



Scaling the Use of Publicly Available Information across the U.S. Government

Briefer: Nick Tran, Principal Decision Analyst for Acquisition Management

Paper Authors: Lauren Armbruster, Catherine O'Saben, Nick Tran

May 8, 2025



Agenda

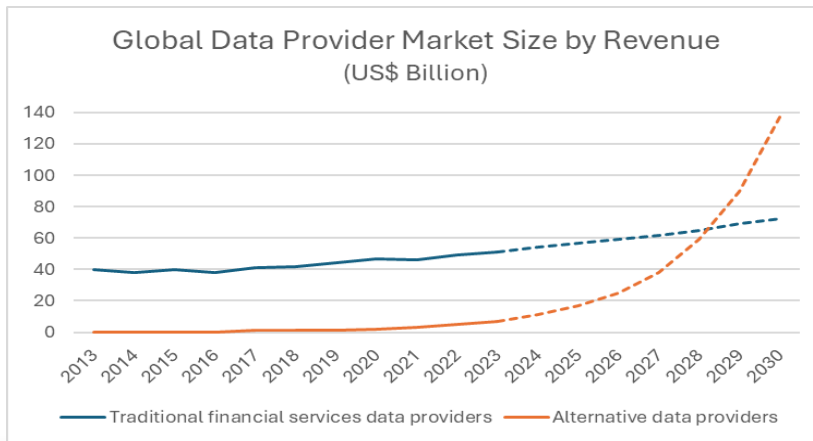
1. The Value of Publicly and Commercially Available Information (P/CAI) to USG
2. Challenges
3. Recommendations
4. Conclusion and Considerations

The Value of P/CAI to the U.S. Government

“The explosion of OSINT in recent years has transformed how governments and people around the world consume and process information about society and global issues”

- The Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State (2024)

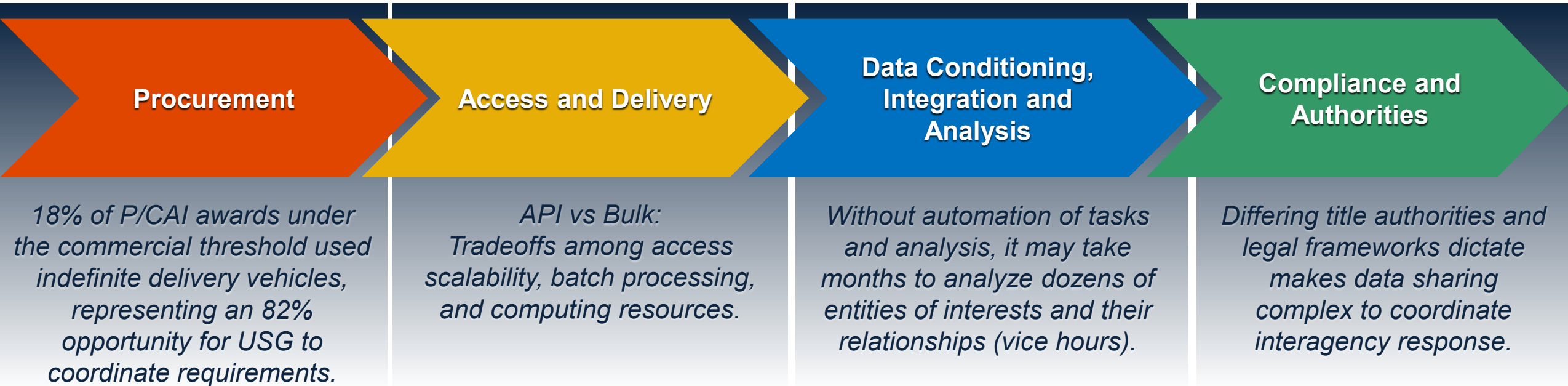
- P/CAI are typically available in the form of digital exhaust from users of commercial and consumer technologies.
- Advancements in technology to capture P/CAI is expected to grow.



