The U.S. Census Bureau's
New Dissemination Platform

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
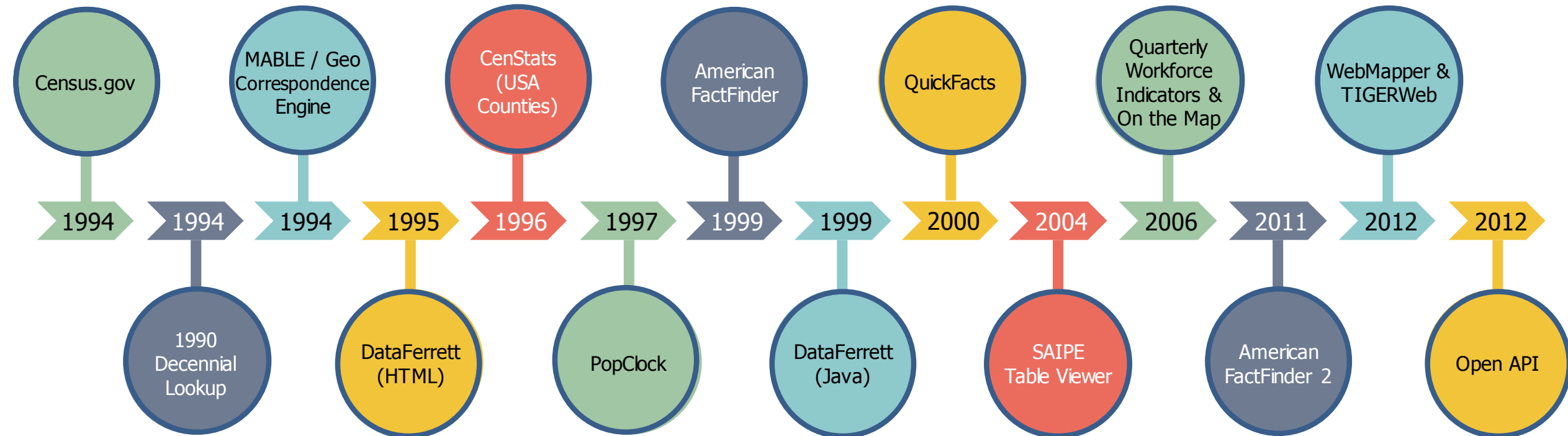
April 3, 2018

Census Bureau Mission

To serve as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people, places, and economy.

We honor privacy, protect confidentiality, share our expertise globally, and conduct our work openly.

Census Bureau Online History

Census.gov

MABLE / Geo Correspondence Engine

CenStats (USA Counties)

American FactFinder

QuickFacts

Quarterly Workforce Indicators & On the Map

WebMapper & TIGERWeb

1994 → 1994 → 1994 → 1995 → 1996 → 1997 → 1999 → 1999 → 2000 → 2004 → 2006 → 2011 → 2012 → 2012 →

1990 Decennial Lookup

DataFerrett (HTML)

PopClock

DataFerrett (Java)

SAIPE Table Viewer

American FactFinder 2

Open API

Census.gov Today

Call to Action

- *The Census Bureau collects and disseminates data on a variety of topics, through a vast array of data tools and apps.*

- *But, customers express frustration finding and using Census Bureau content online, so it's time to improve the process.*

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What is Enterprise Dissemination?

