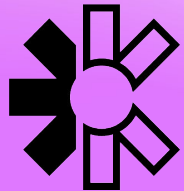


# Data management for humans

**Open Data Editor**

**Concept Note**

May 2024



**Open Knowledge**

FOR A FAIR, SUSTAINABLE AND OPEN FUTURE

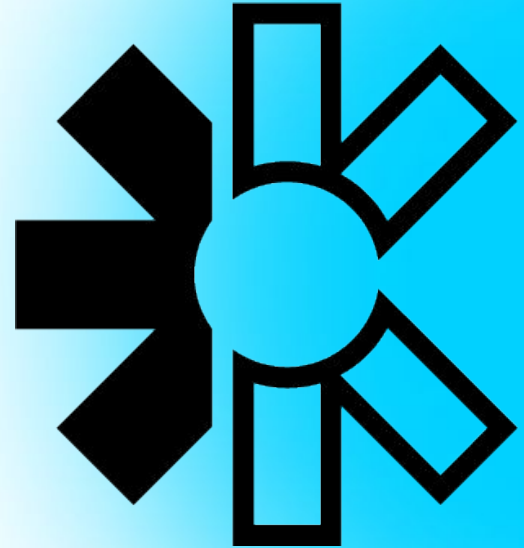
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# About OKFN

The **Open Knowledge Foundation** (OKFN) is the world's ultimate reference in open digital infrastructures and the hub of the open movement. As a global not-for-profit, the organisation has been **establishing open standards for the last 20 years** and providing services, tools and training for institutions to adopt openness as a design principle.

OKFN is the **technology arm of a wide range of institutions** creating, managing and publishing open data. Its most popular product, CKAN, is the tool behind open data portals such as those of the US, Brazilian and Indian governments, and the UN refugee agency.

Learn more – [okfn.org](https://okfn.org)



# What we do

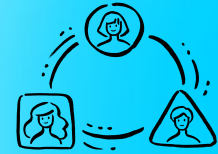
OKFN creates digital tools, equips people with skills, and expands digitally savvy networks that understand **the transformative power of openness**. We are the organisation behind the Open Definition, Open Data Commons, the Global Open Data Index, School of Data, and cutting-edge tools like CKAN and Frictionless Data.

Beyond tech, we have a number of exciting initiatives in the fields of **advocacy and standards**, such as Open Data Day and the coalition to develop Digital Public Infrastructures for Electoral Processes.

Learn more – [okfn.org/services](https://okfn.org/services) / [okfn.org/tools](https://okfn.org/tools)



We provide services for opening data



We can help you develop your skills and unlock your potential



You can partner with us and be part of the global movement

# What we do

## Software



The world's most adopted solution for open data portals



A no-code, easy-to-use application to maximise data and metadata interoperability

## Standards



**Open Data Commons**

Legal tools and licenses to help publish, provide and use open data



**Open Definition**

Principles that define “openness” in relation to data and content



**Frictionless Data**

Open-source toolkit (standards + software) for data and metadata interoperability

# The problem

Public officials, activists, trainers, journalists and data practitioners with **no coding skills** spend a **significant amount of time** exploring **tabular data** to **assess its quality** and search for errors to prepare files for data cleaning.

**Because they do not code**, they have to perform a **large number of actions** and use **wide range of features and functions** in spreadsheet tools like Google Sheets, Open Office or Excel to go through this process.

“Today, there is no easy tool to **describe** and **validate** data.”



# The main ingredient

The **Frictionless Framework** is a set of data management operations that provides functionality for describing, extracting, validating and transforming tabular data (DEVT Framework).

This framework has proven invaluable to a community of researchers, data scientists, and developers. **We now want broaden its accessibility to data practitioners without coding skills too.**



# The solution



Open Data  
Editor

The Open Data Editor (ODE) is a **no-code application** to **explore, validate, and publish** data in a simple way.

The screenshot shows the Open Data Editor interface with a data table. The table has the following columns: Entry, Category, Country, Medals, Total events, and Capital city. The data is as follows:

Entry	Category	Country	Medals	Total events	Capital city
#024	Royalty-free	United States	126	28	Beijing
#016	Royalty-free	China	91	28	Washington DC
#010	Paid	Japan	64	24	Tokyo
#015	Royalty-free	Australia	53	24	Canberra
#042	Creative-commons	France	32	24	Paris
#029	Paid	Netherlands	34	24	Amsterdam
#001	Creative-commons	Great Britain	65	24	London
#032	Paid	South Korea	32	24	Seoul
#019	Creative-commons	Italy	40	24	Rome
#080	Creative-commons	Germany	33	24	Frankfurt
#074	Royalty-free	New Zealand	20	24	Wellington
#048	Royalty-free	Canada	27	24	Toronto
#063	Creative-commons	Uzbekistan	13	24	Tashkent
#096	Paid	Hungary	19	24	Budapest



# What does the ODE do?

The **ODE** is a desktop tool that allows data practitioners without coding skills to explore tables and detect errors in just a few steps.

**Step 1:** The user uploads a CSV, xls into the ODE.

**Step 2:** The ODE reads the file to detect errors

**Step 3:** after exploring errors, users can use the tool to **edit cells** and save changes. They can also clean the data using other tools.

**Step 4:** once errors are corrected, users can use the ODE to publish files on GitHub, Zenodo and CKAN.





# Advantages

- ***We do not reinvent the wheel:*** The ODE is powered by the Frictionless Framework, which is open source software, created and maintained by a community of users interested in making data more interoperable, easier to understand, and quicker to use.
- Because the ODE is a desktop app, files are explored locally. Data is not uploaded to the cloud.
- ***We work with users from the data community:*** to build **the tech we want** and create products that solve real life issues, changes in the ODE are tested with data practitioners. We also share lessons learned, errors and best practices.



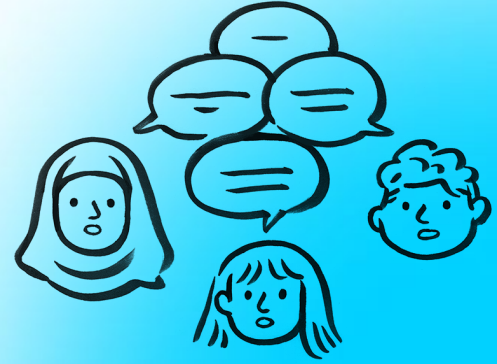
# The problem can be solved together

We hope the **Open Data Editor**, thanks to feedback and contributions from the community, will become in the future a no-code, easy-to-use application to make data management accessible to everyone everywhere.

**Open Data Editor (beta) was released in September 2023 for public testing and validation.** We expect to release stable version in December 2024.



# We want your feedback



**We strongly encourage organisations, developers, and data practitioners to test the application.**

Get in touch with us at <https://github.com/okfn/opendataeditor/issues>.



# Thank you!

Ways to join the conversation:

- Website – [okfn.org](https://okfn.org)
- Email – [info@okfn.org](mailto:info@okfn.org)
- Twitter/X – [@OKFN](https://twitter.com/OKFN)
- Newsletter – [okfn.org/newsletter](https://okfn.org/newsletter)