USG access to P/CAI enables the full breadth of national security, public policy and economic objectives



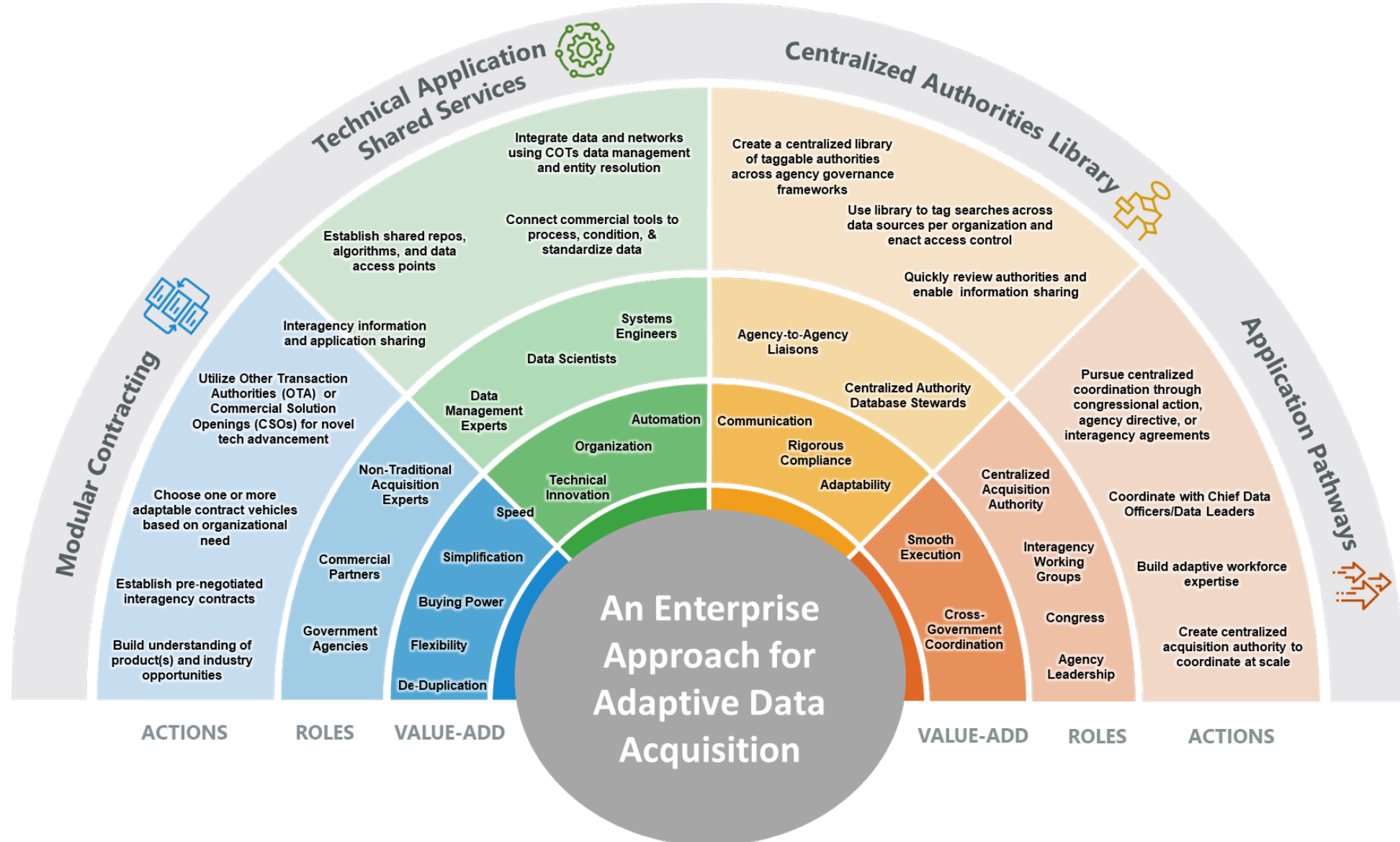
Challenges with Using P/CAI



There is a vast opportunity for USG agencies to coordinate with each other and leverage collective buying power that would achieve economies of scale and minimizing duplicative contract efforts, reducing cost from duplicative development efforts to integrate and analyze the same information.

Varying authorities and policies on P/CAI usage presents a challenge for developing an enterprise solution to streamline, scale, and share P/CAI.