- Centralized and standardized metadata, data, and software

- A customer-oriented platform for easy access to Census Bureau data

- A single, efficient search for all data, content, and the API

BEFORE

AFTER

Prep Edit Process Review

Census.gov

Searchable

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov
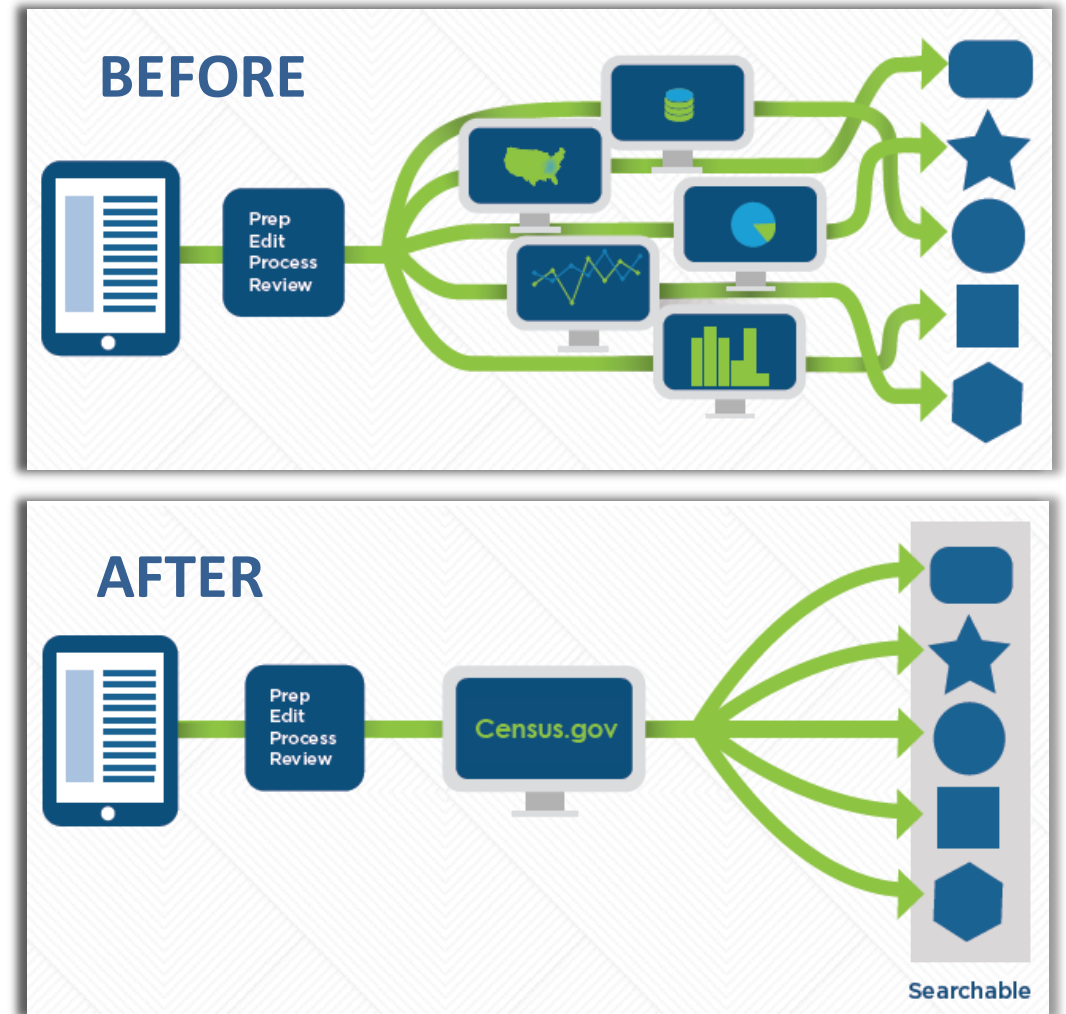
The New Dissemination Platform:

