



October 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.

- Boyd and team members recently had synthetic tax data approved for release by the IRS Statistics of Income group and are preparing these data for use with the [Tax-Calculator](#).
 - Boyd will be making a presentation on synthetic tax data at a Policy Simulation Library meetup hosted at the American Enterprise Institute on November 26.
 - Boyd and colleagues at the [Rockefeller College](#) have been awarded a grant by Arnold Ventures to develop a policy guidebook for public pension risk-sharing policies. The guidebook will be based upon analysis conducted with their stochastic pension simulation policy model. Their longer term plans are to develop a web interface to this model and incorporate it into the Policy Simulation Library.
 - Boyd is making a presentation on November 15 at a Bureau of Economic Analysis advisory committee meeting on state-level public pension data.
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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.

- Updated the Cost of Capital Calculator [webapp on Compute Studio](#) to allow the user to input Tax-Calculator parameters, to simulate how individual income taxes affect investment incentives (CCC [PR #281](#)).
 - Updates to [OG-USA](#) including a split of individual and payroll tax revenue ([PR #499](#)) and allowing users to create plots of changes in economic and fiscal variables relative to CBO forecasts ([PR #506](#)).
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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.

- Richard Evans' [Open Source Economics Laboratory](#) is now funding runs of [Cost of Capital Calculator](#) and [OG-USA](#) simulations on [Compute Studio](#), allowing anyone to run these models free of cost.
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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-China](#) and [PCI-Crackdown](#) models.

- Presented the PCI projects at O'Reilly's Artificial Intelligence Conference in London.
- Continue to brief US lawmakers and policymakers on the PCI projects.
- Continue to provide [daily updates](#) on the PCI-Crackdown, an algorithm to predict if and when the 2019 Hong Kong protests will be met with a Tiananmen-like crackdown.