

Silicon Valley technologies can strengthen transparency in Congress

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The technologies developed in Silicon Valley should be implemented by Congress to allow citizens better access to the actions of their representatives. I have been advocating for [making legislative information accessible](#) in a format that would allow non-governmental websites to republish the information in innovative ways, such as combining it with other information sources. I recently spoke with a reporter about how Congress should leverage the internet to [provide the public with greater access to legislative activities](#)

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Obama's call for greater openness might result in more changes if he pushes the issue, but some adjustments may result from pressure within the institution. Lawmakers, particularly younger members, are more technologically savvy and want to use the Internet to reach constituents, and a national audience. Democratic Rep. Michael M. Honda of California is pushing, with some success, for Congress to make more of its records available in XML format, which allows easy linking of data.