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**Charles Tannouri\*** ([ct.correspondence@gmail.com](mailto:ct.correspondence@gmail.com)). *Data Stranglehold or: How the Government Can Learn to Stop Worrying and Love Math.*

Among the greatest challenges facing leaders in the public sector is a lack of reliable data to guide decision making. Whether due to aging data infrastructure or prohibitions on data sharing, strategies and operations executed in the absence of strong data-driven recommendations can open an organization to scrutiny, liability, and even disaster.

A hypothetical case study is proposed to illustrate obstacles facing public sector decision makers as well examine possible solutions. Supplementing a multi-criteria decision analysis technique with an open-source neural network implementation, public information is used to develop proposed solutions to sensitive policy issues and operational problems. (Received September 17, 2013)