



Meeting Minutes

December 17th, 2008

- Call to order
- Introductions
- Presentations – Google Earth Virtual Alabama
 - Presenters
 - John P. Salamone, Google Earth, Regional Sales Manager, jsalamone@google.com, (404) 862-7564
 - MJ Pizzella, Google, Sr. Business Development Executive, Federal Enterprise, mjp@google.com, (703) 965-5357
 - Virtual Alabama (VA) developed out of developing property damage records for FEMA to identify areas hit by storms and flooding. It currently has over 3500 users in 1000 agencies utilizing the data. The Alabama Department of Homeland Security has been the executive sponsor assisted by Chris Johnson at the US Space and Rocket Center.
 - Google views this as a method of data visualization and complementary to existing GIS infrastructure. Google Earth Fusion integrated parcel data (shapefiles) into the Google Earth Server. The server then renders the data within Google Earth Enterprise desktop clients.
 - After a natural disaster, the Alabama Civil Air Patrol took pictures with a standard digital camera from a plane. The pictures were overlaid as a KML file on NAIP (1 meter) to estimate damage. Alternatively, these images could have been pushed through Google Earth Fusion as a base layer. KML provides dynamic data display and Fusion provides compression/caching/tiling for display as a static base layer. The processing time for Fusion depends on the data size. Fusion is only operational when loading data to Google Earth Server. Google Earth Server hosts the content to be consumed by the Enterprise Client. Fusion is used as needed and Earth Server is load balanced and redundant based on use. One Google Earth Server will support up to 250 concurrent users. Fusion is geoprocessing intense and needs to occur on a separate server from Google Earth Server. Fusion will also render data in 2-D in addition to 3-D.
 - Geodatabases can be converted to search tabs for querying to the server or published as KML.



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- The Google Earth Enterprise client was provided to all participating agencies in exchange for data. The project costs \$80,000 plus servers and licensing costs for Google Fusion and Earth Server.
- Louisiana, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington DC are using or in the process of investing in this approach. The US Forest Service is using it for wildfire response to track planes and fire status. Non-technical users are adopting this technology to fulfill customer service functions. Data analysis and editing are functions of GIS software. The results in turn can be presented to users through Google Earth for visualization.
- GeorSS feeds are not natively supported, but can be converted to a KML client feed. Metadata can be viewed through a pop-up or point to a URL hyperlink. Imagery metadata would require a tile grid to contain similar attributes. The highest resolution of the data is displayed on top. The interface turns layers on and off. Layers are also shown/hidden depending on scale. SafeSoftware Feature Manipulation Engine (FME) was used as the data conversion tool to incorporate many layers into one layer. Routing functions can use Google or point to your own routing service. The Google Earth API is not supported as a development platform, but the Google Earth Plug-in provides developers with similar functionality. Early next year an enterprise version of the plug-in should be available.
- Distribution of the enterprise client to the general public was not suitable due to required license keys. All users login securely to Virtual Alabama.
- Approval of Minutes – Minutes were approved.
- Current Business
 - Officer Reports
 - Incoming Chair – Membership proposal is pending further discussion with OPB.
 - Committee Reports
 - Education and Outreach – No report.
 - Strategic Planning and Policy
 - 300 responders to the survey and comments incorporated into the strategic plan.
 - More information on events will be distributed in January.
 - Data Framework Management – no meeting or report
- New Business
 - GIS Portal Toolkit 9.3 is available. ITOS is providing layers as services and needs feedback on which data sets are needed. Services will be published at the Clearinghouse and users can add their own links. Geoff Garland is the contact.



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- Leica TITAN is not a part of the budget for the revision of the Clearinghouse.
- "Building a GIS" was recommended as a new book published by ESRI Press. The book details considerations for planning and developing GIS architectures.
- Announcements
 - The student paper submission deadline for GIS-T has been extended.
 - Next meeting – January 21st, 2009
- Action Items
 - Teague will complete the minutes.
- Adjournment