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Welcome to

The Harlow Report - GIS

Welcome to the 10th issue of 2002! In this issue we tell you what happens when GIS data is wrong, tell you about a new GIS research library, give you our opinion on ethical behavior, and more.

- ◆ **Sometimes We Are Wrong** A small village near Glasgow Scotland finds out what happens when your GIS database tells you one thing, but reality does not agree with the system.
- ◆ **Intergraph Creates Online Research Library** Intergraph opens a new virtual GIS library for research
- ◆ **Why Bother With Ethics?** Ethics used to be a part of US business. Somewhere we went astray. Find out why and how to get back on track.
- ◆ **Some Tips on Time Management** No time to tell you about the tips ... gotta go.

As always, we provide you with the latest links to new topics, products, services and oddball ideas that either pertain to GIS, or seem like fun. You know that is located in GIS Net Surfing. If you just want the latest in GIS news, then click on over to News to Use.

Thanks for your interest and support.



Sometimes We Are Wrong

The technology we call GIS has been a valuable tool when it comes to relating an asset or event to a location. The uses keep popping up, and the benefits keep coming. We are justified in being proud of our business. For all the good we do, sometimes we are wrong. And wrong we were in Clydebank.

Clydebank, you say?

Clydebank is a small town in Scotland, U.K. in the Glasgow area. Like most European towns, Clydebank dates back centuries. The various parishes and villages that dotted the country side hundreds of years ago are now part of Clydebank. They found ruins of the Roman Antonine Wall on the hill of Golden Hill Park in Duntocher. Stone outcrops carved with druid-like symbols can be found north of the area that is now Faifley.



In medieval times a township that would later be part of Clydebank was called. Old Kilpatrick. For many centuries it was reported to be the birthplace of St. Patrick (Kil-patrick translates to Saint Patrick). My research shows that Clydebank as a town did not truly exist until 1886, when the Thomson brothers moved their shipbuilding yard from Govan to a spare bit of green pasture and setup the Clyde Bank Shipbuilding Yard.

Clydebank meets GIS

Scottish Water Authority is in step with the times, complete with a GIS system. But where was the system when they needed it? It seems the system was busy trying to poison thousands of people receiving potentially fatal misinformation during the cryptosporidium

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scare. According to news reports taking 24 hours to inform 140,000 people that a parasite had been discovered in a public reservoir. About 4000 households in Clydebank were told initially they were outside the affected area, after floods led to a build-up of the microorganism in Loch Katrine and Mugdock reservoir, Milngavie, near Glasgow in August. Days later, they were told their water may have been infected.

According to medical experts, it causes mild diarrhea, cryptosporidium can be lethal to those with a depressed immune system.

A report shown to West Dunbartonshire counselors last night blamed Scottish Water's computerized GIS for the fault. It showed the contaminated Mugdock reservoir supplied around 70,000 homes in west and central Glasgow, while Clydebank was supplied from Craigmaddie reservoir.

According to one report, in the early hours of Monday, August 5 local checks found the Linnvale and Whitecrook areas of Clydebank were affected and the public was told - but Glasgow residents had been informed on August 3.

The GIS failed to pick this up as a bulk water meter had been wrongly marked as a closed valve, the report says.

How can you blame the GIS?

Frankly, you should not blame the system. By all accounts it functioned flawlessly. The problem was that the data was bad. I doubt the error would have been caught in a manual system or a text interface, but the graphical interface of GIS makes it look soooooo correct, it is hard to disbelieve.

In the end, everything seems to be working out. Although no one fell ill, and Craigmaddie water had been diverted to Clydebank at about 6pm on the Sunday, Scottish Water will change its GIS so any zones affected in future are correctly identified.

Tim Huntingford, West Dunbartonshire Council's chief executive, said: "It is vital Scottish Water's procedures are exercised on a regular basis for the management of incidents."

Let this be a lesson to all of us. Check the data before, during, and after you load it into the system. After all, you expect the user to rely on it, and the user expects it to be correct.



Intergraph Creates Online Research Library

Since the invasion of the Web, accessing research material has become child's play. Just look at the extensive archives and GIS links we maintain on this site. Now, for the super GIS geek, there is yet another source for your geo-science research fix. Brought to you by the newly invigorated Intergraph, it is called Team GeoMedia® Online Research Library (<http://www.teamgeomedia.com/orl/default.asp>).

