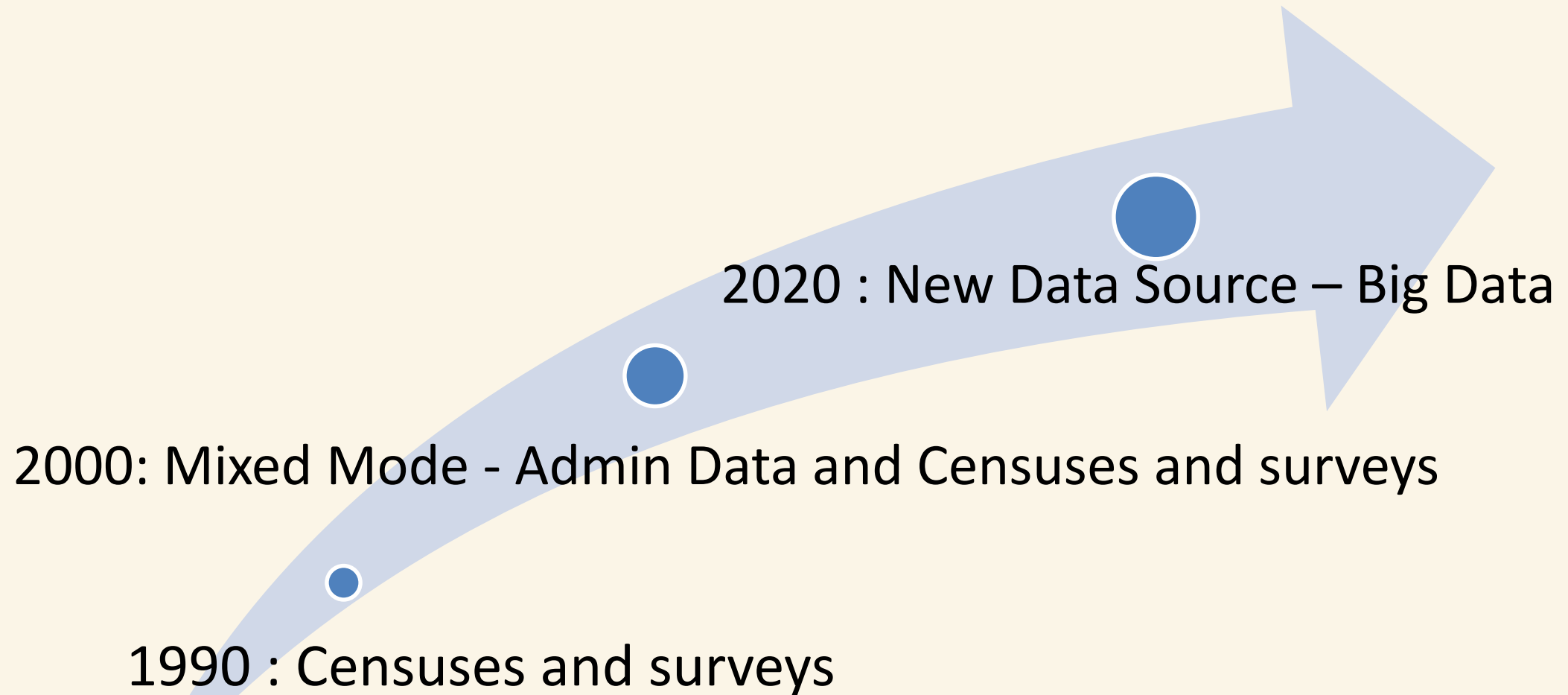# Administrative data and IT to improve quality and timeliness of official statistics

Statistics Mauritius
09 October 2019

Data Sources

Where we are and where we want to be

2020 : New Data Source – Big Data

2000: Mixed Mode - Admin Data and Censuses and surveys

1990 : Censuses and surveys

Opportunities for Statistics Mauritius

- Administrative Data:
  - Government holds a vast quantities of data which are available from services provided
  - Use of digital technology by government open up huge opportunities to improve the effectiveness of government policy interventions by using these data more effectively
  - Opening up government data