How It All Works
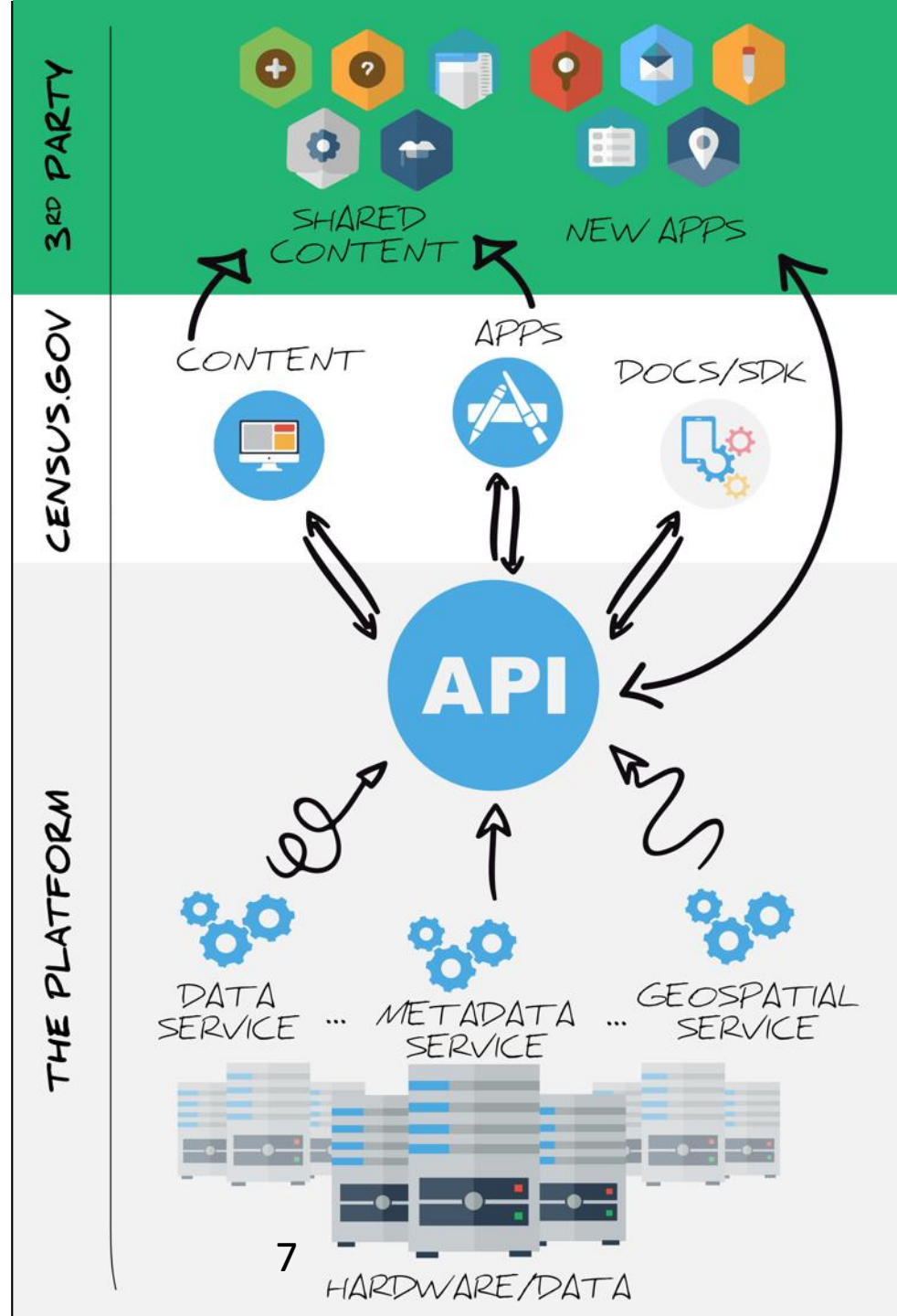
Application Programming Interface (API)

Data service that is the <u>foundation</u> of the Census Bureau's new data dissemination platform

Uses:

- Supports mobile and web applications

- Drives interactive data visualizations

- Connects to statistical analysis software like SAS and R

Advantages:

- Access only the variables and geographies needed

- No need to host data on another server

API Discovery Tool
https://api.census.gov/data.html

Census API: Datasets in /data/2013/acs1 and its descendants

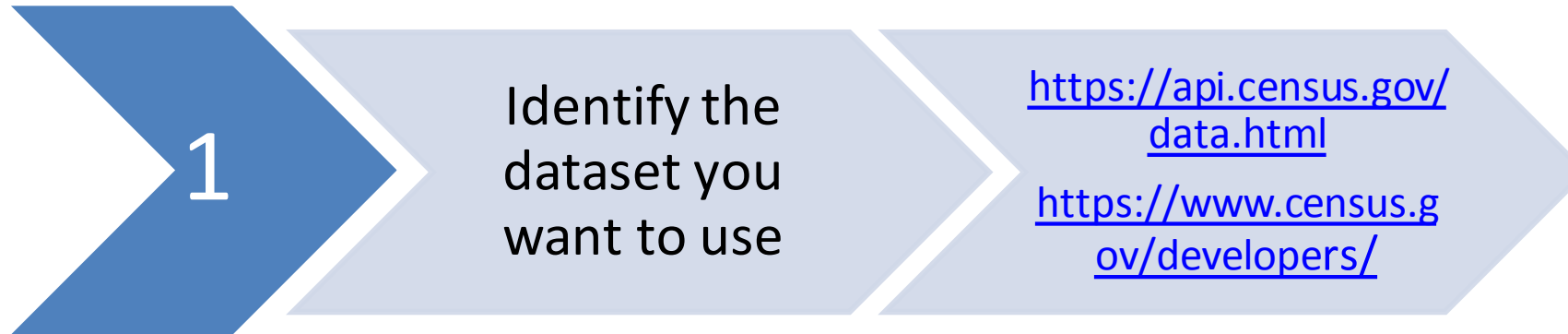| Title	Description	Vintage	Dataset Name	Geography List	Variable List	Tag List	Examples	Developer Documentation	API Base URL
2013 American Community Survey - Summarized Data: 1-Year Summary File	The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. The ACS replaced the decennial census long form in 2010 and thereafter by collecting long form type information throughout the decade rather than only once every 10 years. Questionnaires are mailed to a sample of addresses to obtain information about households -- that is, about each person and the housing unit itself. The American Community Survey produces demographic, social, housing and economic estimates in the form of 1-year, 3-year and 5-year estimates based on population thresholds. The strength of the ACS is in estimating population and housing characteristics. The 2012 data provide key estimates for each of the topic areas covered by the ACS for the nation, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, every congressional district, every metropolitan area, and all counties and places with populations of 65,000 or more. Although the ACS produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates,it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns, and estimates of housing units for states and counties. For 2010 and other decennial census years, the Decennial Census provides the official counts of population and housing units.	2013	acs1	geographies	variables	tags	examples	documentation	http://api.census.gov/data/2013/acs1
2013 American Community Survey - Data Profiles: 1-Year Data Profile	The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. The ACS replaced the decennial census long form in 2010 and thereafter by collecting long form type information throughout the decade rather than only once every 10 years. Questionnaires are mailed to a sample of addresses to obtain information about households -- that is, about each person and the housing unit itself. The American Community Survey produces demographic, social, housing and economic estimates in the form of 1-year, 3-year and 5-year estimates based on population thresholds. The strength of the ACS is in estimating population and housing characteristics. The 2012 data profiles provide key estimates for each of the topic areas covered by the ACS for the nation, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, every congressional district, every metropolitan area, and all counties and places with populations of 65,000 or more. Although the ACS produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates,it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns, and estimates of housing units for states and counties. For 2010 and other decennial census years, the Decennial Census provides the official counts of population and housing units.	2013	acs1 › profile	geographies	variables	N/A	examples	documentation	http://api.census.gov/data/2013/acs1/profile

2 datasets

API Request – Four Easy Steps

1 Identify the dataset you want to use

https://api.census.gov/data.html

https://www.census.gov/developers/

2 Identify items needed

Variable names /variables.html

Geography codes (usually FIPS)

API Request –
Four Easy Steps

3 | Request the variables and geographies | ?get=variable,names,separated,by,commas &for=geography level:code

4 | Put it all together | https://api.census.gov/data/2013/acs1?get=NAME,B17001_002E&for=state:*