Hangings out in every corner of the world are Team GeoMedia Registered Research Laboratory members. This Web site provides an overview of ongoing and completed applied research in the geo-sciences. The online research library gives us a peek at research projects that include land information management, geospatial infrastructure management, transportation, cartography, mapping, and more. Mapping, IT, and GIS professionals can visit the site to readily reference applied GIS research by the global academic community.

How do we Dewey?

Traditional library research (you do remember that, don't you?) began with a stop at the index card file, and browsing through the Dewey decimal system classification of books and periodicals. Once armed with the title of the work, and its location in the library it was off to the stacks. Thankfully, the Intergraph library is considerably easier to use.

Starting at the main page Library (<http://www.teamgeomedia.com/orl/default.asp>) of the library you will see two simple pulldown menus. One lets you select by research title, the other by registered research library. To test the ease of use, we selected by title: Carroll County Geographic Information Systems Conversion. The resulting page provided

A summary of research objectives:

Research and prototype work was examined for possible countywide conversion of Carroll County, Illinois. The primary objective was to develop a methodology for conversion of existing county data into a Geographic Information System (GIS) that could be utilized by the county tax assessor as a condensed data source. Existing county data was in various forms of scaled maps and media that needed to be converted into one particular base map. Parcel data was the primary feature class that needed to be created to serve as the base map for all other features etc

Key research areas:

Local, State Government

Summary of Research Conclusions:

Subsequent findings of initial research into countywide conversion of Carroll County yielded the following results:

- ◆ Conversion of existing data was determined to be both cost effective and more efficient than maintaining existing paper maps.
- ◆ Test areas of the county, utilizing the various features, created no inherent problems once a base map was produced and used as the primary "template" for all remaining data etc.

Screen shots, if any

In this case there were three

Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions' Products Used

GeoMedia Professional

This research is offered by

Specific information provided

Contact Name & Details

Specific information provided

And you don't have to be quiet

Unlike the not so user friendly libraries of old, you don't even have to be quite in the Team GeoMedia® Online Research Library. That's a plus right there. Fiona McKee, global academic program manager, Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions commented, "The Team GeoMedia Online Research Library provides a valuable resource to the geospatial community and supports the strong commitment that Intergraph has made to the advancement of the geosciences and the business needs of our customers. We hope this readily accessible, central resource of GIS research will serve as a platform for other institutions of higher learning to implement research projects involving GIS technology and will encourage future innovations in the geospatial industry."

Conclusion

We found the site to be easy to use, and a great way to find out what is going on. Don't expect the shelves to be filled just yet. When we checked there were just 9 research papers, and 10 research labs listed. More will be added. What you need may already there. Our recommendation is that when you want to know about GIS, first start here at The Harlow Report - GIS then check out the other sources, starting with the Team GeoMedia Online Research Library.



Why Bother with Ethics?

What ever happened to the idea of corporate ethics? Judging by the headlines, the ethics departments of some corporations seemed to have been victims of downsizing. It seems that the inevitable has happened: The “do your own thing” hippies of the seventies are now running corporate America.

I learned about ethics at an early age. While in graduate school, I had a teaching fellowship with Dr. Gross at NYU’s undergrad business program. He taught business policy. Together, we taught students not just how to analyze a business, but how to deal with employees, investors, prospects, customers, and the world in general. Be honest was the most important example of Dr. Gross’ business policy.

But the most important rule of ethics was not taught to me by Dr. Gross, but by my military science professor, Colonel Joe Underwood. “Honor,” he said, “is doing the right thing when no one is looking.”

Over the years I tried to live by that saying. Until the 90’s it seemed to work well. The something changed: we began to accept imaginative stories in place of the truth. We all knew darn well that Clinton inhaled, but the line “I never inhaled” seemed so clever, we decided to overlook the lie. This was not just a Washing DC phenomenon, but one that started to creep into the business world at all levels.

A potential ethics headache cured

What was intriguing was that we had just witnessed the best example of corporate ethics in the early 1980’s in the famous Tylenol scare. In 1982, seven people in the Chicago area collapsed and died after taking Tylenol capsules that had been laced with cyanide. These five females and two males, all relatively young, became the first victims ever to die from what came to be known as product tampering. The poisoned capsules had been placed on shelves in six different stores by a person intent on killing innocent people at random. The Tylenol killer has never been caught. Johnson and Johnson, the manufacturer of Tylenol did not hesitate in their actions. Their corporate ethic told them that they made products that were safe. Johnson & Johnson’s top management put customer safety first, before they worried about their company’s profit and other financial concerns. They told consumers not to resume using the product until the extent of the tampering could be determined. The company stopped the production and advertising of Tylenol, and recalled all Tylenol capsules from the market. The recall included approximately 31 million bottles of Tylenol, with a retail value of more than 100 million dollars. (Broom, Glen M., Allen H. Center, Scott M. Cutlip. *Effective Public Relations*, Seventh Edition. Prentice-Hall Inc. 1994.) Today, Tylenol is still one of the top selling brands, and we all take it without a single worry about cyanide.

