The U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) is still living largely in the world of traditional secrets. In an era of global access to diverse and rich sources of data and information, the IC must embrace a new understanding of intelligence, knowledge, and rapidly evolving technology in order to sustain its relevance.

- The IC must become a curator of knowledge and information, translating secret and open information into useful knowledge for strategic warning, situational awareness and crisis management.
- In order to meet expectations from national security policy makers, the IC will need to monitor, measure, validate, analyze and distribute information collected in the open source world and across social networks.
- Traditional intelligence activities will retain their importance as the competitive advantage of the IC.
- Policy makers will want this melded knowledge in near real-time, not in days or hours.
- U.S. laws and practices must keep pace with this information revolution in a manner that respects privacy and civil liberties.
- Policy makers are likely to demand reports with knowledgeable insight into the trends that drive groups to form networks opposed to official government policy. Trends of interest include:
  - Shifting demographics
  - Competition for water, energy, food, medicine and other resources
  - Pandemics
  - Cyber threats
  - Global criminal networks
  - Continuing ethnic, sectarian and secular conflict

The white paper concludes with the following proposals:

- Policy makers of the incoming administration must engage the IC to better understand the relative roles of open source and traditional intelligence in meeting policy makers’ needs.
- The executive and legislative branches should propose and/or make policy, regulatory and statutory changes as appropriate and necessary to ensure that privacy and civil liberties are protected.
- A coalition of current and former decision makers and intelligence practitioners, as well as interested policy organizations, should be formed to recommend ways to resolve the practical issues associated with the collection, analysis, validation, integration and dissemination of openly sourced intelligence.