Example: Output From the API

This URL returns data in JSON format that looks like this:
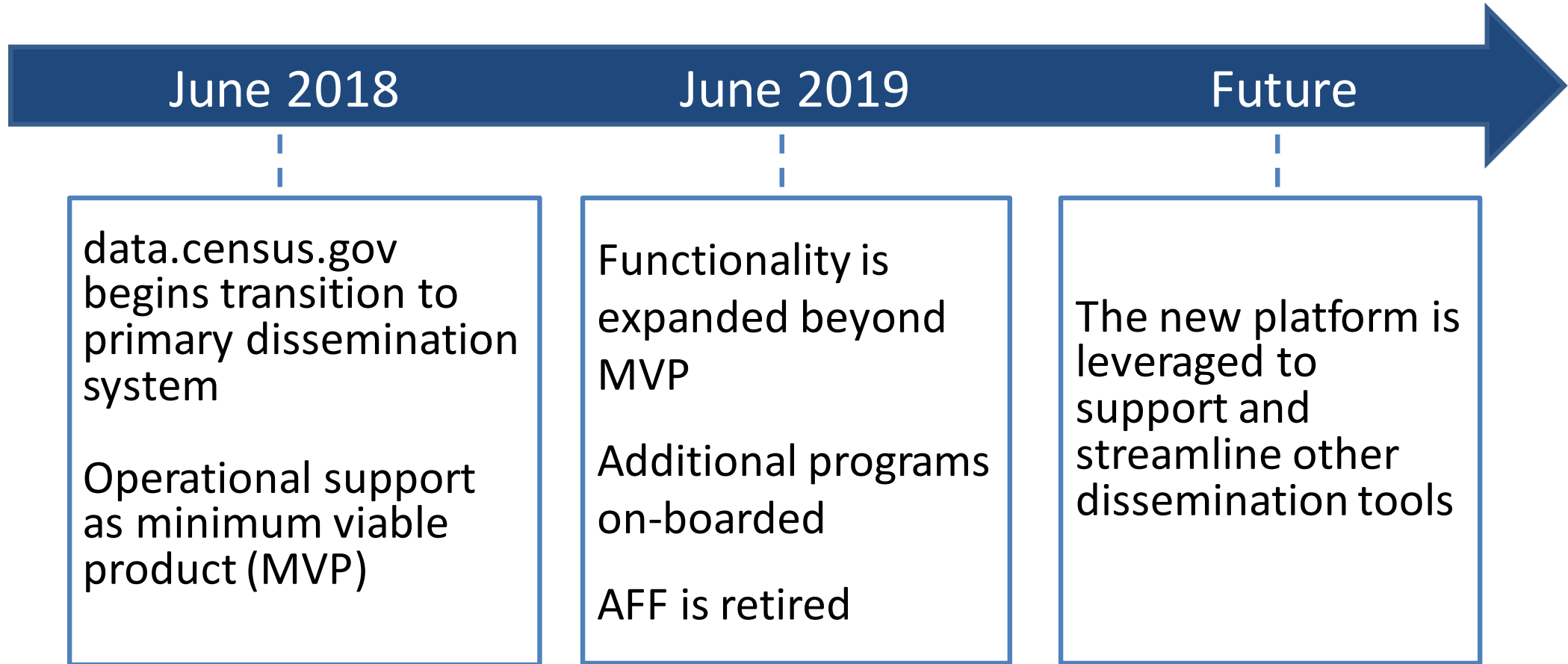
[["NAME","B17001_002E","state"],