Government data initiatives

- Computerisation of government services
  - revenue collection,
  - Government's accounts,
  - payment of pensions and other benefits
  - securing the identity of citizens
  - securing borders
  - Etc…
- E-government strategy includes
  - Government Open Data Policy
  - Government Information Highway initiative
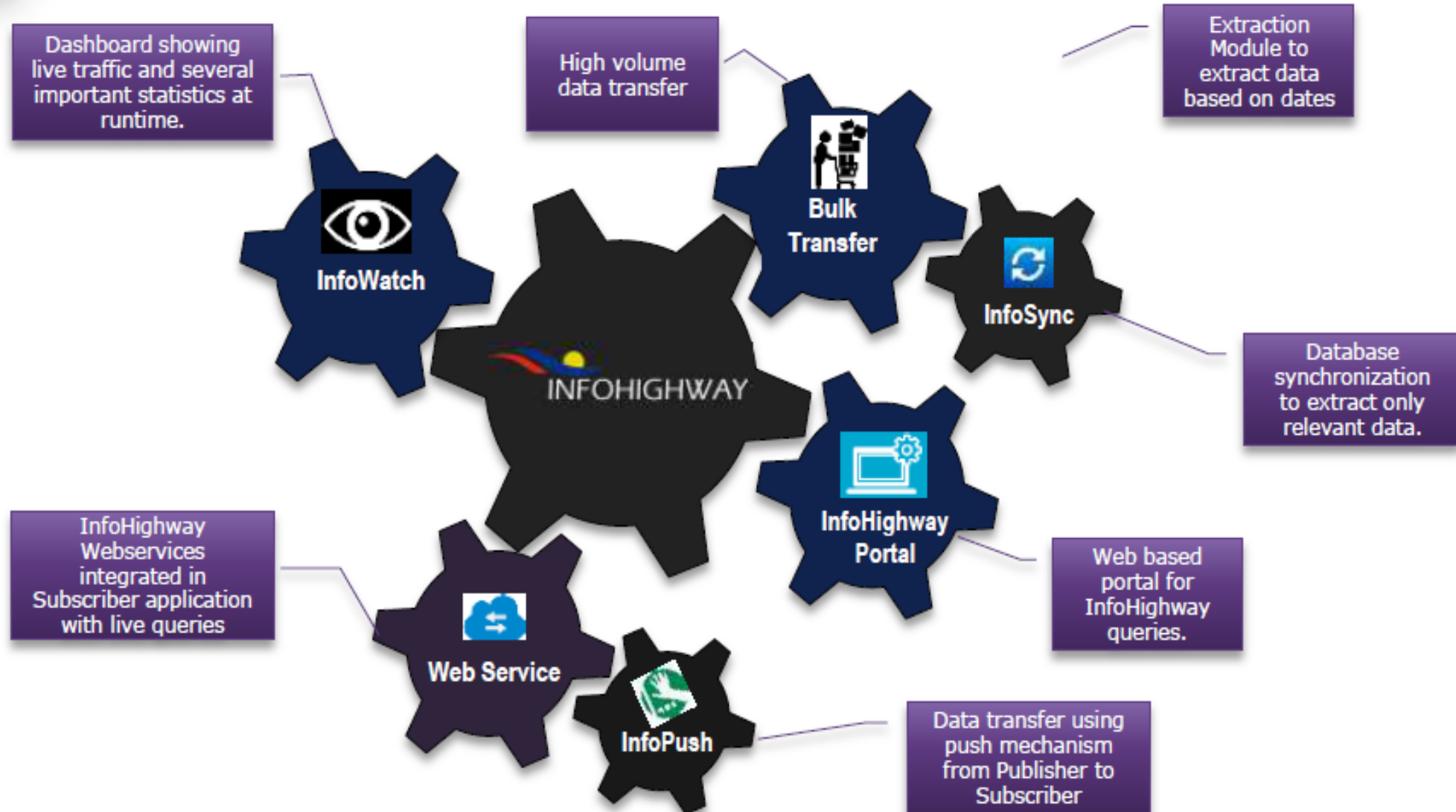
Government Open data policy

What is Open Data?

- *Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone*

- True potential of data can only be harnessed if it is open for use by others
- Strong demand for open data from developers and from the private sector in open source for further use, SM participating in Open Data Policy

Open Data are

- Available online
- Open-licensed
- Machine-readable
- Available in bulk
- Free of charge

Government InfoHighway

Government InfoHighway

Transmission of data has been facilitated by **Infohighway.**

What is the InfoHighway?

- service platform which allows multiple agencies to share data via data sharing e-Services to other agencies
- Allows high volume of data transmission
- The data are available in predefined format and transmitted on agreed time

Advantages:

- improved timeliness
- reduces risk of error with manual manupilation

Accessing Administrative data source: Infrastructure

SM has changed its business model and moved from censuses and surveys to administrative data sources to compile official statistics.

To facilitate the transition, there was need to have new /updated infrastructure in place while ensuring security and confidentiality of data :

- Computerisation
- Statistics Act updated
- Data protection act updated
- Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement signed

Accessing Administrative data source: Datasets

SM has now access to many Government data sets ….

- Treasury Accounting System of Government
- Mauritius Revenue Authority data
    - Customs
    - VAT
    - Income Tax
- Central Business Registration Department system (registration of businesses, annual financial statements)
- Passport and Immigration system
- Civil Status Department database

Accessing Administrative data source:

……has started using the **Government Information highway ,** and

…. and is participating in government **open data initiative**

- 248 datasets are available on the open data portal, many of which have source data published figures of Statistics Mauritius.
- The subject matters covered include education, economy, labour , population, environment, trade, ICT, and tourism

Accessing administrative data source: Products

- Demographic statistics
- International travel and tourism
- International merchandise trade statistics
- Quarterly national accounts
- Quarterly index of Industrial Production
- Public finance statistics
- Statistical business register
- Crime and justice
- ....

Challenges

- Inadequate IT infrastructure, as new and more admin data become available
  - New e-business plan
    - ✓ government open data portal
    - ✓ On-line surveys
    - ✓ CAPI
    - ✓ SDMX
    - ✓ GIS
    - ✓ Innovative data dissemination tools

Challenges

- Obsolete Structure and Business model
    - As the quantity and scope of digital information (admin and big data(?)) grow, should we transform our business model and structure to be able to exploit the opportunities they present?

    - Should we implement the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, to become more efficient?

Thank you!