



August 2019 Newsletter

*This is a monthly newsletter of updates from OpenRG Experts.
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Don Boyd

Don is Co-Director of the State and Local Government Finance Project at Rockefeller College, SUNY Albany, and a consultant, Open Source Policy Center.

- Reached agreement with IRS Statistics of Income staff on a disclosure-review process for a synthetic tax microdata file that may be used for free and without legal restrictions in [Tax-Calculator](#) and [TaxBrain](#).
 - Began work with colleagues Max Ghenis and Dan Feenberg to develop the version of the synthetic tax microdata that will be submitted for disclosure review. The group anticipates public release of a preliminary file for testing in late 2019.
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Jason DeBacker

Jason is an Associate Professor of economics at the University of South Carolina and a core maintainer of the open source models [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) and [OG-USA](#), which model business taxes and macroeconomic effects of tax policy, respectively.

- Along with Richard Evans, led a two week workshop with the Tax Policy Research Unit in New Delhi, India. TPRU staff were training on open source methods and models.
 - Released Cost-of-Capital-Calculator version 1.0.4.
 - Set up an [OG-USA read-the-docs website](#).
 - Added capabilities to OG-USA that allows users to define the distribution of government transfers and allows those distribution amounts to vary over time ([PR #479](#)).
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Richard Evans

Richard is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago, Director, of the Open Source Economics Laboratory, a Fellow with the Becker Friedman Institute, and President of OpenRG. He is also a core maintainer of [OG-USA](#), a macroeconomic model for fiscal policy analysis in the U.S.

- Along with Jason DeBacker, led a two week workshop with the Tax Policy Research Unit in New Delhi, India. TPRU staff were training on open source methods and models.
 - Concluded the 3rd annual summer Boot Camp for the [OSE Lab](#) at the University of Chicago.
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Anderson Frailey

Anderson is a Research Associate with the Open Source Policy Center at the American Enterprise Institute and a core maintainer of the open source [TaxData](#) project, which cleans and prepares tax data for use in microsimulation tax models.

- Began the PhD program in economics at the University of Virginia.
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Weifeng Zhong

Weifeng is a Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Weifeng is a core maintainer of the open-source [PCI models](#).

- Continued to brief US Congressional staffers on the PCI models, US-China trade war, and China's Hong Kong policy.