ATARC Proposes Federal Big Data Strategy

ATARC believes a successful Federal Big Data Strategy requires an overall vision of data and analytics in the Federal government, as well as a definition of the big data ecosystem and its key topic areas.

Using feedback from government and industry, ATARC has started the process of identifying potential topic areas within the big data ecosystem:

1. Data Management
   a. Quality
   b. Accessibility
   c. Classification
   d. Reliability
2. Data Governance
   a. Objectives
   b. Guiding Principles
   c. Policies/Lifecycle/Retention
   d. Decision-Makers/Data-Stewards
   e. Decision Rights/Access Levels
3. Interoperability/Portability
4. Data Standards
   a. Tagging
   b. Meta-Tagging
5. Data Analytics
6. De-Identification of Data
7. Data Privacy and Security
8. Data as an Asset
9. Data as a Catalyst
10. Extracting Value
11. Role of the Chief Data Officer
12. Data Infrastructure

In addition to defining the Big Data ecosystem, these topic areas would be examined from a category management perspective, identifying the government contracting vehicles associated with each group. In addition, it would include a list of commercial vendors that provide products and services within each category.

ATARC has published four White Papers on the topic of Big Data that summarize the collaborations sessions with Big Data SMEs from government, academia and industry at previous ATARC Federal Big Data Summits. These White Papers include an exhaustive list of government challenges, lessons learned and use cases within the Federal government. Each individual Big Data topic area would have a similar compilation of challenges, solutions, outcomes and use cases.

The eventual goal of this Federal Big Data Ecosystem section would be a one-stop shop for data and analytics practitioners within Federal Government to learn about existing industry capabilities, the contract vehicles to procure these offerings, the vendor that support these products and services, the challenges faced by other agencies and the solutions and successful use cases for each particular topic area.

ATARC recommends that the creation of the Federal Big Data Strategy follows a similar path to the Digital Government Strategy, creating collaborative working groups from government and industry to draft and compile content for topic areas within the mobile ecosystem. In addition, these groups would also provide feedback to the government on timelines for the milestones/deliverables for each topic area.

ATARC believes a Federal Big Data Strategy is a necessary requirement in the ever-changing Federal IT landscape and that a collaborative effort between government and private industry will provide the proper perspective as Federal government leverages data and analytics technology to improve its efficiency and operations, and better engage and serve the citizens of the United States of America.