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Over the years I have worked with and worked for highly ethical people. In the past decade I have run into so many unscrupulous dogs it makes my hair stand on end. It seemed to me at one point that the death of ethics took place somewhere between the OJ trial, Clinton's peccadilloes, and the Florida election mess. The OJ trial lawyers cared only about winning, not about justice; the jury cared more about payback than evidence. Clinton worried about the definition of "his" and not the definition of honor. In the Florida elections both parties had opposing views that were so logically and eloquently stated by the attorneys that it was impossible to tell how was right.

Enron, WorldCom, Global Crossing, Martha Stewart, and the rest of the gang really should not have surprised us. Everyone was interpreting every rule to suit his or her liking. The new ethic was "Do it because you can." Nobody seemed to care about the moral issues - the legal issue was all that mattered. Could we get away with it, was all we cared about.

Ethics: The New Corporate Asset

That headline may surprise you, but it is the premise of a new book by Peter Koestenbaum, a freelance consultant, speaker, trainer, and leadership coach. The book, *The Philosophic Consultant: Revolutionizing Organizations With Ideas* (Pfeiffer/A Wiley Imprint, 2003, ISBN: 0-7879-6248-1, \$34.00) looks at the need for ethics in today's business environment. Aimed primarily at consultants and human resource practitioners, it talks about leadership in deeply holistic terms, terms destined to make corporate America a bit, well, uncomfortable. After all, we feel more at home with rules and regulations, ideas that can be pinned down and legislated-and philosophy is all about exploring the hazy and spiritual inner world.

Koestenbaum is far more passionate than my management professors were on the subject of ethics: "We are in the midst of a crisis situation in American business," he declares. "And companies that do not operate by a strong code of ethics will soon find themselves in serious trouble. I would go so far as to predict that most new businesses and entrepreneurs who do not have a solid ethical foundation will fail within five years. Conversely, those who do behave ethically will thrive, both financially and in other ways. Every conscientious businessperson should make it a priority to explore what ethical behavior is, and how he or she can make ethical decisions."

As much as I enjoyed working with Dr. Gross, and as much as I learned in class with Peter Drucker, I never heard ethics described as eloquently as this: "Ethics is empathy, which means service," writes Koestenbaum. "It's an attitude of love and compassion, of caring, of including people, of valuing them, of hearing them, of suffering when they suffer, and of being proud when they succeed. It is soft. Ethics is also principal. This is hard. It is to know that there is evil and it is to live by the resolve that our destiny on earth is to struggle against evil and to establish a moral order. If you are comfortable in these two zones of living, then you are a person well-developed in the region of the leadership mind called ethics."

Six principles

Here are six themes from Peter Koestenbaum to consider when assessing the impact of ethics and morality, integrity and principle, on the successful conduct of a business:

1. **Maturity.** A person who generally has a high regard for ethics in all aspects of life, private and public, is generally a good person to have around: trustworthy, reliable, safe, predictable, someone not to be feared but to be loved, not to be resented but welcomed.
2. **Emotional Restraint.** Ethical and rational people take care of their own feelings. One of the meanings of maturity is that people are aware that whenever you put groups of human beings together and expect them to work together, under often stressful conditions, unpleasant emotions will naturally surface. The common tendency, regrettably, is to blame others and to take it out on the innocent. To take care of your own feelings means to add a rational superstructure that then deals with your emotions professionally and objectively. But you do it. You initiate it. And you do it to yourself and for yourself, and it leads to cleaner relationships in the business environment. You are that superstructure. That's where the merit lies.
3. **Rational Democracy.** Rational democracy refers to a civic and governmental structure of reason, justice, fairness and equity. Political science theories are like that, such as the social contract theory. Rather than acting out emotions, good governance is based on fairness, on the conviction that difficult decisions, career moves, pain, and sacrifice are imposed not with partiality or favoritism, not dishonestly or opportunistically, but with consummate fairness and justice. Then there are no complaints. Then there are good feelings.
4. **Motivation.** There is a correlation between ethical motivation and maturity. It is important to ascertain what the motives are for people's ethical behavior. For the level of elevation of the motive is correlated with the general quality and grown-up behavior of the person. It is also an excellent measure of overall health, and, as a result, of leadership capacity and performance. Here is a scale of ethical motivation: Why do people "not steal?"
 - a. The police may catch them.
 - b. They may go to jail.
 - c. They may lose face. It is an embarrassment to be caught.
 - d. They do it out of respect for others, to help institute a more civilized society, to generate trust among human beings as the most prudent way to relate.
 - e. The motive follows from accepting a higher principle of morality, such as "I pursue, especially in legislation, the greatest good for the greatest number," which is utilitarianism, or "treat your neighbor as you yourself would like to be treated," which is the Golden Rule.

