Rail Data Marketplace

In this edition

RDM highlights

RDM Hackathon at the RIA Innovation Conference

New features on RDM

Be the first to know about new data products

Data Wants

List of new data products on the RDM

RDM highlights

The daffodils are out, along with the sun, and so spring feels like it is finally here. That sense of optimism and opportunity was certainly reflected in our first hackathon which we ran with the kind help of RIA at their Innovation Conference recently. There were two challenges; develop an accessibility app and predictive fix times. Both of the challenges received some really excellent proposals which demonstrated that innovation is very much alive in our sector.

It was also enormously encouraging that both challenges were won by teams of students. Whilst the consensus suggests that skills in data science and digital innovation are in short supply, there is clearly a wealth of talent in our university sector. More details of the hackathon are in the article below, but it certainly proved that creative uses of data can help both the passenger experience and operational efficiency.

Late March was a busy time for conferences with not only the hackathon, but a presentation given to the Global Government Innovation conference about how RDM has achieved effective cross-organisational data sharing. Other friends of ours were at Interchange 25 and reported a number of mentions of RDM.

Spring also heralded time for one of our quarterly product releases which we deployed in late March. More details are below, but we have tried to respond to the feedback of users by tackling highlighted issues such as automating the upload of data (lack of functionality) and the 'add user' journey (which wasn't intuitive), as well as fixing a number of bugs that we found. As always, please feel free to provide feedback on the RDM service for which there is a link at the bottom of each page on RDM. For our part, we will continue to analyse support calls and the comments made in the Community.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter……..but also a bit of nature at this glorious time of year.

RDM Hackathon at the RIA Innovation Conference

The RDM and RIA ran a hackathon / Dragons Den's type event at the RIA Innovation Conference at Celtic Manor in Wales last month.

There was significant interest which meant we had to do a shortlisting week in advance of the conference! The three finalists for each challenge presented their innovations to an array of industry experts at the conference.

Using data on the RDM the 2 challenges were:

Challenge 1: Accessibility

Design a passenger-facing app or service which makes rail travel easier for a passenger with accessibility needs.

Challenge 2: Predicted 'fix time'

Develop a methodology to calculate the predicted 'fix time' for a railway service impacting incident, measured by the time an incident occurs through to normal working resumed, incorporating the type, time and location of asset failure, bringing together the various rail data sources with a historic view of similar asset failures.

The predicted 'fix time' challenge finalists are:

- **Winners:** London Uni Team Collaboration - Joseph Ofori and Benjamin Zhang

- **Runners up:** Vanguard Rail Solutions and JNCTION

The accessibility challenge finalists are:

- **Winners:** Aberystwyth University – Oscar Tikadar and Jonathan Turnbull

- **Runners up:** Aubin, and Birmingham University Team Entry

In true Dragon's Den style, both winning teams have come away with leading industry mentors to help them develop their solutions further which include LNER, SWR, GBRTT Accessibility team and Rail Delivery Group.

Thanks to the RIA team for making this possible and all the judges who gave up their time from Network Rail, GBRX, LNER, SWR, GBRTT and Rail Delivery Group.

New features on RDM

Our latest release, deployed in late March, contains a number of new features, improvements and bug-fixes, including:

- **Add new user journey:** Previously where a user had tried to get an account as part of an existing organisation, the process was a bit disjointed and did not really guide either the person trying to get a user account, or the organisation admin user. The new flow should be much more intuitive and lead to quicker and easier access for new users. For more details, read our guide on how to request user access or how to manage user accounts

- **Licence options and anomalies:** There were a couple of 'logic' issues with licences previously, which we have now rectified. We have also given more options to publishers around the term of the licence. We have made new licence term options available; you can now create products with 3-year and 5-year terms.

- **File upload automation:** This allows publishers to use their tools to automate the upload of files on a regular basis. More details on how to configure this functionality can be found in this guide: How to create a file data source

- **Communication preferences:** Users are now able to set communication preferences within the platform. Instructions on how to do this are below. We hope that this functionality will allow you to hear about the things you want to know (and, of course, vice versa!).

- **Security improvements:** All files available via RDM are scanned for malware before being made available. We have just upgraded our scanner to ensure that RDM is as robust and secure as we can make it. We have also increased the size limit, so that publishers can make larger files available.

- **Defects:** We also fixed around 11 defects. None were significant (we do those when we find them), but hopefully all reduce the level of minor irritants when using RDM, such as community comments cutting off halfway.

Be the first to know about new data products

You can now subscribe to alerts for product releases and receive email notifications as soon as new products are published.

As well as product alerts, you can also:

- receive updates on community posts you've created or contributed to

- manage your newsletter subscription

- help to shape future releases by providing occasional feedback

To update your settings:

1. Sign in to your RDM account

2. Go to the **Manage** section in the main menu

3. Select Communication preferences

To customise your product alerts:

- choose specific tags to receive alerts for new products that interest you

- select all tags to stay informed about all new products on the platform

For more details, see our guide on how to manage your communication preferences

Data wants

We are incredibly grateful for all of those users who have published a data want or voted for one. We just wanted to assure everyone that we are actively working with a number of publishers, and especially Network Rail, to make these datasets available.

We hope that data-wanters (!?) appreciate that often this is neither quick nor simple; it involves an assessment of the implications of making data available and often includes a number of different parties. Specifically, the Network Rail Data Assets team are supportive of RDM, but more importantly, of making their data more openly available and are working hard in the background to achieve your many data wants.

We try to update individual data wants with the latest news, but if there isn't an update, it does not mean there is no action or progress. Please keep your data wants and upvotes going, it is an encouragement to us all.

List of new data products on the RDM

	New data products
Avanti West Coast	Avanti West Coast Car Park Occupancy Data
Avanti West Coast	Avanti West Coast Sustainability Data
Avanti West Coast	Avanti West Coast Station Gateline Data
London North Eastern Railway	LNER - Performance Data
1Timetable	Greater Anglia Schedule & Formation Data Test
mburdett555	List of Train Service Groups
Trenitalia c2c	c2c - Live Station Car Park Occupancy
	Updated data products
Network Rail	NWR Event Planning Lookahead Calendar
Network Rail	NWR Historic Delay Attribution
Network Rail	NWR Bridge Strikes
Data Wharf	GB Rail Carbon Calculator Capped Test Version
Rail Delivery Group	NationalRail Disruptions API
Chiltern Railways Co Limited	Chiltern Railways Passenger loading data
West Midlands Trains	WMT Passenger Count Data (only for use by the DfT)
West Midlands Trains	WMT Train Formation & Capacities - December 24
Data Wharf	GB Rail: Fuzzy Station Search: Capped Volume Test
Great Western Railway	Train Formation and Capacity Data
GTR Passenger Loading Data	Govia Thameslink Railway