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Welcome to another edition of column Intelligence Analytics. A few days ago I presented a Master Class about open source at the Intelligence 2012 conference in Sydney Australia. Open source is both data and software which is provided for free.

To set the story straight right from the beginning, datasets can be used in both commercial and open source software. Of course there are advantages and disadvantages in both, and I believe that a good intelligence analyst needs to be aware and capable in both. Both of course work of the same dataset specifications, so you can move data from one to the other.

Of course just like the software, both open source and commercial data can be used in either as well. Every thing is designed to some type of industry standards, and software is designed to work with the various sources of data. So, in the majority of cases, no matter whether it is commercial or open source software or data, they can be integrated to in various combinations.

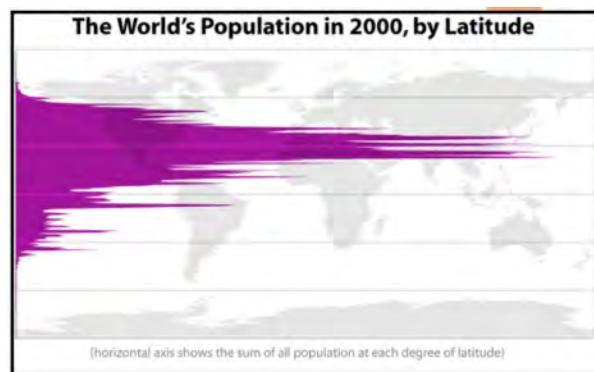
An interesting aspect to open source, is the number of governments that provide data about themselves and their populations. The governments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portu-

gal, Spain, UK, United Nations, USA, etc are a few of the countries that provide open source data about themselves.

The follow set of links, show where the media and other groups have taken open source data and turned it into some interesting features. This interactive story, *Arab spring: an interactive timeline of Middle East protests* lets you run across either dates or countries to get a full picture what happened in which country when. Click [here](#) to access the interactive graph.



This [one](#) shows you the world population by latitude and longitude.



What is interesting in both examples is where open source has been massaged, and then turned into another open source product.

In my next column, I will provide some comments about open source software, and then we can start to get down into how to put it all together, using mathematics to produce intelligence products. •

