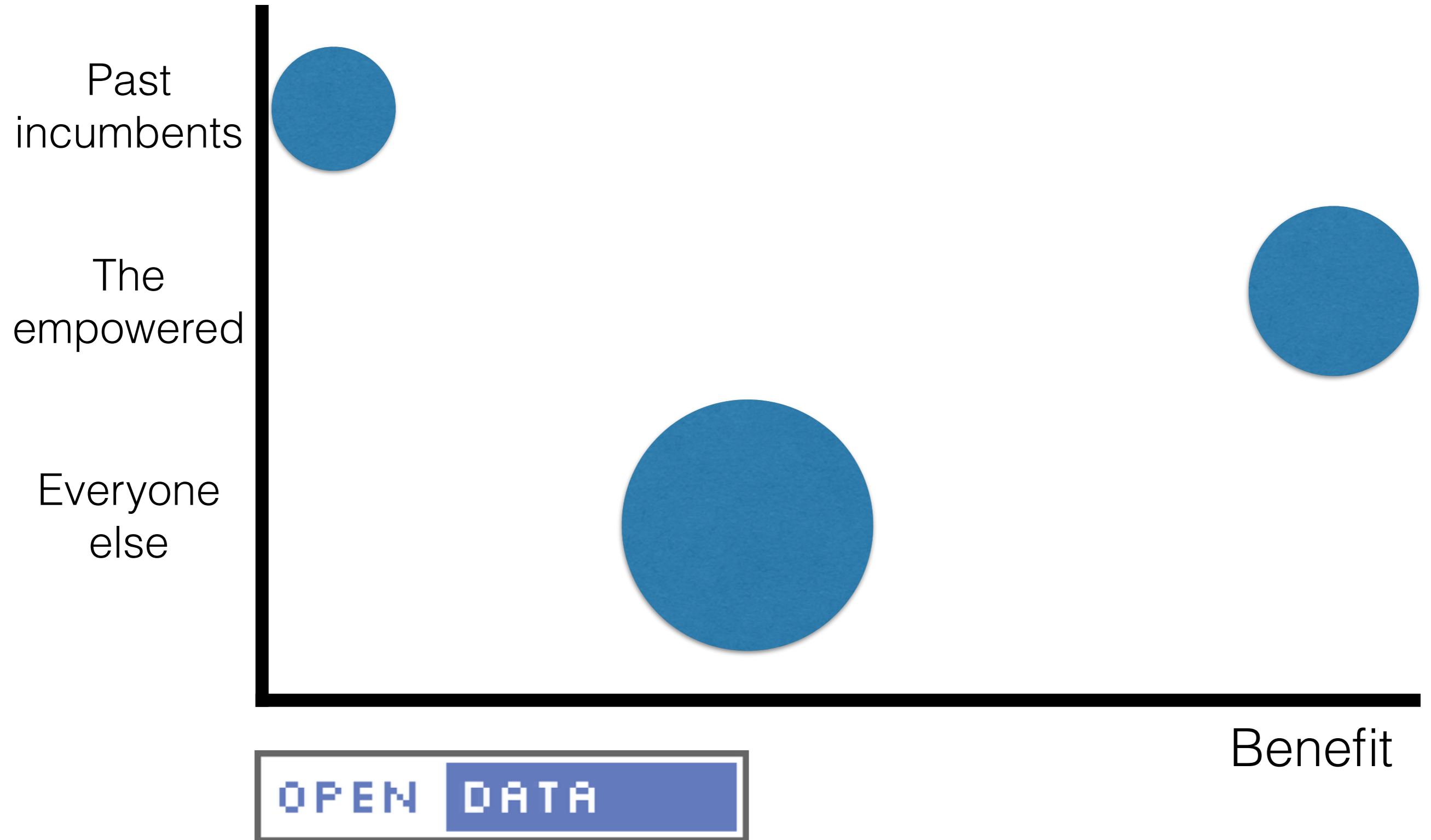
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