



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Office of the Comptroller

For Immediate Release:  
August 31, 2016

## PRESS RELEASE

### Mass. Comptroller to Launch New Spending and Payroll Transparency Platform “CTHRU” a Major Step Forward in Enhancing Commonwealth Open Records

**Note: A demonstration of the new system will be held for media on September 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Comptroller’s Office (1 Ashburton Place, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor in Boston).**

**Contact: Thomas G. Shack III, Comptroller -- 617-973-2315  
Kathy Sheppard, Deputy Comptroller -- 617-973-2666**

---

Massachusetts Comptroller Tom Shack is pleased to announce that “CTHRU”, the Comptroller’s new open data/open records platform for spending and payroll will be available to the public on September 14, 2016. The new system, a “cloud” based web platform, will provide an open data dive into how taxpayer’s dollars are spent. It also will provide an intuitive experience in reviewing spending data going back to fiscal year 2010 and payroll data back to calendar year 2010 through the present for most state agencies. The platform will provide unprecedented and expanded access to public records while reducing the burden on state agencies to respond to many types of expenditure and payroll data requests.

CTHRU will be accessible on all of the most popular operating platforms and browsers through the Comptroller’s website at [www.mass.gov/comptroller](http://www.mass.gov/comptroller).

Massachusetts is once again establishing itself as a leader among states in innovation by expanding transparency and streamlining public access to information. CTHR U is also the first time the Commonwealth has utilized a lean approach to system design. Uncharacteristic of traditional government system development, the innovation process went from idea to a live platform in less than seven months. Because the service provider, [Socrata](http://Socrata), utilizes a subscription based business model, the amount of time and cost to implement was dramatically reduced when compared to traditional government system customization models.

“The launch of CTHR U is a major step forward in meeting our mission to promote accountability, integrity, and clarity in Commonwealth business, fiscal, and administrative enterprises. We have also accepted Governor Baker’s challenge that government leaders think outside the box and adopt cloud based technologies that enhance public accountability and strengthen the public’s trust and we look forward to expanding the system in the coming months” said Comptroller Shack.

*The Office of the Comptroller is a uniquely independent and apolitical overseer of more than \$60 billion in governmental and other funding sources annually. In addition, the Comptroller oversees the Commonwealth’s expenditure and payroll management and major audit functions ensuring security, transparency, accountability, and service delivery across all branches of state government. The powers and obligations of the Comptroller are generally dictated by [M.G.L. c.7A](http://M.G.L. c.7A).*

**Thomas G. Shack, III, Esq.**  
Comptroller of the Commonwealth  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
1 Ashburton Place | 9th Floor | Boston | MA | 02108 | USA  
Telephone: 617.727.5000