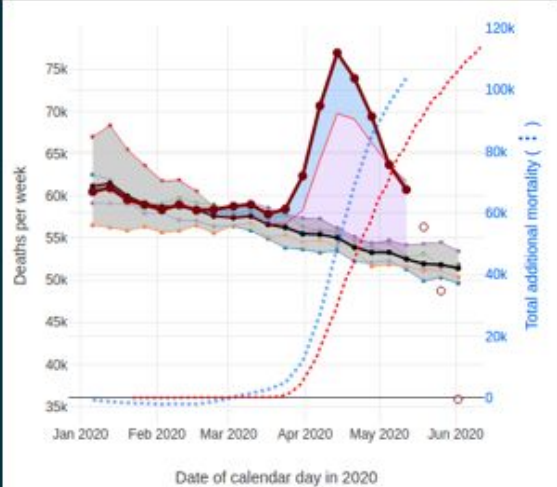
**NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**  
Center for Biomedical Informatics  
& Information Technology

**Learn About the COVID-19  
Mortality Tracker**

**Mark your  
calendars!**



Please access the webinar through the [NCI Data Science Learning Exchange](#) website.

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Dear NCI Staff,

Have you wondered how the epidemiological data for COVID-19 are being collected and disseminated nationwide? Or, are you curious about how the virus' trajectory compares with other diseases during the same time period?

Learn how the new [Mortality Tracker](#), designed by NCI's [Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics](#) (DCEG) scientists, is being used across the country and how it was developed using Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) data principles.

NCI Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics ([DCEG](#)), [NCI Data Science Learning Exchange](#). → being recorded, slides/notes public

- [Jonas S. Almeida, Ph.D.](#), Chief Data Scientist, (\*)
- [Amy Berrington, PhD](#), Radiation Epidemiology Branch Chief
- [Neal Freedman, PhD](#), Senior Investigator
- [Meredith Shiels, PhD](#), Investigator
- [Praphulla Bhawsar, MS](#), Data Engineer (\*)
- [Bhaumik Patel, MS](#), Software Engineer
- [Montserrat Garcia-Closas, MD PhD](#), Integrative Tumor Epidemiology Branch Chief

\* open mic

# Mortality Tracker

A demonstration of the FAIR implementation of a real-time mortality tracking tool and a discussion of what Data Commons in the age of COVID.

## No-downloads no-pay design

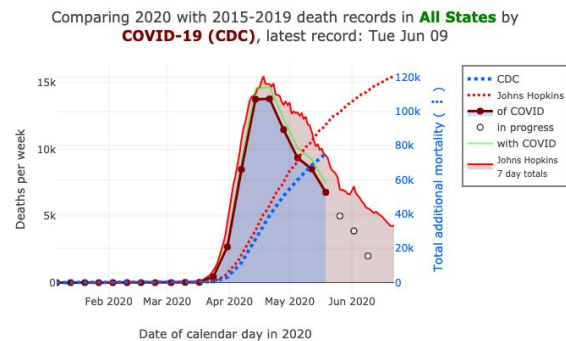
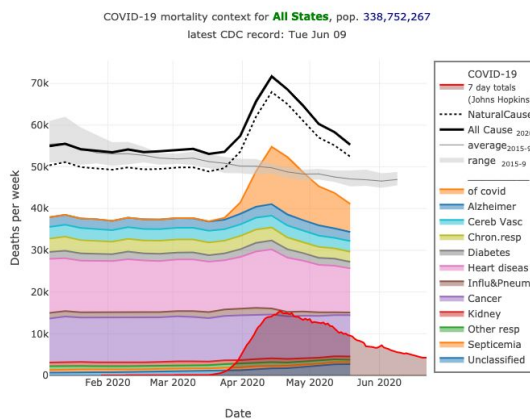
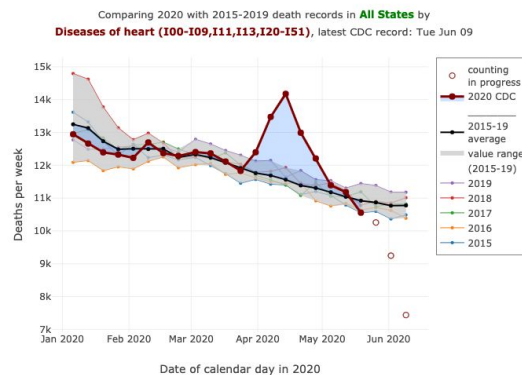
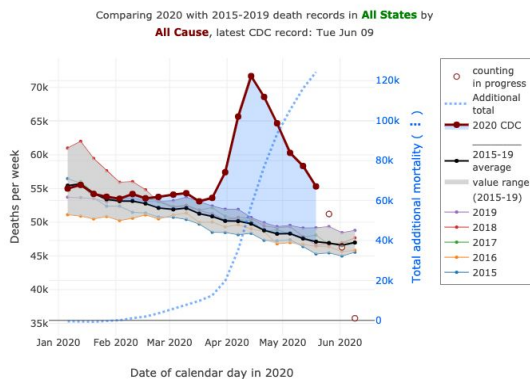
Guilty as charged: the tracker tool indeed uses other people's data and other people's computational resources. Which is just what Data Commons are about. Can we do it in real time?

