In 2008, the Arizona Legislature adopted a bill that required the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) to develop and maintain a free, searchable, online database of state revenues and expenditures. This was followed in 2010 by House Bill 2282 which required any political subdivision of the state, including a county, city, town, community college district or school district, to do likewise.

In 2011, newly elected Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, shared his Transparency in Government vision for the City of Tucson. His goal was to provide the citizens of Tucson with direct access to information on what the City does with citizens’ dollars, and create a greater sense of transparency for the City.
Turning the Mayor’s vision and the legislative obligation into a reality created a significant business challenge. Like many government agencies, the City of Tucson has numerous systems and data sources from which it would have to pull data. It also has limited resources and lacks the internal expertise to translate multiples sources of varied data into meaningful, relevant information that would be easy for the citizenry of Tucson to access and understand.

After conducting extensive research, the City’s Department of Procurement presented a position paper to Assistant City Manager, Kelly Gottschalk, that proposed the implementation of an affordable commercially available service from Spikes Cavell Analytic Inc., that would deliver an intuitive and easy to use web application and take care of all of the work involved in transforming the raw spend data into something that would be much easier for citizens to interpret and understand.

The City will shortly be going live with their spotlight on spend implementation (and well before the legislative deadline) and taking the first steps toward its Transparency in Government vision.

Over to you Alistair to talk a little about implementation and demonstrate the service.
In an ideal world the information we publish about how taxpayers dollars are spent should be relevant, meaningful, easy to understand and designed with the end-user in mind.

Citizens Businesses Journalists Executives Officials

What is spotlightonSpend..?

SpotlightonSpend is a managed online service that makes it straightforward and inexpensive for public agencies to publish information about their spend on goods & services in a manner that is more relevant, meaningful and easier to understand.

Data Transformation
Raw spend data is cleansed, classified, enriched and redacted before access is provided to the general public.

Online Access
Citizens access the transformed spend data through an intuitive and easy to use web application that runs in the Microsoft Azure cloud.

Data Management
Updates are managed on an agreed frequency and the open data community can be provided with access to the raw data in machine readable form.
Demonstration...

spotlightonspend

ANY QUESTIONS

For more information...

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DELIVERING ON THE NEW MAYOR’S VISION FOR TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT

Marcheta Gillespie, City of Tucson
Alistair Hardie, Spikes Cavell Analytic Inc.

Since 2003 Spikes Cavell has equipped hundreds of public bodies and higher education institutions with the data, tools and insight they need to find savings, become more transparent and benchmark procurement performance.