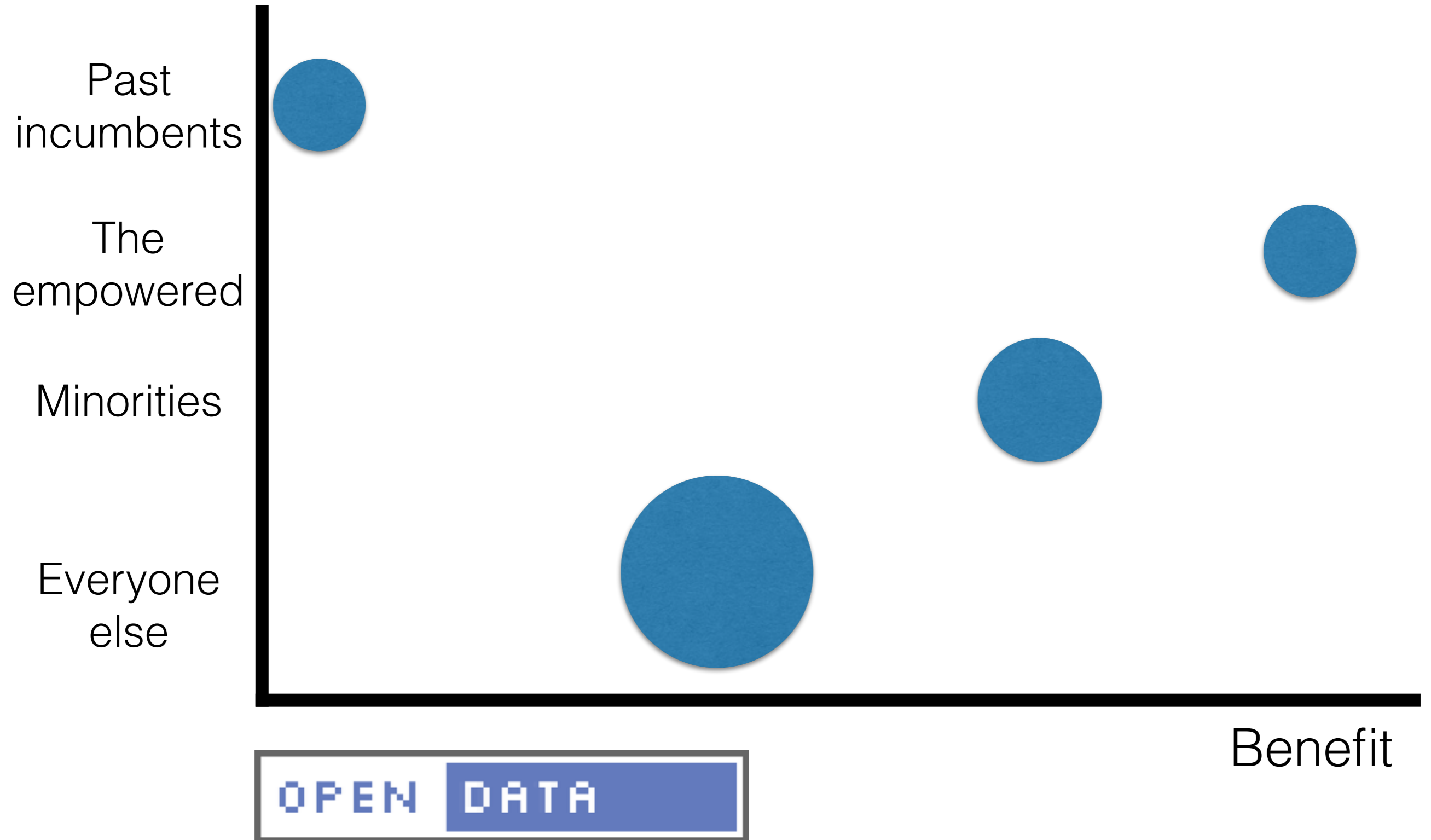
Winners and losers