["Alabama","883371","01"],

["Alaska","67016","02"],

["Arizona","1206460","04"],

["Arkansas","565469","05"],

["California","6328824","06"],

Continued…

Improving User Experience Depends on You!
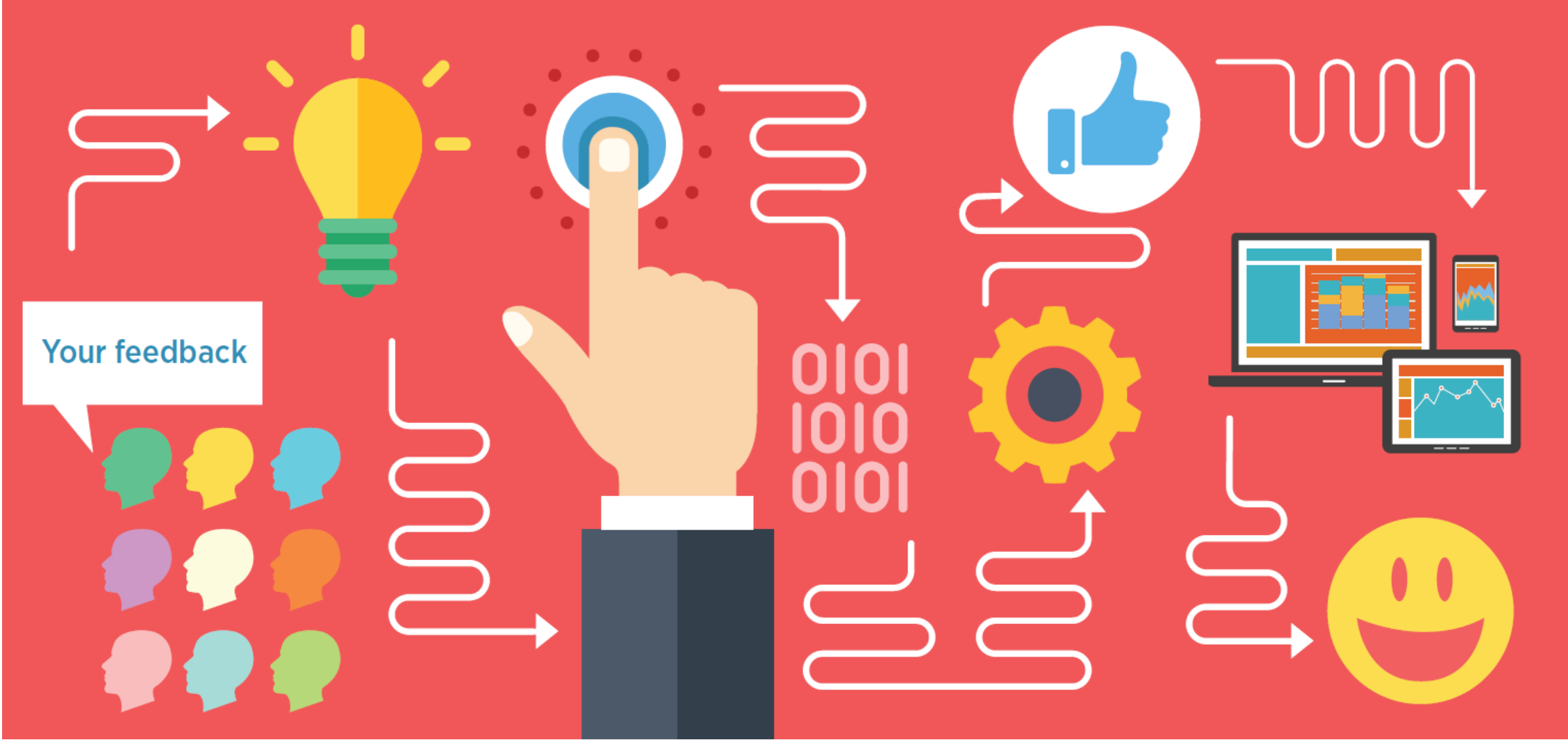
Upcoming Milestones

June 2018

data.census.gov begins transition to primary dissemination system

Operational support as minimum viable product (MVP)

June 2019

Functionality is expanded beyond MVP

Additional programs on-boarded

AFF is retired

Future

The new platform is leveraged to support and streamline other dissemination tools

June 2018 Release Goals

Goal	Focus
Support basic dissemination functionality	• Search and Relevancy • View and customize table • Add more data • Performance
Support Decennial 2018 End to End Test	• SF1 with support across all geographies • Embargo • Information Access (Download/Table)
Serve as the primary dissemination system for ACS products	Basic dissemination functionality is available for GCT, GRT, Iterative Products, Tier 1 Products, and Geo components

Capabilities

Search & Discovery

Search
- Census.gov Integration
- Search and Relevancy
- Advanced Search
- Results Pages

Data Profiles
- Geo Profiles
- Topic Profiles
- Industry Profiles

Data Visualizations
- Display and Customize graphs and charts
- Share and Export

Developer Experience
- Pattern Library
- Query Builder
- Unified API

Information Access

Table
- Table Viewer
- Download
- Share and Export

Map
- Select geographies on a map
- Thematically map data
- Reference map
- Share and Export

User Login
- Internal Login
- Embargo Process/Login

API
- Geo Access
- Data Access

Questions/Feedback?

Check out our preview site at data.census.gov

General feedback, please email: cedsci.feedback@census.gov

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Thank you!

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
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