

Open Data: Powering the Information Age

Nigel Shadbolt FREng,
Professor of Artificial Intelligence at
the University of Southampton

“Technological Visionary” Talk at the RA Eng



The screenshot shows the RA Eng website interface. At the top left is the RA Eng logo and name. To the right are three small images: a yellow curved line, a television set with 'tv' on it, and a green curved line. Below the logo is a search bar with a 'Go' button. The main content area features a video player on the left showing a lecture with a large screen displaying a blue arc and text. To the right of the video player is a sidebar with event details. The sidebar title is 'Technology Visionaries lecture series' with a date of '22 February 2012' and a link to 'Event details'. The text describes the lecture as 'Open Data: Powering the Information Age' by Nigel Shadbolt FREng, Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Southampton, in conversation with Dr Roger Highfield. It also lists keywords and a note at the bottom.

The Royal Academy of Engineering

Search: Go

raeng.tv ?

Technology Visionaries lecture series
22 February 2012 [Event details](#)

Open Data: Powering the Information Age
Nigel Shadbolt FREng, Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Southampton, in conversation with Dr Roger Highfield

Total length: 1 hour 7 minutes

Keywords: Open Data Institute, open source, public sector transparency, Tim Berners Lee, Roger Highfield, public health, google labs, search term modelling, epidemiology, flickr, geotagging, open streetmap, crowdsourcing, creative commons, data.gov, postcode data, EPSRC, integrated data, location-based data, street crime map, linked web of data, semantic web, open license, structured data, persistent data, URI, Nigel Shadbolt FREng, Technology Visionaries lecture series

Note: Opinions of any individuals in the video clips on this website do not necessarily reflect the views of the Academy.

<http://raeng.tv/default.aspx?item=68>

“Implementing Transparency” National Audit Office report

The screenshot shows the National Audit Office (NAO) website. At the top, the NAO logo and name are on the left, and links for Accessibility, Contact Us, Jobs, and Press Office are on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with four main sections: Publications (Reports, press releases, good practice...), Sectors (Defence, Education, Health & Social Care...), Help for public services (Good practice, advice, tools...), and About us (What we do, governance, history...). A search bar is also present.

The main content area is titled 'Publications' and includes a sidebar with links to Archive, Departmental overviews 2011, Financial management reports, Listing of major outputs, PSA data systems validation 2010, and Work in progress. The main article is titled 'Cross-government and public administration' and 'Implementing transparency'. It states: 'Better access to public information can improve accountability and service delivery. Government needs a firm grasp of whether that potential is being realised.'

Below the article text is a 'Downloads' section with links to the Executive summary (PDF - 95KB), Full report (PDF - 794KB), Press notice (HTML), and Detailed methodology (PDF - 166KB). A quote from Amyas Morse, head of the NAO, dated 18 April 2012, is also included: 'Opening up access to public information has the potential to improve accountability and support public service improvement and economic growth. What the Government is lacking at the moment is a firm grasp of whether that potential is being realised. If transparency initiatives are to be more than aspirations, then Government needs to measure and monitor both their costs and benefits. This is vital for tracking success and learning what works.'

On the right side of the page, there is a 'Related Reports' section with links to 'Shared service centres...', 'government office property...', 'Civil Superannuation 2010-2011...', and 'Reorganising central govt...'. Below this is a 'Related links' section which currently shows 'None'. At the bottom right, there is a 'NAODirect email alerts' section.

- http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1012/implementing_transparency.aspx

Task

- Nigel has asked for suggestions for ways of demonstrating the effectiveness of the Open Government Data agenda.
- Based on the NAO criticisms of the Open Government activities make a set of proposals for how to demonstrate value and effectiveness of linked data.
- *These will be given to Nigel for serious consideration.*