As people move from "a" to "e" on this scale they also tend to be more mature in other respects: more intelligent, kinder, more successful, more respected, more trusted, more accepted as leaders. People will value them because they are fair. Ethics is like a holograph; honesty is the visible surface of a larger professionalism. It leads to confidence and thus to good business.

5. **Ethical Public Relations.** When talking of the importance of ethics for business, we cannot overlook the critical role of public relations (PR), the public image, especially of politicians and corporations. The concept of PR requires analysis, for it always raises the question of honesty. Public relations is tailored to the audience, based on polls, stated in sound bytes, and therefore invariably superficial.

Of particular importance in our culture is the unqualified incorruptibility of ministers and doctors. That is why when ethical lapses occur, as they have recently in the priesthood, it is so profoundly upsetting to the population. Of course, ethical principles also apply to a high degree to teachers, brokers, lawyers and bankers. And then of course to business in general. A corrupt ethical image is certainly the downfall of reputable businesses.

6. **Laws.** The key to doing business in developing countries and in much of today's Eastern Europe is the need for laws. And laws are principles of human interaction. The wisdom of a law lies in its application. The law needs to be applied evenly, equally and consistently. Then you can do business. Otherwise you are in a maelstrom. You need reason at work, ethics in business as a commercial necessity. That is the value of the law.

Conclusion

It really is time to stop trying to justify everything we do by twisting and turning every phrase until it suits our needs. Is means is! Nothing more, nothing less. Early in my consulting career I learned the benefit of just telling the truth. I was making a trip from California to NYC on behalf of a client. He told me that since he'd pay for a first class ticket, I should trade the ticket in and buy two coach tickets and bring my wife along free. I thanked him, and told him that I would be flying coach, and that is all I would charge him. When I arrived at my hotel in NY, there was a note from my client. It read "Thanks for the honest way you treated our account. Please be my guest for dinner, and a Broadway show." As Dr. Gross taught me, I did the right thing when no one was looking, and I was rewarded in a way I never expected.

Yes you can cheat and lie your way to the top, but you will tumble. I agree with Koestenbaum when he writes, "It is the attitude, the willingness to act on principle, which characterizes the moral person. Empathy, on the other hand, is deep feeling for the reality of others, it is to live in the soul of another and work for the empowerment of that soul. This is deeply emotional. It can be self-sacrificing. Good leadership is really to understand these two ways of being a good human being, a decent person."

In the words of a better known modern day ethicist, Dr. Laura, "Now do the right thing."



Some Tips on Time Management

How to Better Manage Your Time

by
Craig Lock

Editor's Note: Imagine if we could regain all the time we have wasted in our life times. We'd all live to be a hundred. That is why when I came across this article I thought I'd share it with you. You could use a little extra time, couldn't you? This extract is from Craig's first published book HANDBOOK TO SURVIVE - a collection of writings on various subjects to help every man or woman survive in a rapidly changing, uncertain world.

Craig's books are available at: <http://www.nzenterprise.com/writer/books.html> and <http://www.novelty-gift.com/ebooks.html>

Ask yourself:

1. Does what I am doing add value to my life (and times of pure fun and relaxation are essential too)?
2. What will happen if I don't do it?
3. Can I delegate it?
4. Can I spend less time on it?

Time Wasters

1. Telephone interruptions
2. Drop-in visitors
3. Meetings
4. Crisis management
5. Lack of objectives, priorities; a daily plan
6. Cluttered desk, personal disorganization
7. Ineffective Delegation
8. Attempting too Much at Once
9. Lack of Clear Communication
10. Inadequate, Inaccurate Delayed Information
11. Indecision and Procrastination
12. Confused Responsibility and Authority.
13. Inability to Say "No".
14. Leaving Tasks Unfinished
15. Lack of self-discipline

More Common Time Wasters (in rank)

1. Planning (lack of).
2. Priorities (lack of)
3. Telephone interruptions
4. Disorganization/cluttered desk
5. Procrastination
6. Visitors
7. Lack of Self Discipline
8. Ineffective delegation
9. Attempting too much
10. Inability to say 'No'

The 80/20 Principle

20% of activity gives 80% of results and 80% of activity gives 20% of results (known as the Pareto Principle).