### 1. Demonstration of the tool

(~15 min)

[episphere.github.io/mortalitytracker](https://episphere.github.io/mortalitytracker),

[bit.ly/mortalitytracker](https://bit.ly/mortalitytracker)



## 2. A disintermediated Architecture

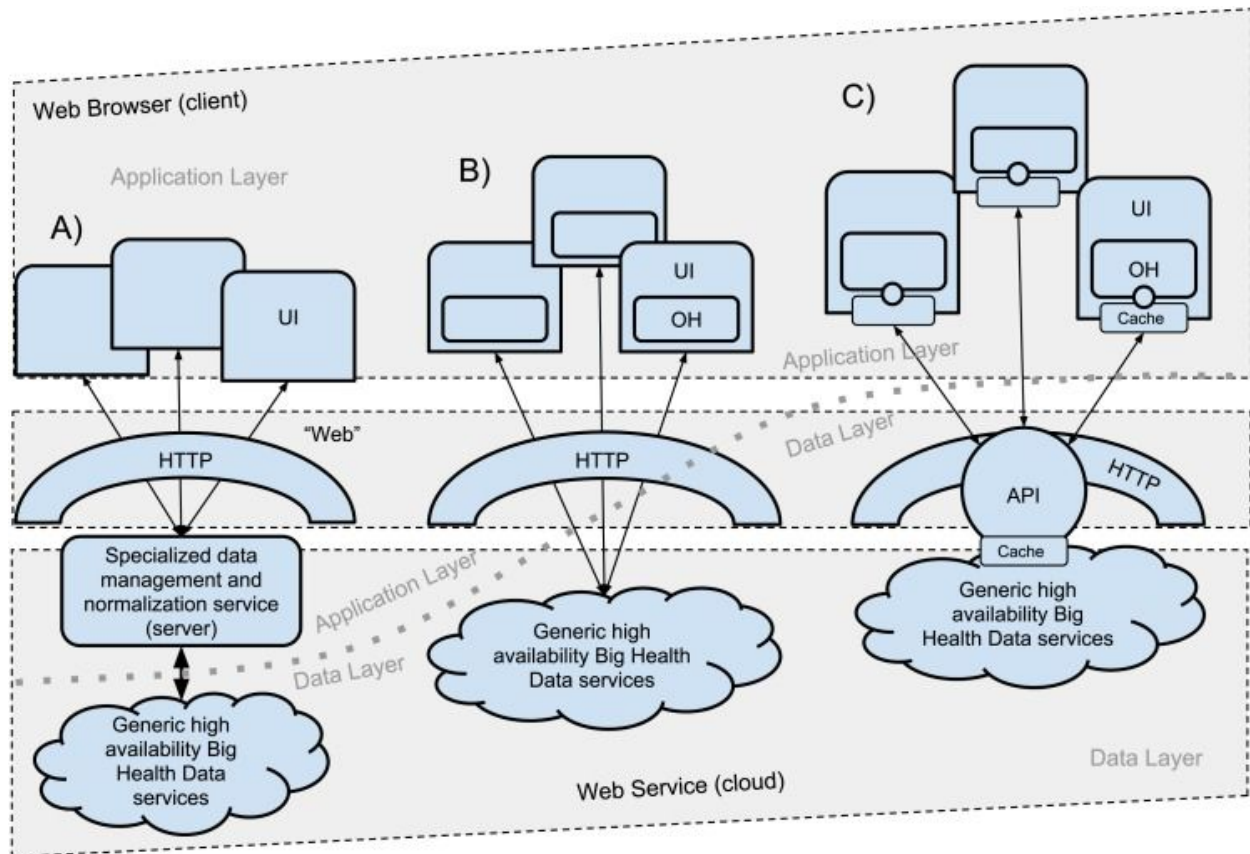


Figure 1. [Evolving Web Computing Architectures](#). Evolution of the API economy from its pre-REST stage (A) to stateless transfer via HTTP (B), recently abstracted by constructs like GraphQL that combine an API language with a query engine (C). The prototype accompanying this report uses SoQL (see 'Methods') to illustrate the viability of the latter design, where the