Rail Delivery Group

National Rail

Rail Data Marketplace

Welcome to your round up of news related to the Rail Data Marketplace (RDM). If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, email us at
raildatamarketplace@raildeliverygroup.com.

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RDM highlights

It is hard to believe that RDM is celebrating its first birthday. Just one year ago, RDM was launch by the then Rail Minister, Huw Merriman at the RIA conference. One year later and RDM has close to 500 organisations and over 1,000 individuals who are registered on the platform. It makes available 150 data products, many of which are exclusively published on RDM. Perhaps the real number to celebrate is the 4,000 data sharing agreements that RDM has created without a lawyer once being involved. While that might be bad news for the legal profession, it is allowing an ease and speed of access to data which is unique and paves the way for the industry to realise the potential of the data which we hold to support innovation and improve the passenger experience. The entire industry should be proud of the success of RDM as it was truly a collaborative effort; the Department for Transport, Rail Supply Group, Network Rail, RSSB, GBRTT, RIA as well as colleagues across RDG and the Train Operating Companies have all contributed. Our thanks to everyone.

In this newsletter, that whole-industry theme is reinforced with contributions from Network Rail who describe how they make decisions about data sharing as well as a couple of SMEs who have just published data products which demonstrate that innovation is truly alive in our industry.

RDM continues to evolve and this month has been no exception. Recognising the importance of understanding the provenance of data, RSSB commissioned a report titled 'Identifying metadata to support confident use of data in a data-driven railway' which was published in December of last year. RDM has now implemented the recommendations of that report in full, allowing publishers to use the metadata framework described in the report to input information into RDM and allowing consumers to benefit from a greater understanding of each data product.

This really puts our industry at the forefront of data sharing practice across the UK and globally. We now have widespread adoption by both public and private sector organisations of a single secure platform which uses a common taxonomy, a consistent metadata structure, and a quick and robust mechanism for access to both open and chargeable data. As we approach the 200th anniversary of the railway, RDM is another demonstration of our industry's continued commitment to using technology to connect people and places.

We hope that you enjoy this round up of news and for those attending the RIA conference, please come and say hello to us in the exhibitors area.

Network Rail update on 'Data Wants'

Network Rail is working to publish a minimum of 15 new data products on the Rail Data Marketplace by the end of the year. We are currently progressing with the publication of Level Crossing, Flood Delay Minutes, and Maintenance Activities. We are also responding to academic requests for sample LIDAR and CAD data. Additionally, we are in discussions to release GEMINI and TOPS data, which will further enhance the accessibility and utility of our rail data on the RDM. GEMINI data includes detailed information on train allocations, which is crucial for understanding the deployment and scheduling of rolling stock across the network. This data will provide valuable insights into train operations.

Furthermore, we are excited to announce ongoing work to open up the LINX service catalogue. This initiative will provide comprehensive access to a wide range of services and tools that support the management and operation of the rail network.

Blogs

A FRESH perspective: the new era in data-driven decision making

Thomas Gallagher, Data Policy Development Lead at Network Rail, talks about the FRESH Model, a data sharing assessment tool developed to provide an objective view as to when Network Rail should share data.

Improving the use of metadata on the Rail Data Marketplace and across the rail industry

Last year, RSSB commissioned research to 'Identify metadata to support the confident use of data in a data-driven railway'. Revised metadata fields have now been added to RDM. Taken together with RDM's existing metadata fields, this provides comprehensive coverage of the schema recommended by RSSB and should give valuable additional information to consumers.

Featured products

Data Thistle API: UK wide live events data

Data Thistle hosts the UK's most comprehensive set of live events information - think gigs, theatre, festivals, sport, days out and more. This data has two primary uses to the rail industry. The first key use is inspiring travel. Advertising live events drives increased leisure travel through a range of platforms, including websites, apps, RTI platforms, social media and automated CRM feeds. The second use is business intelligence: live events provide a window into future demand, which rail businesses use to predict high passenger volumes. This allows them to make better commercial decisions around yield management, to set better levels of staffing operationally, and to plan engineering works to avoid high demand periods up to two years in advance.

Introducing DataWharf's Fuzzy Station Search: making train travel more accessible

DataWharf's Fuzzy Station Search is an AI-driven solution designed to help users find the correct station name for their origin or destination, even when they may not know the exact station name or its unfamiliar spelling. Returns the Station Name, CRS code and postcode for close-match stations.

Darwin Real Time Train Information

In response to feedback, Darwin Real Time Train Information data is now available in XML format. This pub/sub product provides predicted arrival times and reasons for train delays and cancellations. We're aware the XML topic preview currently does not display data, but it is accessible using a Kafka client.

Disruptions API

The RDG Disruptions API is now available on RDM. This data product provides real-time updates on station messages, bulletins, disruptions and incident information.

List of new data products on the RDM

Organisations	Data Product
Rail Delivery Group	Disruptions API
Rail Delivery Group	Darwin Real Time Train Information (XML now available)
Trenitalia C2C	Passenger Loading
Trenitalia C2C	Long Term Train Planning (LTP) June 2024
Data Wharf	Fuzzy Station Search (Operator release)
Data Wharf	Fuzzy Station Search (General release)
Chiltern Trains	Unit Allocation & Capacity
Chiltern Trains	Railway Passenger Loading Data
Network Rail	Realtime Performance Data API
Network Rail	Realtime Performance Reference Data API
Network Rail	Virtual Railway Sample CAD Model
Data Thistle	Sample JSON Historic Live Events Data - Exeter
Data Thistle	API UK Wide Live Events Data (Free)
Data Thistle	API UK Wide Live Events Data (Paid)
Data Thistle	Sample JSON Future Live Events Data - Manchester
Data Thistle	Sample CSV Future Live Events Data - Newcastle

Organisations	Data Product
EMR	Daily Train Formation & Orientation
EMR	Planned Capacity & Formation
TransPennine Express	Train Capacity & Planned Formation
TransPennine Express	Passenger Counts
Cross Country	Unit Formation at Stop Level
Northern	Loading Data
Greater Anglia	Automated Passenger Count (DfT / HM Gov. Only)
BODS	Bus Open Data Service (signposted)
Govia Thameslink	GTR Passenger Loading Data