



Office for  
National Statistics

# ***The redevelopment of the UK Business Register***

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# New Register System

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- Two new products will replace the current Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR).
- Will expand the role of the business register:
  - Business Index (BI)
  - Statistical Business Register (SBR)

# Business Index

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- New narrow list of all businesses in UK to serve multiple administrative purposes
- Need arose as a result of cross government discovery project :
  - Our discovery began with a hypothesis that by joining up and widening access to business data held by government, we could deliver more efficient and effective policies and services for business that would ultimately result in increased government and business productivity.
- UK does not have a complete definitive list of the business population.

# Business Index characteristics

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- BI will be mostly used via an API. Only limited user interface needed.
- BI very externally focussed. Providing cross government service. Will only contain administrative units. Not amend data e.g. rely on authentic sources.
- Cover whole business population but with only 8 variables.

# New Statistical BR

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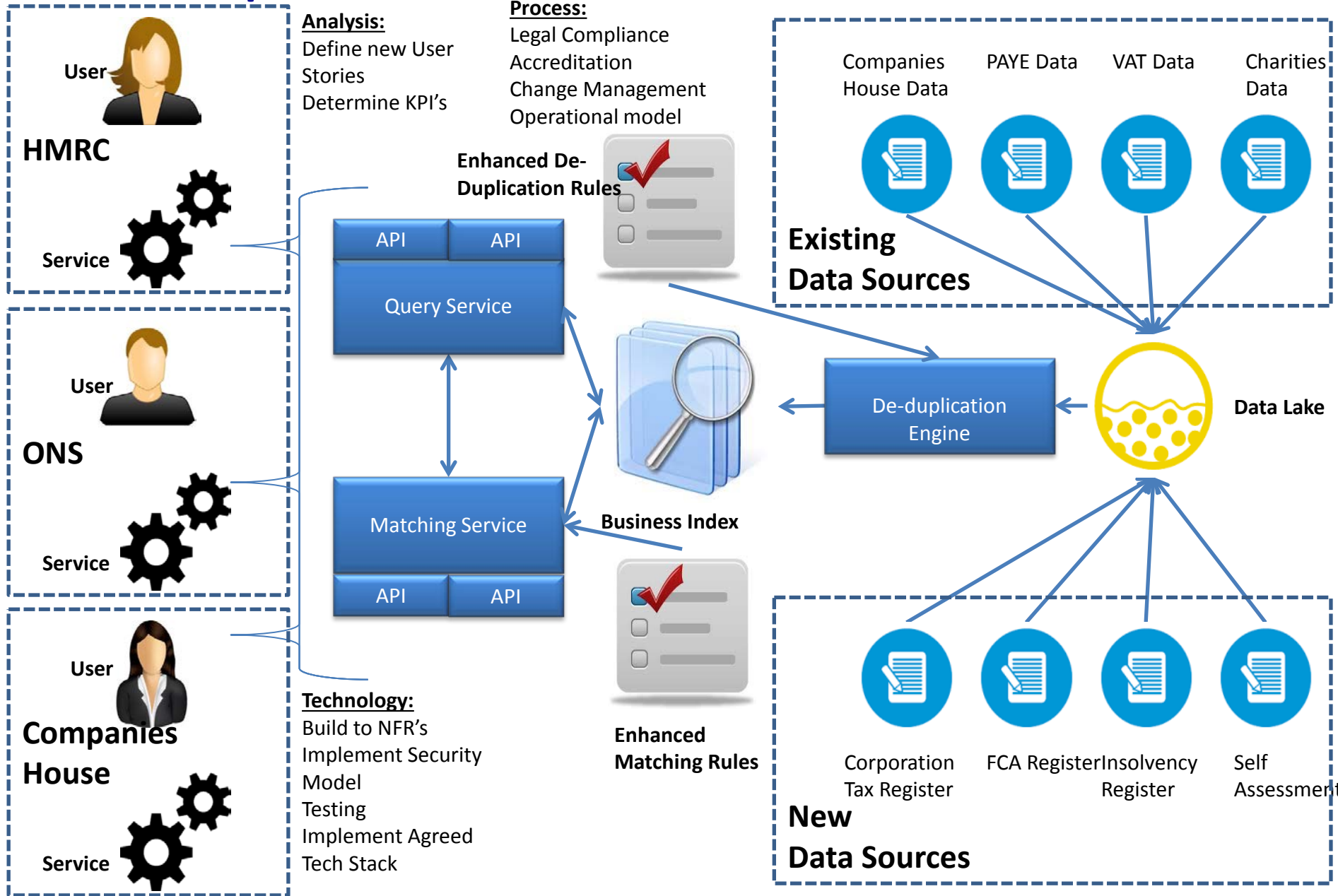
- SBR replaces IDBR
  - contains family of statistical units
  - limited to statistical purpose usage
  - statistical functions – frames, sampling etc
- SBR will be sourced from the BI, and will have broader coverage than the IDBR i.e. extra tax sources – self assessment tax

# Statistical Business Register coverage

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- Current IDBR based on VAT, Company Registration & Employer tax (PAYE).
- Very small entities missing. i.e. with no employees and turnover less than £80,000.
- New data sources from the BI, will fill the gap – Self assessment and Corporation Tax

# Pre-Beta | Business Index Overview



# Alpha | Business Index Summary View



## Users

Would access View 1 after querying Business Index.



View 1 - Unique View of Business							
Unique ID	Business Name	Contact Address(UPRN)	Industry Code	Legal Status	Trading Status	Turnover (£000)	No. of Employees
000123456	ABC Manufacturing Ltd	UPRN 123457689	28100	1	Active	1000-10,000	100- 250

Users Have Ability to Select Record to View all Authentic Source Data

Select Record



View 2 – Additional Data From Source		
Data Source	Business Name	Reference Date (Attribute)
Companies House	ABS Manufacturing Limited	31/12/2015
HMRC VAT Registers	ABC Manufacturing Ltd	31/01/2016
HMRC PAYE Register	ABC Manf Limited	01/12/2015
Self Assessment	Default Blank	Default Blank

View 1 will be populated using View 2 data which will be prioritised using defined rules





# New SBR

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- A discovery phase will determine new requirements. Some include:
- Move to new technology since IDBR on old tech.
- Expanding coverage of very small entities
- Assets for sample stratification
- Improved data consistency and timestamps for direct analytical use
- Improved user interface
- Better analytical tools

# SBR Boundary to be reviewed

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- Current IDBR includes :
  - Respondent management
  - Sampling frames
  - Sampling and sampling coordination
  - Publications of business population
- Where do other countries draw the boundary?

# Agile method and timetable

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- Agile: Discovery, Alpha, Beta delivery method.
- Using new technology : Cloudera HDFS etc
- Business index Beta ready by spring 2017
- Statistical Business Register early 2018
- Managed transition from IDBR to new SBR

# Work in Progress

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- We are still developing – a long way to go.
- Any questions?
- Any advice?