



First steps towards a valuable Open Data portal for weather information provided by DWD

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Germany's National Meteorological Service, the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), is responsible for meeting meteorological requirements arising from all areas of economy and society in Germany. Its area of responsibility is defined by the statutory tasks of providing information and performing research as laid down in the Law on the Deutscher Wetterdienst. This so-called "DWD-Law" was amended in July 2017 towards adopting an Open Data approach with respect to providing weather and climate information for society. The amendments were motivated by the desire to enhance the use of the somehow "hidden treasure of data" and in turn creating further value out of DWD's datasets for society. Subsequently DWD has made its portfolio of observational and forecast data available to its institutional users and the general public.

In order to quickly fulfill the basic legal requirements after the new Law came into force, a web server was set up as a first step for making the data available. Users can download a great variety of datasets, amongst others NWP GRIB fields from DWD's ICON and COSMO models, local point forecasts, various observational datasets, DWD weather warnings in the CAP-format etc. However, in order to provide better access to the data and thus improve on the value and utility of the data, the development of a user-friendly data portal is underway. This portal should include in addition to the basic download service, the much needed services to search, transform, and visualize the available datasets. The presentation will outline the strategy to design and implement this new and advanced Open Data portal.