

AI for Government

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AI-Assisted Environmental Permitting

Environmental permitting is a major focus in the global fight against climate change. As renewable energy projects need to be scaled up significantly, AI is turning out promising in streamlining permitting procedures.

In Denmark, cBrain assisted The Danish Environmental Protection Agency in designing and deploying a comprehensive and fully digital environmental permitting solution, providing both greater efficiency within the EPA and ensuring predictability and transparency for the stakeholders waiting for reply. This demonstrated that it is possible to standardize and digitize permitting in just eight months, paving the way for training AI to further enhance the pace and quality of this complex and time-consuming process.

Digital Permitting in just Eight Months

The Danish approach to environmental permitting is based on three steps. The first step in the approach is a comprehensive description of all the steps in the process. The blueprint of the Danish environmental permitting process follows international standards and expresses a best practice approach to permitting ensuring all relevant conventions and regulations are met. The Danish EPA and cBrain have agreed to share the blueprints with environmental agencies globally.

The second step is to digitize the processes, configuring cBrain's F2 platform. The solution involves a collaboration hub, where applicants can alert the permitting

agency to an upcoming project through the pipeline. When the applicant is ready, the application is transformed to an actual screening application. If needed according to the regulation, the process continues with an environmental impact assessment. All in the same application portal.

For each application stage, there is a checklist and a workflow for the caseworkers in the agency in their back-office application. Here the caseworker can start and monitor consultations with other authorities and the legally mandated public commentary phases. The solution was deployed less than eight months after kick-off, fully tested and ready to go live.

Faster Permitting with AI

Based on the comprehensive description and the rapid digitization made possible on the standard platform, the Danish EPA commissioned cBrain to enhance the permitting process with AI.

An AI component can identify similar application cases and summarize insights across case law within the agency, reducing workload and improving quality.

It can also assist applicants with insights into similar applications and risk mitigation strategies, saving time from iterations in the permitting process.

The AI-enhanced permitting process with the Danish EPA is a proof that digitization and AI utilization in even the most complex processes can happen at high pace and low risk to the responsible agency, allowing for agility and development of service delivery.



The Danish Approach to Environmental Permitting



The White House Recognizes the COTS for Government Platform's Ability to Deploy AI

cBrain's F2 platform is a Commercial-Off-The-Shelf software platform built for government. The same updateable standard government platform is used by more than 100 government agencies worldwide for a variety of purposes. The process library comprises hundreds of public processes including grants, inspections and permitting.

In July 2024, The Council of Environmental Quality released its recommendations on "Digital Tools to Modernize Environmental Reviews, Increase Transparency and Accessibility of Federal Permitting" aiming to advise federal agencies in the U.S. to create better and more efficient digital permitting tools.

The F2 platform and cBrain's AI work with the Danish Government was recognized in the report as an international point of interest. cBrain's digital bureaucracy method is a good fit with the White House recommendations for agile, user-centric and iterative deployment of digital tools, because the standard platform maximizes flexibility for agencies, while at the same time reducing risks and costs associated with digitization.



Utilize Historic Data with AI On-Premise

Common AI chatbots often fall short of agencies' need to protect data. cBrain's Large Language Models are embedded in our technology stack and hosted on-premise within the F2 platform and its databases. This way all data stays within the platform architecture maximizing cyber and data security options. An F2 AI Assistant is now a standard module on the platform.

Adding to this, cBrain's concept of F2 AI Expert allows agencies to bring their old case law to life. Agencies most often store decisions communicated to citizens, companies or the public as PDFs. This corpus represents a huge, but often unutilized knowledge base. With as little as a metadata tag added to the document, the F2 AI Expert gives caseworkers a contextualized chatbot. The chatbot searches and summarizes answers to queries found with related searches across thousands of documents processed in a vector database, thereby preventing hallucinations.

F2 AI Experts are now a configurable part of the F2 platform, making internal AI-chatbots deployable in a matter of weeks as a tool for both caseworkers and the public.



12 Ways COTS for Government Has Accelerated Responsible Use of AI

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