traversal of the Data Layer is abstracted as a stateless backend. The Cloud instantiation of this model approaches the description of BaaS (Backend-as-a-service).

## 3. Preceding work - [bit.ly/loadsparcs](http://bit.ly/loadsparcs)

Almeida JS, J Hajagos, J Saltz J, M Saltz (2019) **Serverless OpenHealth at data commons scale—traversing the 20 million patient records of New York’s SPARCS dataset in real-time.** PeerJ 7:e6230 [[PMID:30671301](#)].

## 4. The implications of lacking a middle layer

It has to be somewhere else ...

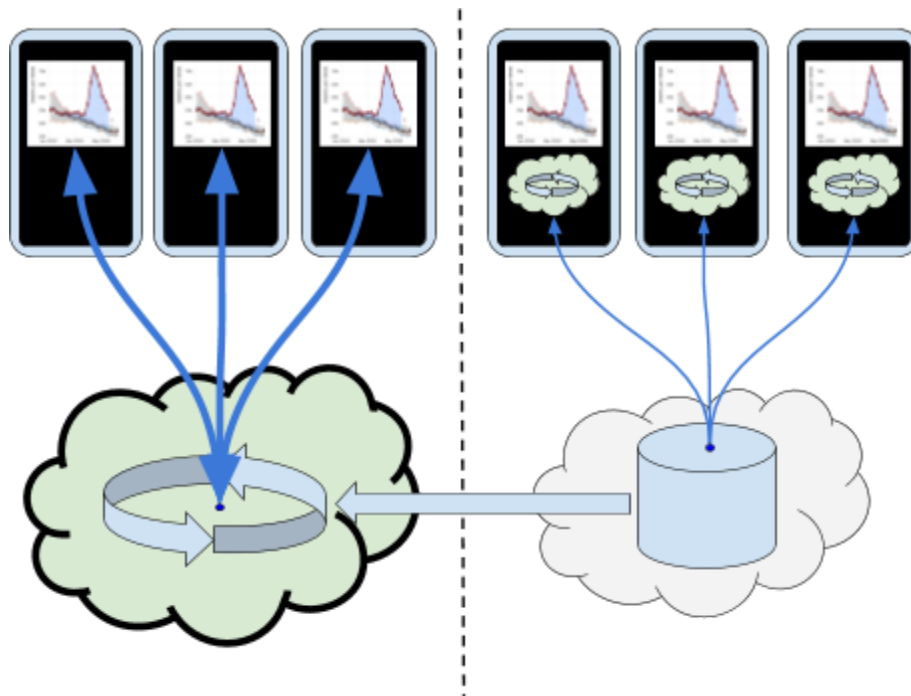
How do others do it - the Media for example - the [NYTimes story](#).