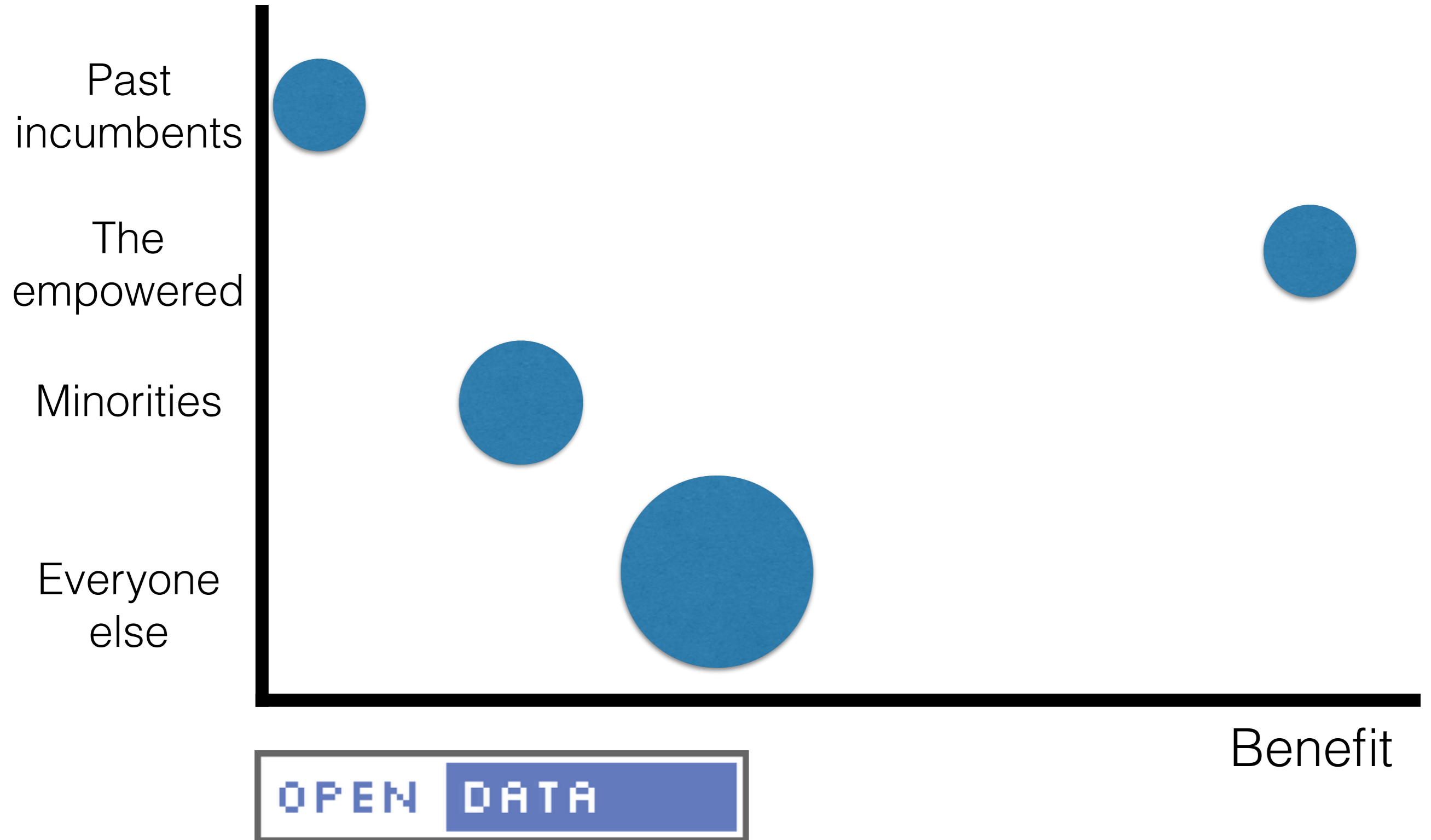
Winners and losers



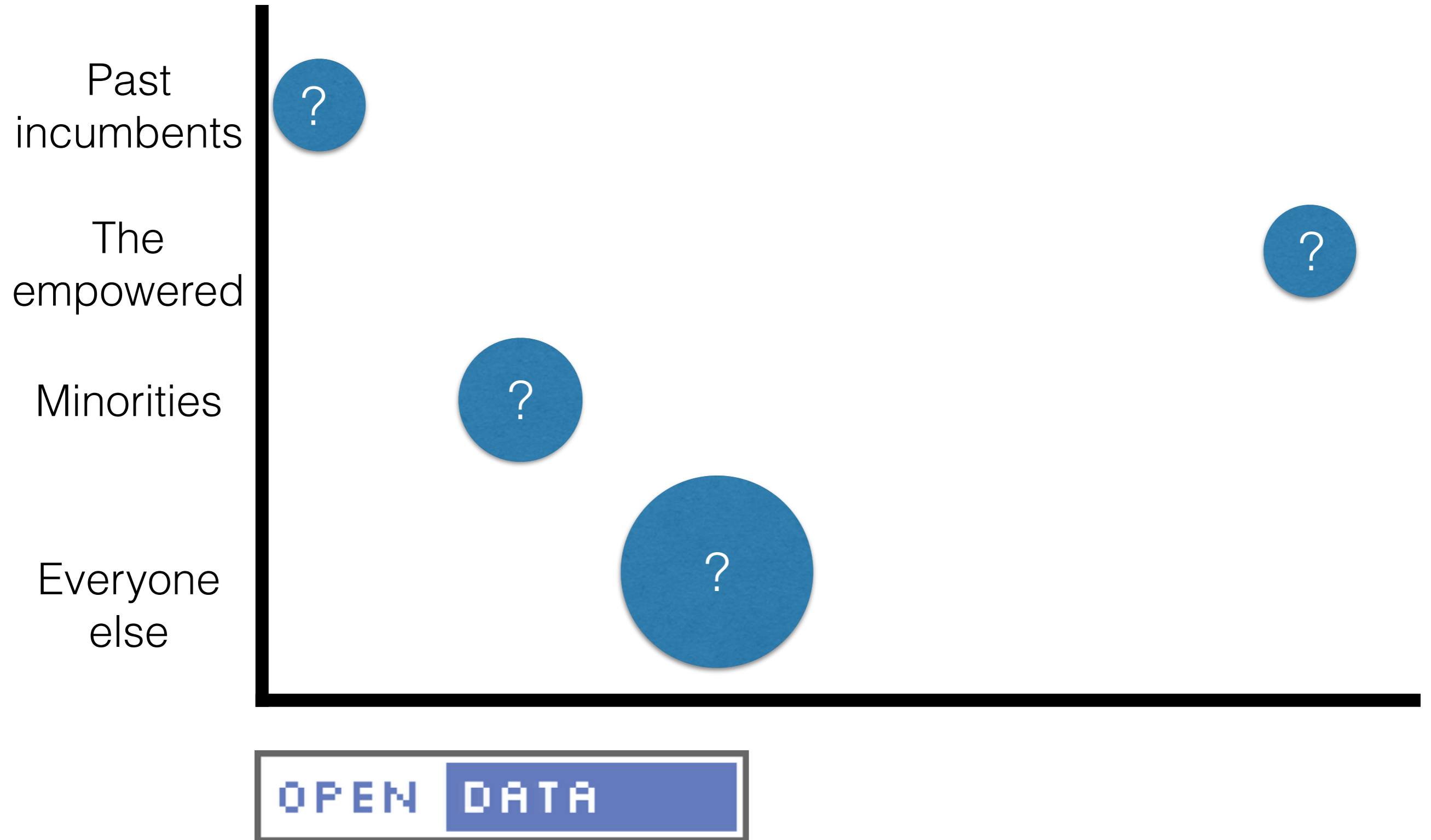
Winners and losers



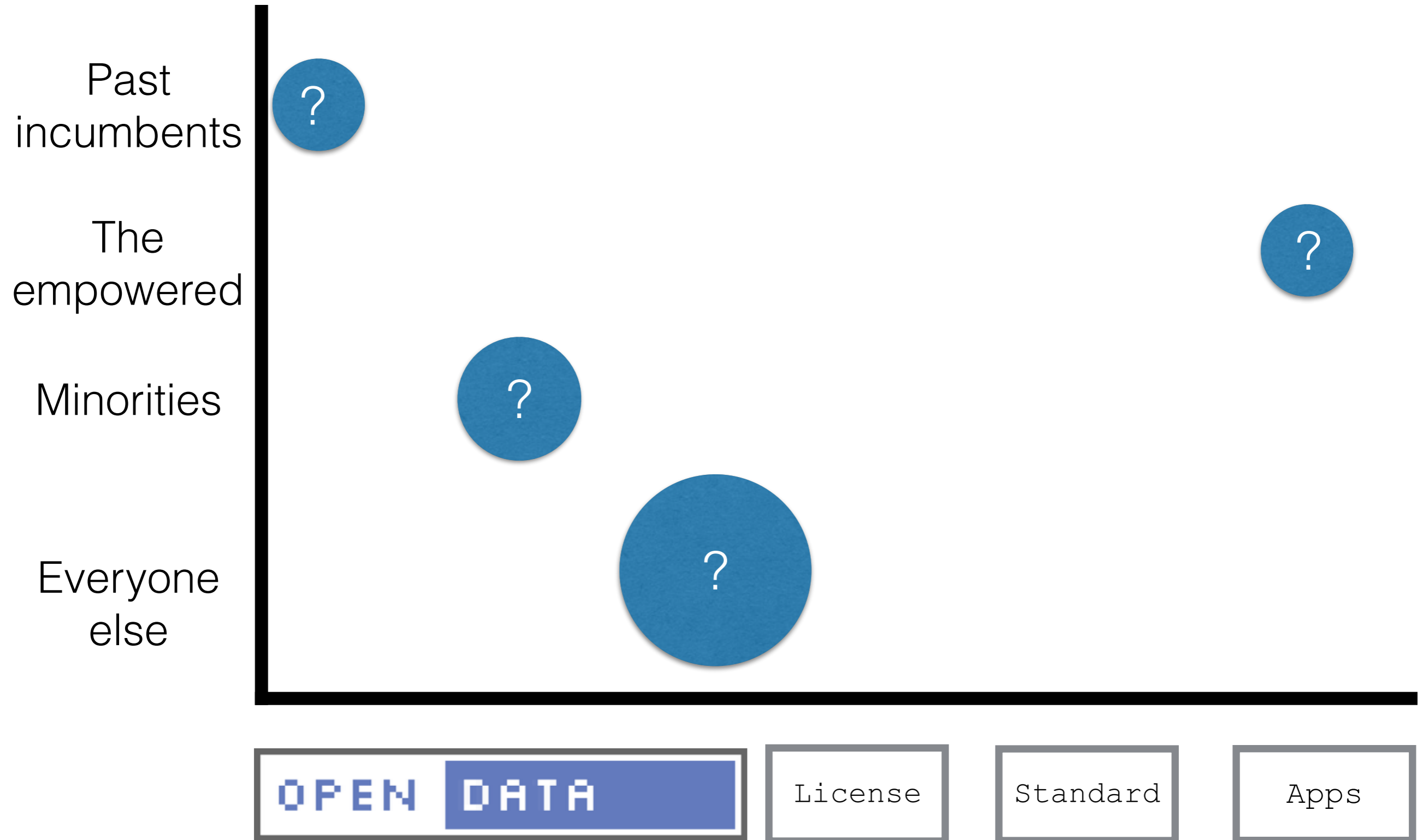
Winners and losers



Winners and losers



Winners and losers



Decision points

Table 1: Key decision points shaping the distribution of outcomes from open data

What data to open	Shaped by politics: Governments are less likely to release politically sensitive datasets. The data that governments hold reflects certain political frames. Outsourcing of research and data collection to private sector can limit the ability of governments to publish certain data.
How to open it	Shaped by politics & technology: Choices are made over fields to include, data cleaning, aggregation procedures, technical standards, and timeliness of publication (e.g. providing real-time APIs vs. periodic data dumps). Choice of formats determines what tools and competencies users will need. Changes & revisions to formats impact upon re-users.
How it gets used	Shaped by technology, skills, markets, networks and politics: Decisions are made by third-parties about which datasets they can rely upon. Often datasets require multiple steps of processing before they are usable for businesses, policy making or advocacy. There are often inter-relationships between different re-users of data (e.g. end-users relying on an API provided by a third-party). Sustaining data re-use requires an appropriate funding model. Civic use needs a valid theory of change, and chance of securing some political outcome: i.e. government receptive to change.

Questions & issues

- How do we explore the distribution of benefits and harm from data collection, storage, structuring, distribution and re-use?
- Does open data create an opportunity space for dialogue and action around data & discrimination?

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