

Todd Park

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Todd Park is a technology advisor based in Silicon Valley for the Obama Administration.^[1] He was formerly the second Chief Technology Officer of the United States,^[2] replacing the United States' first CTO Aneesh Chopra. On September 4, 2014, it was announced that Megan Smith would replace Park.^[3]

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Early life and education

Park was born in 1973 in Salt Lake City, Utah to South Korean immigrant parents. He graduated from the Columbus Academy in 1990.^[4] In that year he was named a Presidential Scholar.^[4] He attended Harvard as an economics major where he met his future wife and mother of his two children, Amy.^[5] He graduated magna cum laude and a Phi Beta Kappa.^[6]

Athenahealth, Castlight, and Ashoka

Park co-founded athenahealth with Jonathan S. Bush in 1997 at the age of 24.^[5] In 2008 he co-founded Castlight Health, named by the Wall Street Journal as the #1 venture-backed company in America for 2011.^[7]

Park also served as a volunteer senior advisor to Ashoka, a global incubator of social entrepreneurs, where he helped start a venture called Healthpoint Services, which brings affordable clean water, drugs, diagnostics, and telehealth services to rural villages in India. In 2011, Healthpoint Services won the Sankalp Award for the “most innovative and promising health-oriented social enterprise in India.”^[8]

Department of Health and Human Services

Todd Park



2nd United States Chief Technology Officer

In office

March 1, 2012 – August 28, 2014

President	Barack Obama
Preceded by	Aneesh Chopra
Succeeded by	Megan Smith

Personal details

Born	1973 (age 42–43) <div>Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.</div>
Political party	Democratic
Spouse(s)	Amy
Children	2
Alma mater	Harvard University

In 2009, he was approached by Bill Corr to be the chief technology officer of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.^[5] and was appointed CTO that same year by President Barack Obama. At HHS, he has been a leader in bringing the notion of "big data" to healthcare. He has expressed his ambition to create an open health data platform analogous to the National Weather Service, which feeds data to commercial weather sites and applications.^[9] He has also described his desire to create a "holy cow machine for healthcare" that shows waste.^[10]

At HHS, he was an advocate for applying open innovation and the Lean Startup approach to government initiatives.^[11] Under Park, HHS has applied open innovation—sometimes called crowdsourcing—to leverage the distributed intelligence of people outside of government. According to the New York Times, Park believes that releasing health data through HealthData.gov will support the agency's public health goals and catalyze new business opportunities in mhealth and eHealth.^[12] In 2010, Fast Company magazine named him one of the 100 Most Innovative People in Business.^[13]

Park ran his team inside of the massive government agency "like a Silicon Valley company," according to the Atlantic.^[5] That approach was particularly relevant in the development of HealthCare.gov, the first government website that provides consumers with a searchable database of public and private health insurance plans available across the U.S. by zip code.^[14]

At HHS, Park also launched the Community Health Data Initiative, a developer conference and showcase to encourage the development of innovative healthcare applications using open government data. By its fourth year, the event, renamed the Health Datapalooza, grew to over 2000 attendees, receives coverage from technology blogs, and has participation from venture capitalists, physicians and politicians from both sides of the aisle,^[15] providing an example of a way that government can engage with the private sector.

US Chief Technology Officer

In March 2012, President Obama appointed Todd Park to replace Aneesh Chopra as the United States Chief Technology Officer and Assistant to the President. After assuming this role, Park worked with a variety of agencies across the federal government to replicate the Datapalooza in their respective domains.

Inspired by Code for America, Park also started the Presidential Innovation Fellows program, designed to bring top innovators from outside government for focused “tours of duty” with federal innovators on game-changing projects. The idea of the program is to combine the experience of citizen change agents and government change agents to tackle specific challenges at high speed, delivering significant results within six months.

Involvement with Healthcare.gov

The initial version of HealthCare.gov, which was deployed on July 1, 2010, was built in 90 days by Park and his team at HHS.^[16] The first HealthCare.gov was cited by the Kaiser Family Foundation as one of the early highlights in the implementation of the healthcare reform implementation



Park and Kathleen Sebelius



Park speaks at Consumer E-Health Summit



Todd Park leading Education Data Jam

progress.^[17] HealthCare.gov was also the first website ever "demoed" by a sitting president^[18]

The following two versions, from the relaunch of the front end in May 2013 to the badly flawed marketplace that went live in October 2013, were developed by contractors and overseen by officials the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare, outside of his purview within the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. When the extent of the problems with Healthcare.gov became clear, Park was tasked by President Obama to work on^[19] "trauma team" that addressed the "technological disaster".^[20] Park, along with Jeffrey Zients, led the "tech surge" that ultimately repaired Healthcare.gov^[21] over the winter, eventually fixing the marketplace sufficiently to enable millions of Americans to register for health insurance.

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External links

- Shwen Gwee interviews Todd Park (HHS) and Tim O'Reilly (O'Reilly Media) @ SXSW 2011 (<http://pharmfresh.tv/pftv-003-todd>)

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- The World's Leading Data Scientists: #5, Todd Park (<http://www.forbes.com/pictures/lmm45emkh/5-todd-park-cto-department-of-health-and-human-services/>), Forbes, November 2, 2011.
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| Office of Science and Technology Policy officials | People from Salt Lake City

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