

# Data Twist: An experimental script family to twist Open Data into new shapes

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## ABSTRACT

Data Twist is a project to help people use Open Data to make directories. It is a project that helps anyone create open versions of Yelp (tm) or TripAdvisor (tm). Data Twist acts a foundation for open directories by importing OpenStreetMap XML data into Wordpress. Data Twist has a few dependencies. One is Wordpress. Another is Geo Mashup, a plug-in that allows you to store geo-references with each Wordpress post. This demonstration will show how Data Twist works and explain where the development effort will focus next.

## Categories and Subject Descriptors

D.2.12 [Interoperability]: Data mapping

## General Terms

Algorithms, Documentation, Performance, Experimentation.

## Keywords

Open Source, Open Data, OpenStreetMap, Wordpress

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Open Data provides great potential for data re-use and re-purposing. However, projects have thus far tended to focus on one use-paradigm. A key example is OpenStreetMap, which has expanded into a worldwide effort to collect geo-data far in advance of traditional mapping. From locations of post boxes through to annotations regarding street maintenance, the OpenStreetMap database contains a wealth of data freely

accessible to everyone, yet commonly perceived as being a “map.”

The underlying concept behind Data Twist is to illustrate how Open Data can be re-purposed to solve new problems. In its initial form it does this by helping people use Open Data from OpenStreetMap to make directories. This can in theory allow anyone create open versions of Yelp (tm) or TripAdvisor (tm), but in a larger sense it is an illustration of the potential of Open Data rather than a refined method of applying a single new use case.

From a technical perspective, Data Twist acts a foundation for open directories by importing OpenStreetMap XML data into Wordpress. Data Twist has a few dependencies. One is Wordpress. Another is Geo Mashup, a plug-in that allows you to store geo-references with each Wordpress post. This is an Open Data and Open Source Software series of dependancies alone, further illustrating the potential to solve problems in new ways using purely collaborative, easily accessible technology.

This demonstration will show how Data Twist works and explain where the development effort will focus next. In particular, we will explore how the demonstration accomplished its goals with minimal alterations to the core data, how the design allows for expansion into two-way data synchronization in the future, and how ease-of-use was incorporate into the design from first principles.