



ASPEN TECH
POLICY HUB

PROJECT



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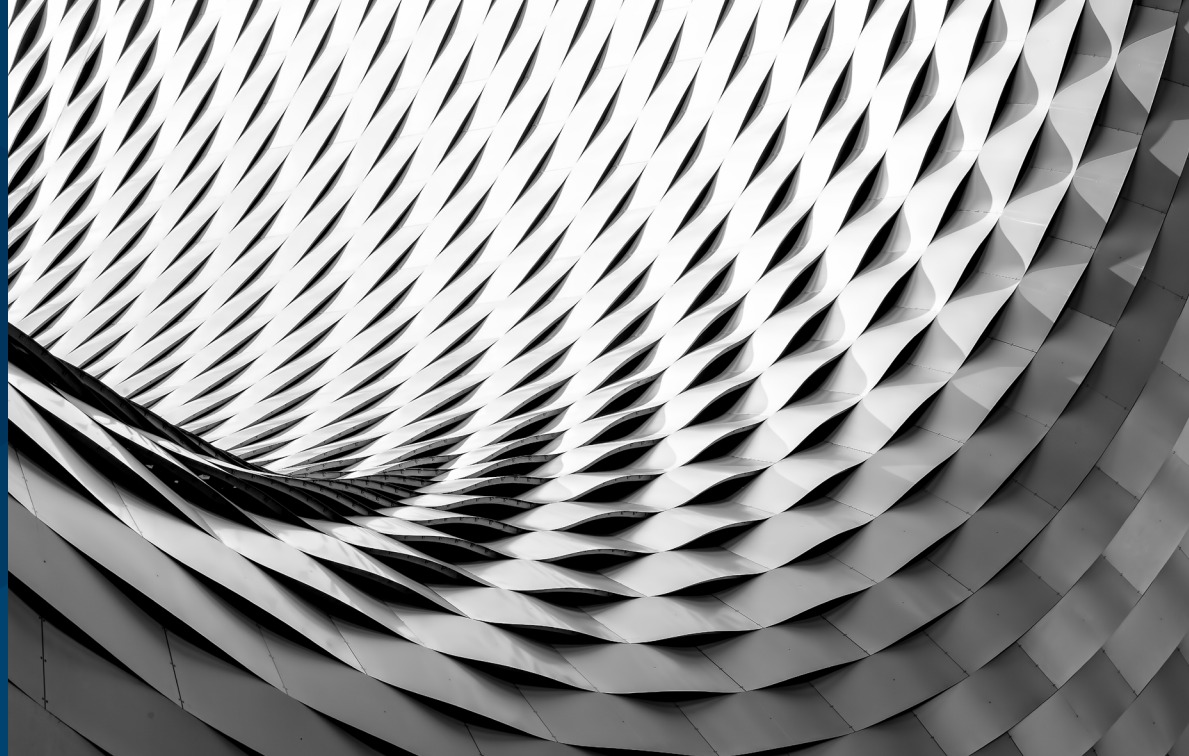


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Public Interest Research Alliance (PIRA)

Multi-stakeholder collaboration for robust public interest investigations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Social media platforms hold vast amounts of data that are of extremely high value for public interest research and human rights investigations. However, platforms are increasingly constraining access to data due to data security and privacy concerns. This is due in large part to ambiguities in nascent data privacy regulations around data privacy and security standards. To address this ambiguity, the Public Interest Research Alliance (PIRA) is a proposed multistakeholder, non-binding coalition dedicated to establishing shared principles and operational guides for appropriate data access, sharing, ownership, security, and privacy standards for public interest research collaborations.

To learn more about
this project, please visit
aspentechpolicyhub.org.



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THE PROBLEM

With billions of daily users, large online platforms are where much of the world's lived experiences are being documented. Platforms are increasingly constraining access to data for security and privacy reasons and algorithmically removing sensitive content, mitigating the ability for researchers to capture data and evidence. There is a growing tension between the obligation to contain and remove nefarious content, such as hate speech and terrorist content, and the need to make data available for research and investigations.



Social media hold the records of the world's lived experiences. Researchers' access to data is critical to ensure scientific advancement, documentation, and accountability.

THE SOLUTION

Building upon the foundational work of Social Science One and other organizations, the Public Interest Research Alliance (PIRA) will serve as a trusted entity to develop overarching principles and guides to inform appropriate data access, sharing, ownership, security, and privacy standards applicable across varied collaboration models and research domains. Four draft principles with operational guides have been created as a starting point, including: Multistakeholder Collaboration; Governance, Accountability & Transparency; Responsibility; and Data Privacy, Security & Integrity. PIRA is actively recruiting representatives from academia, civil society, government, industry, intergovernmental organizations, and the public to become inaugural members.

ABOUT THE HUB

The Aspen Tech Policy Hub is a Bay Area policy incubator, training a new generation of tech policy entrepreneurs. We take tech experts, teach them the policy process, and support them in creating outside-the-box solutions to society's problems.

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