



May 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.

- Led a technical symposium in which participants discussed preliminary results from a policy simulation model of the finances of the New York City Teachers Retirement System developed by Boyd and his team.
 - Worked on developing methods to construct tax microdata for individual states from the IRS national public use file.
 - Continued work on a pilot project with OSPC colleagues to develop a synthetic version of the IRS Public Use File of income tax returns that serve as an input into [Tax-Calculator](#).
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Jason DeBacker

Jason is an Assistant 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.

- Cost-of-Capital-Calculator [version 1.0.1](#) released
 - [Added more plotting and tabulation capabilities](#) to visualize [OG-USA](#) output.
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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.

- Presented results from the [OG-USA](#) model at the [National Tax Association Spring Symposium](#) on May 16 in Washington, DC.
 - Is participating in a panel on May 30 in Washington, DC for the Social Security Advisory Board's [Informing Policy: A Review of Social Security's MINT Microsimulation Model](#), discussing microsimulation models, open source, collaborative and scalable workflow.
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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.

- Released version 2.2.0 and 2.2.1 of Tax-Brain
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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](#).

- Published "[Why China Is Not Backing Down in the Trade War](#)," with Julian TszKin Chan, in *The National Interest*.
- Briefed the Korean International Trade Association on the US-China trade fight and the PCI project.
- Presented the PCI project at the [Strata Data Conference](#) in London and the International Communication Association's [annual conference](#) in Washington, DC.