Recommendations



Modular Contracting

Being able to leverage a portfolio of contracts for different situations and requirements to provide maximum flexibility for rapid acquisition and cost savings.

1. Value Add:

- Provides USG agencies flexibility with varying P/CAI requirements and expertise, ranging from one-time specific data needs to an integrated solution.
- Enables USG agencies the ability to deliberately scale and evolve a robust data portfolio over time.

2. Roles:

- USG agencies to coordinate/aggregate their demand signals for common requirements.
- Acquisition professionals who understand agile requirements and non-traditional P/CAI vendors.
- P/CAI industry partners who understand USG challenges from IT requirements to national security use cases.

3. Actions:

- Pre-negotiate interagency IDVs with volume-based pricing, terms and conditions.
- Leverage CSOs and OTs to advance novel P/CAI use cases from a growing industry.

Technical Application Shared Services

Centrally sharing knowledge of readily available capabilities can address common technical challenges among USG agencies and provide immediate value to improving P/CAI analysis.

1. Value Add:

- Increase automation capabilities through sharing of proven tools and best practices to minimize duplicative development.
- Enable organizational interoperability through common data standards, ontologies and dictionaries to maximize data value.

2. Roles:

- Systems Engineers to develop underlying infrastructure and integrate tools that can facilitate use, access, sharing and interoperability of data across the USG.
- Data Scientists to develop common algorithms, queries and applications that can be shared with other agencies with similar missions and objectives.
- Data Management Experts to optimize resources for data processing and storage to support adaptation of common tools.

3. Actions:

- Establish shared repositories and connect with proven tools.
- Ability to collaborate on common technical challenges using shared resources.

Centralized Authorities Library

Compliance tracking across P/CAI is important because the permissibility of accessing data is restricted to USG agencies with authorities to search them.

1. Value Add:

- Able to facilitate how data can be queried, shared and stored to support oversight and accountability.
- Ensures that the data received by a USG agency is compliant with their respective authority and prevent violations.

2. Roles:

- USG Agency-to-Agency Liaisons to ensure authorities between USG agencies that want to share data with each other are within compliance.
- Centralized Authority Database Stewards to ensure authorities are current and are appropriately implemented.

3. Actions:

- Create a centralized library of taggable authorities across USG agency governance frameworks to enact access control per each participating USG agency.
- Develop a capability that can review and validate authorities between USG agencies to enable sharing.

Application Pathways (Interagency Collaboration)

Compliance tracking across P/CAI is important because the permissibility of accessing data is restricted to USG agencies with authorities to search them.

1. Value Add:

- Streamlined execution of interagency responses and common efforts to minimize duplicative efforts and reduce cost.

2. Roles:

- Interagency groups to establish the framework for collaborative efforts and sharing of best practices.
- Congress to legislate and/or fund high priority areas that require interagency collaboration.
- USG agency Chief Data Officers and senior leaders for national-level policy changes to increase data sharing and improve collaboration across authorities.

3. Actions:

- Identify/create a managing organization to centralize P/CAI acquisition efforts.
- Collaborate on building a workforce with P/CAI expertise.
- Pursue centralized coordination through congressional action, agency directive or interagency agreements.



Conclusion and Considerations

Managing Agency for Centralized P/CAI Use

Partner with an organization that provides centralized contracting services:

1. Aggregate requirements across USG agencies to achieve economic efficiencies.
2. Use modular contracting to provide maximum value at the speed of relevance.
3. Consider different requirements from diverse stakeholders with different title authorities.

