Programme Summary

Since the last Newsletter, we have continued the development and delivery of the Rail Data Marketplace. We have now completed the build of our Minimum Viable Product, so we now have an enterprise-scale data sharing platform up and working. After rigorous functional and non-functional testing, we are now sufficiently confident to trial it with real users.

This has allowed us to move into the next key phase of development; Private Beta. Starting earlier this month, the RDM Private Beta now has 10 organisations registered as either data publishers or data consumers with more to follow. The initial workshops have seen users successfully register on the live production platform, set up authorised colleagues within their organisation and explore the data catalogue and registered organisations.

The platform is functionally rich for an early iteration with the ability to find data sources through a clear taxonomies, understand those data sources and any limitations, see a clear quality rating for a data product as defined by the publisher and publish and consume real APIs.

The objective of Private Beta is to gain real-world feedback and it has already been invaluable. Whilst the basic work, there is definitely room to make improvements and enhancements based on the experiences of our test users. Overall, participants found the appearance to be user friendly and there was an overwhelming positivity about the concept of the marketplace and the ability to make data discoverable, accessible, interoperable and reusable. Feedback from real users at this stage of development will help us to iterate and improve the final design so a big thank you to our Private Beta participants. If you would be interested in being onboarded in the Private Beta please email us at RailDataMarketplace@raildeliverygroup.com.

The current timelines to full public launch and functional maturity are outlined below:

High level timeline and deliveries

In parallel with developing the platform, we have been working with publishers to identify data which can be made available through RDM. Of course, Rail Delivery Group is one of those publishers and we spotted an opportunity to create a new API based on the Live Departure Board Web Service. This new REST JSON API is an alternative to the existing SOAP data source and can give access to real time train information from Darwin. Using JSON instead of SOAP means that the API is faster, easier to use, and the data you get back is easier to read. JSON is a more modern format meaning users may be more familiar with it and in favour of using it over other formats such as XML.

These new data feeds are available now as part of the Private Beta, and will be openly available once we make the service publicly accessible in the Spring.

Events and Awards 2023

Shortlisted for the Transport Ticketing Awards 2023: Ticketing Enabler of the Year

The RDM has been shortlisted for the 2023 Transport Ticketing Awards for the category “Ticketing Enabler of the Year”. The winners will be announced at the Transport Ticketing Gala Dinner & Awards ceremony on 8th March 2023.

If you would like to know more, the RDM is at the Transport Ticketing Global conference at Olympia on the 8th March in Theatre 2 at the 11am session where Jez Smith, Project Lead and Clare Herrity, Commercial Lead will be presenting.

RDM have big plans for this year, and we hope that more and more people will be able to see what we have in store. Below, you can see the Events and Awards we are planning to attend:

Events and Awards 2023