- ◆ Focus on the important few activities, not the trivial many.
- ◆ Don't procrastinate
- ◆ The key is self-discipline.
- ◆ "First we make habits, then habits make us."

Time tips for the busy

Get the news only once a day - in only one form - read the paper or watch television or listen to the radio, but vary the form so you don't get the news through one bias. Don't worry about or spend time on things irrelevant to you, e.g.. Reading every bit of the newspaper.

Unless it is crucial for your business, the news is not only depressing (don't worry about it, unless you can do something about it), but it gives a distorted picture of life.

If you can't sleep, don't waste time lying in bed. Get up and do something.

Use an answer phone.

Walk out of a poor movie or show. You've already wasted the money - so don't waste the time as well.

Plan your leisure. Don't expect your free time to fall into place by itself. Plan your weekends as carefully as you plan your weeks...and it's OK to do nothing.

Don't read a book, just because it has been given to you- if it doesn't interest you, give it to someone who would be interested.

Stop going to social events you would rather avoid - life's too short. On the other hand, don't miss a social event you would enjoy just because you feel tired. If you enjoy something it revitalizes you. But remember - there is usually work tomorrow!

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“Never hurry - and don't worry - and don't forget to stop and smell the flowers.” -
Walter Hagen, American Golfer

“What I do with this day is important, because I have exchanged a day of my life for
it.”

“Take rest; a field that has rested gives a beautiful crop.” - Ovid

I like the words of the Simon and Garfunkel song: “Slow down, don't you go so fast”
from 'Feeling Groovy'. Not that I feel that way here in “Sleepy Hollow” in the beautiful
country that is Godzone!

So just take and plan your time carefully. Always remember,
“Yesterday is a cancelled check, tomorrow is a promissory note, today is ready cash -
use it well.”

When you take control of your time, you take control of your life

SOME TIPS ON BETTER MANAGING YOUR TIME
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GIS Net Surfing

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service GIS Home Page

<http://www.fws.gov/data/gishome.html>

GIS activities in the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), with an emphasis on the spatial data aspects of GIS. These include coordinating metadata efforts in FWS, assisting offices by locating free or low cost spatial data, providing general evaluations on the quality of that data, providing a platform for sharing metadata and spatial data, and serving as a clearinghouse for other GIS topics such as data standards, training, the A-16 process, global positioning systems, contract information, and technical notes.

National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis

<http://www.ncgia.ucsb.edu/>

A consortium of universities working on research for geospatial technology. The National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis is an independent research consortium dedicated to basic research and education in geographic information science and its related technologies, including geographic information systems.

National Park System

<http://www.nps.gov/gis/>

General overview - some Park Service data.

More than 250 National Park System units use GIS today. GIS applications range from studies of effects on parks by visitors to assistance with the recreation of historic battlefield landscapes.

GREAT BRITAIN HISTORICAL GIS PROJECT

<http://www.geog.port.ac.uk/gbhgis/>

Since 1994, the GB Historical Society has been creating a major GIS that will contain the changing boundaries of all the major administrative and statistical reporting areas of Great Britain.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) GIS

<http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/>

This site was developed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Iowa State University in cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The purpose of this site is to evaluate methods of distributing geographically referenced digital data via the world wide web for use in Geographic Information Systems and other applications.



News to Use

ArcReader 8.2

<http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcreader/>

ArcReader 8.2 stand-alone version is now available for download. ArcReader is designed for viewing and sharing any published map file (PMF) authored by the ArcGIS Publisher extension to ArcView, ArcEditor, and ArcInfo. The PMF preserves a live connection to the data so the user's data view is dynamic. ArcReader is built from the same ArcObjects component technology as ArcView, ArcEditor, and ArcInfo. ArcReader shares a common look and feel with all the ArcGIS Desktop products, allowing users to easily view, explore, and print maps. ArcReader is fully supported on Windows 2000, Windows NT 4 with Service Pack 6a, and Windows XP both Home and Professional Edition. Please visit www.esri.com/arcreader for more information.