Workforce Expertise

Use a cross-cutting team to maximize the value derived from P/CAI:

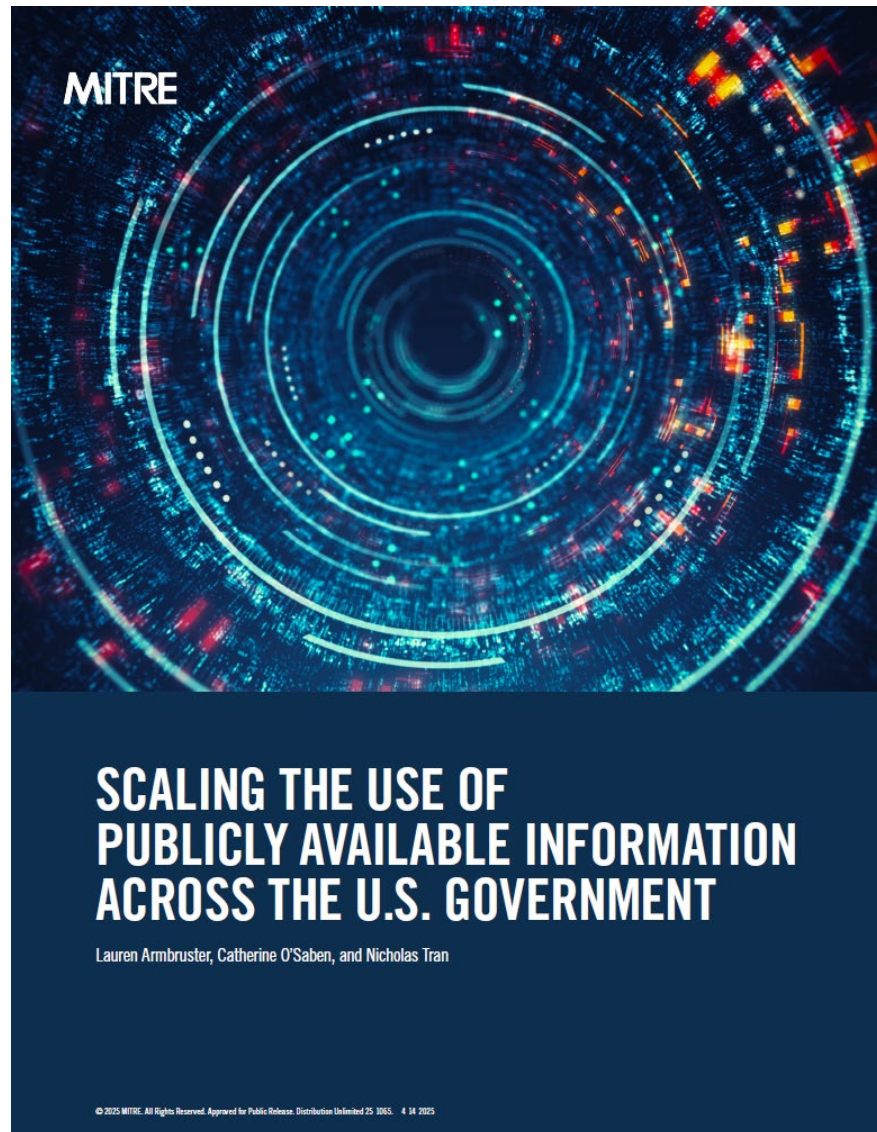
1. Acquisition experts who can align data scope and to appropriate pathways.
2. Technical experts who can integrate data management, and processing, conditioning.
3. National security analysts who can inform requirements with use cases in changing environments.

Interagency Collaboration

Provide opportunities for USG agencies to partner with each other:

1. Coordinate requirements and efforts to reduce costs.
2. Collaborate on technologies, analyses and approaches to minimize duplicative efforts.
3. Modernize policies to allow for more effective coordination in support of interagency responses.

Creating an acquisition system that scales is critical for success while adhering to new executive orders focused on modernization and streamlining of defense acquisitions and centralizing procurement of services.



- *Centralized Authority coordinates and pre-negotiates adaptive acquisition vehicles for enterprise use*
- *Shared development and management services integrate data conditioning and commercial solutions*
- *Compliance through automated tagging of queries from authorities library*

MITRE Non-Traditional Data Team
ntd-list [at] mitre.org

Acknowledgements: David Arsenault, Zach Etzel, Sheila Gagen, John Godwin, Jonathan Goodnight, Marin Halper, Andrea Heithoff, Eric Levine, Scot Lunsford, Sandi Marino, Vijay Prasad, Dr. Ariel Schlamm, Kevin Scott, Pat Staresina, Ariana Tutko, and Beverly Wood.