# 2009: A Year of Gov 2.0 Milestones

President Obama Directs Government to be More Transparent, Participatory, and Collaborative
On his first full day in office, President Obama directs his Chief Technology Officer to develop an Open Government Directive that will guide all federal agencies to become more open, setting the stage for the rest of the year's Gov 2.0 efforts.
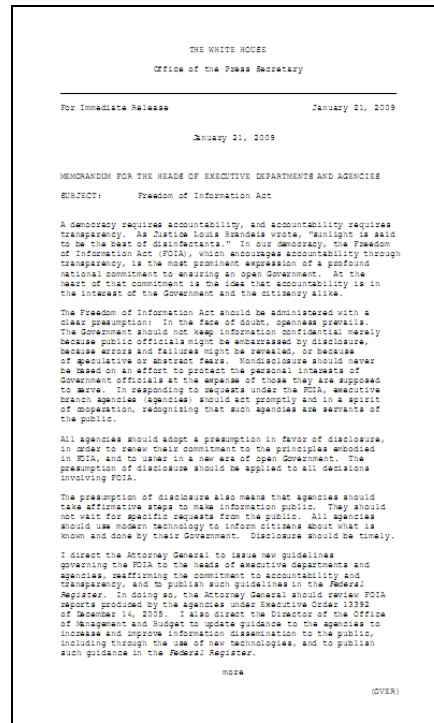
GSA Signs Agreements Allowing Government Agencies to Use Popular Social Media Sites
The GSA negotiates tailored terms of service for government use of Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, Blip.tv, Vimeo, and MySpace. This provides the legal top cover necessary for other agencies to use these services openly and legally.

Data.gov Launches, Aims to Make All Government Data Available and Accessible
The idea of making vast amounts of government freely available and accessible to the masses becomes a reality with the launch of data.gov. Rather than submitting FOIA request after FOIA request, citizens now have access to hundreds of raw data feeds at their fingertips. The potential of data.gov seems to outshine the reality though, as only 600 feeds are available (as of Nov 13). Nevertheless, the launch of data.gov became a rallying point for all in the tech community.

Social Media Links Iran Protestors to Rest of the World
#Iranelection protestors and sympathizers used Twitter, YouTube, and other social media to increase awareness of the election protests occurring in Iran. U.S. State Department requests Twitter delay scheduled maintenance so that the protestors can continue to use the site to get the word out about what's happening on the ground.
image courtesy of Flickr user 27389271

Washington Becomes the New Silicon Valley
Mr. Web 2.0 himself, Tim O'Reilly, says to think about "Government as a Platform," and brings events like the Gov 2.0 Summit and Gov 2.0 Expo Showcase to DC. Thanks to people like Tim and his Silicon Valley friends, the concept of Gov 2.0 gains greater national attention among the tech community.

Use Your Facebook Account to Log into Government Sites
The government announces a partnership with the OpenID and Information Card Foundations that will soon allow citizens to use government websites while authenticating their identities using their Google, Facebook, and other popular accounts. This initiative could fundamentally change the way government sites are created and how the public interacts. with them.

Whitehouse.gov Moves to Open Source Content Management System
The White House re-deploys their official website using a backend that runs on Drupal, making the site, according to White House officials, more secure and flexible. This was a tacit endorsement of open source software from the highest levels of government and laid the foundation for future uses of open source software by other government agencies.

Jan 09 › Feb 09 › Mar 09 › Apr 09 › May 09 › Jun 09 › Jul 09 › Aug 09 › Sep 09 › Oct 09 › Nov 09 › Dec 09

Sunlight Labs Launch "Apps for America"
For the first time, the general public is enlisted to create their apps and mashups based on official federal government data. This paved the way for other efforts throughout the government, including Data.gov, Apps for America 2, Apps for the Army, and Apps.gov.

Recovery.gov Goes Live
The launch of Recovery.gov allows taxpayers to see precisely what entities receive Recovery money in addition to how and where the money is spent. This is the first of what will be many websites created to lend greater transparency to how government works.

The FDA Uses Social Media to Educate the Public About the Peanut Product Recall
In partnership with the CDC and HHS, the FDA used a variety of social media tools to quickly alert the public of potentially dangerous peanut products and correct misinformation that had been spreading. This incident has helped usher in a new era of government crisis communications.

Intellipedia Suffers Mid-Life Crisis
Despite being cited as one of the shining examples of Gov 2.0, Chris Rasmussen points out that Intellipedia still hasn't been formally incorporated into the formal decision-making process. This is one of the first times that a Gov 2.0 early adopter points out that social media is cool, but means little unless it's impacting the mission.

Initial Gov 2.0 Camp is Held
Hundreds of government employees, contractors, and interested citizens gathered together for the first "unconference" focused on how technology could be used to improve government processes and policies. This event links the online communities in the physical world, creating an active community of Gov 2.0 champions that spans administrative, physical, and cultural barriers.
Photo courtesy of Flickr user Joelogon

Department of Defense Issues Conflicting Guidance Regarding Social Media
In one month, the Army ordered its network managers to unblock social media sites, U.S. Strategic Command said that it was considering banning social media due to security concerns, and then the DoD announced the Web 2.0 Guidance Forum to allow the public to influence the future DoD Social Media policy. This back and forth is a microsm of the fluid nature of Gov 2.0 policies and processes that the average government employee is dealing with on a daily basis.
Photo courtesy of Flickr user The U.S. Army

GovDelivery Acquires GovLoop
The single largest social network for government employees and contractors, with more than 20,000 members, is acquired by GovDelivery, a well-respected cloud computing and email subscription service provider. The news brings up many questions about the neutrality of GovLoop and what the future holds for the de facto online meeting place for Gov 2.0 discussions.

Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Announces Plans to Scrap UGov Email System, Causes Revolt
When the ODNI announced that it would be terminating an unclassified email system used by more than 15,000 members of the Intelligence Community, frustrated users inundated the office with requests to maintain the service, citing increased collaboration and operational security. Using wiki pages, blogs, and microblogging services available behind the Intel Community, users from across the Community rallied together to eventually delay the shutdown of the service.

GSA Asks for Help in Fixing the Acquisition Process
GSA's BetterBuy project invites those interested in the government's acquisition process to suggest ways to improve that process. By involving the public and asking for their help, GSA hopes to reduce the complexity and potentially the cost of the process for both government and the private sector.