

# Etalab, France

Promoting digital economy together through open data.

## OPENING UP PUBLIC DATA: A NEW GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

Prime Minister François Fillon created the Etalab mission by decree on 21 February 2011. This mission coordinates government administrations and provides support to public administrative institutions to facilitate the widest possible reuse of public data.

Placed under the authority of the Prime Minister and attached to the General Secretariat of Government, Etalab responsibilities include creating a single interministerial portal, [data.gouv.fr](http://data.gouv.fr). It is intended to collect and provide citizens with all public sector data from the Government, its administrations and public institutions, and also from local authorities that wish to participate in the project.

This platform was launched on 5 December 2011 and is the French Open Data Platform. It was designed, with unprecedented commitment to transparency, to provide easy access to public data for all citizens.

More generally, Etalab also has the task of promoting use and supporting the development of the digital economy. Etalab provides free raw data in readable formats. Reusing this data offers extensive opportunities for developers and entrepreneurs, in particular, who can use it to propose innovative application services.

## THE CHALLENGE

[Data.gouv.fr](http://Data.gouv.fr) is a continuation of the Government's actions to modernize and simplify the relationship between citizens and their public services.

Moreover, [data.gouv.fr](http://data.gouv.fr) must address several challenges:

- Ensuring the sustainable updating of datasets and providing new datasets to enhance the French platform over the long term
- Encouraging the simplest and broadest possible reuse of public data
- Increasing government action transparency and highlighting the work of government officials
- Enabling exchanges between data producers and public re-users by establishing a collaborative space on the [data.gouv.fr](http://data.gouv.fr) platform.

## OUR ANSWER

In March 2011, Etalab launched an invitation to tender to realize the implementation of the [data.gouv.fr](http://data.gouv.fr) platform. The proposed tool had to be upgradable, robust and durable.

### CASE STUDY

GOVERNMENT

Central and federal government

*"Thanks to CGI's ability to unite community partners involved in the project, their expertise, and choice of agile methods, the first version of [data.gouv.fr](http://data.gouv.fr) was rapidly developed."*

**Charles Ruelle**, Etalab Technical Director

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In June 2011, CGI was selected to implement this platform and help coordinate the actions of other providers involved in this project such as:

- The web agency, Be.pôle
- The content manager, EzPublish
- The search engine, Exalead
- The specialist in semantic web technologies, Mondeca.

More than 30 experts built a platform based on solid foundations for Etalab in just five months.

One of the cornerstones of the project's success is the importance given to the variety of data that can be searched. CGI therefore focused on this aspect by providing semantic tools and methods to collect (upstream) datasets.

CGI also worked on the platform hosted by Atos on the critical project cycle linked to the tool's performance and the security of the data published.

Finally, the platform's design is based on an "agile" design methodology and was aided by daily contact and good cooperation between the CGI and Etalab teams. This iterative approach helped manage the risks step by step by making the necessary adjustments to data stream processing.

## THE RESULT

The beta version of data.gouv.fr has been online since 5 December 2011. Its features include easy access to downloadable data (statistics, maps, economic and financial data), provision of easily reusable formats and a back office promoting each administration's autonomy in content delivery.

Since its launch, the site counts over 350,000 different datasets which is roughly the equivalent of what its American counterpart, data.gov, provides today. The platform specifically enables citizens to better follow government action and entrepreneurs to develop new services.

Designed to continually evolve, data.gouv.fr is today an initiative in motion. It will refine its roadmap by taking into account the producer and content re-user expectations through workshops and collaborative tools.

## WHY CGI?

CGI was selected by Etalab to integrate the inter-ministerial platform, data.gouv.fr, because of:

- Our full understanding of public sector open data issues and the requirements generated
- The quality and consistency of the proposed approach: in particular data
- Publication using semantic features
- Our teams' ability to coordinate the work of individual providers
- CGI's experience in large content management projects for other public stakeholders, for example the digital Pompidou center and ameli.fr.

For more information, please contact us at [government@cgi.com](mailto:government@cgi.com) or visit [www.cgi.com/government](http://www.cgi.com/government).

Founded in 1976, CGI is a global IT and business process services provider delivering high-quality business consulting, systems integration and outsourcing services. With 69,000 professionals in 40 countries, CGI has an industry-leading track record of on-time, on-budget projects, aligning our teams with clients' business strategies to achieve top-to-bottom line results.

The project referenced in this case study was delivered by Logica, which CGI acquired in August 2012.