How do others enable it - COVID data at Johns Hopkins for example

Cases-studies: dependency on [ArcGis at NIEHS](#)<sup>1</sup> and [Johns Hopkins](#).

... or not, as in <https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html>

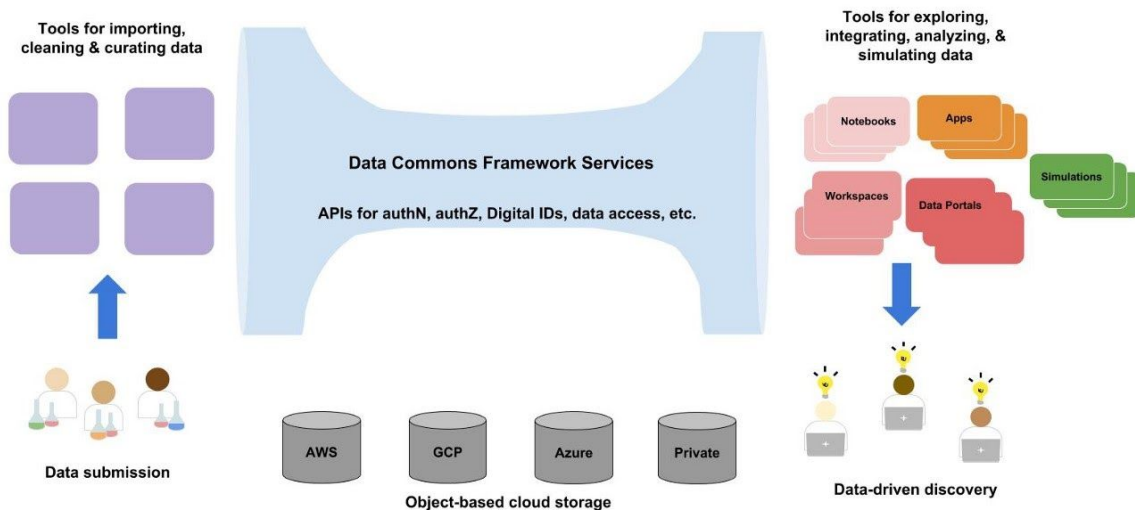
CDC is also doing it - <https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html>



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<sup>1</sup> Thank you, Alison Motsinger-Reif (NIH/NIEHS)

## 5. Data Commons - discussion



@ Bob Grossman "A Proposed End-To-End Principle for Data Commons" 2018

- A. Let's start with the iconic data commons resource - [NCI's Genomic Data Commons](#).
- B. How will it scale across omics? - <https://datascience.cancer.gov/data-commons>.
- C. Discuss - what does COVID teach us about the predictability of API's?
- D. *"Don't force me into your walled garden, I've been cultivating my own"*

The API ecosystem in the narrow middle is a market for demonetized data services.

## 6. [Web APIs](#) - Data Economy

Distributed data aggregation in real time creates its own data economy

- A. Demonstration with Mortality tracker: where does data wrangling take place ...
- B. CDC changes data structures and variable names like everybody else ...

How do people pay

- by advancing demonetized data assets. For example, NYT public data assets [compete with official sources](#), just like wikipedia does ... We can use the same [literate programming](#) model.

How do people trade

- they trade in persistent resources (for example, what is most perishable in <https://mathbiol.github.io/tcgatil> ?).

## 7. The Technology landscape moves fastest

The Technology landscape moves faster than we can.

- A. Only 10% of IT is in the Cloud, but most will be there eventually [[The Economist](#)]
- B. By 2023 most cloud computing will take place at the edge [[Gartner Report](#)]  
[Edge computing](#) Complements and extends Cloud computing

## 8. Feedback, announcements

Everybody please: [bit.ly/DCEG\\_Tracker\\_Feedback](https://bit.ly/DCEG_Tracker_Feedback)

[Cloud4Bio](#): back to gotomeeting for AI Federated Learning (Jeya) ...