Applied Geographics

<http://www.appgeo.com>

Applied Geographics, Inc. (AGI) appointed Peter Girard as Vice President. Mr. Girard is a recognized leader in the field of GIS applications, design, and development. Prior to his appointment he served at AGI as the Director of Software Architecture, providing applications programming and database design services. Mr. Girard has been instrumental in facilitating the migration of projects to Web-based applications, and integrating innovative technology to existing projects. Joan Gardner President of AGI said, "Peter's strengths in software architecture are a valuable asset to AGI. ..."

ImageLinks Inc.

<http://www.imagelinks.com/>

ImageLinks Inc. announced that it has received a contract from the National Technology Alliance (NTA) for the creation of a plan for introducing open source software development practices into government programs. The contract, specified at more than \$250,000 will assist ImageLinks in the creation of an initial plan for an Open Source eXtraordinary Program (OSXP) that will provide an organizational interface between traditional government programs and open source software projects and companies. The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) manages the NTA program as the Executive Agent for the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community.

NYDOT Bike Map

<http://www.dot.state.ny.us/magis/magis.html>

The New York Department of Transportation (NYDOT) engaged Applied Geographics, Inc. (AGI) to create a set of bike maps for the state. The goal of the project is to design and print two separate maps depicting bicycle routes 5 and 9. The two bicycle maps will be based on

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the design of the State Bike Route 17 map. In addition to route delineation, the bike maps will locate communities with lodging, camping, bike shops, medical facilities, busses, trains, colleges, cultural sites, natural sites, local bike routes, wineries, and breweries. New York State's bicycle route network includes over 1,100 miles of designated highways that pass through almost every region of the State.

Ekahau, Inc.

<http://www.ekahau.com>

Ekahau, Inc. announced Ekahau Positioning Engine (EPE) 2.0 for 802.11 wireless local area networks. The new EPE 2.0 provides positioning accuracy of 3.5 ft in pinpointing the location of wireless PDAs, laptops and other 802.11 enabled devices. The 2.0 version includes a new patent-pending Rail Tracking feature, eliminating through-the-wall errors and enabling indoor navigation and guidance. Multi-floor tracking provides real-time tracking in high-rise buildings, and the boosted performance provides continuous tracking up to hundreds of locations per second. Ekahau's patent pending location finding technology is a software-only solution and does not require any proprietary hardware beyond a standard 802.11 network.

“Ekahau Positioning Engine 2.0 enables system integrators and service operators to provide differentiated and value-added location-based services for WLAN users,” said Kim Tikkanen, Development Manager at Elisa Communications Corporation.

Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions

<http://www.intergraph.com/imgs>

Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions announced the Intergraph Open Interoperability Grant Program, a new international grant program promoting and emphasizing the use of OGC interoperability specifications for accessing and applying geospatial information from a local to a global level. The announcement coincides with the sixth Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Conference being held this week in Budapest, Hungary.

This broad new initiative, with a value of more than \$5.5 million (U.S.), supports the GSDI organization's mission of ready global access to geographic information. The program will emphasize the use worldwide of OpenGIS(R) Specifications from the geospatial industry standards body, the Open GIS Consortium (OGC). The grant program actively promotes interoperability and enables organizations using geospatial information to build open Web services and publish their data using Geography Markup Language (GML), thereby allowing easy and open exchange of data.

Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives

<http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/assoc/acml/acmla.html>

The Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA) has joined the list of GIS Day sponsors dedicated to the mission of educating the public about the benefits of geographic information system (GIS) technology. Each year GIS Day educates people about mapping technology and the important contributions it makes in the fields of science, technology, information, and the humanities. Principal and Associate sponsors of the November 20, 2002, event participate by working hard to promote GIS activities throughout the world.

“I know of no (GIS) system in the state that's actually up and functioning,” he said. “I’m not sure the system is ready right now to support what we really need. I think we'd be much better off to wait.” The paper reported that board member Gerald Compton said the third phase actually costs \$76,000. Does this sound familiar?

First Energy Corp

<http://www.firstenergycorp.com/welcome/>

FirstEnergy Corp., the holding company for the nation's fourth largest investor-owned electric system, selected the Smallworld PowerOn™ software application from GE Network Solutions to manage electrical outages for its seven electric distribution companies. After merging with GPU Inc. in November 2001, FirstEnergy decided to implement a single outage management system (OMS) throughout its electric operating subsidiaries. The former GPU had been using the Smallworld PowerOn software to manage outages since December 1999.



***If you change your
Email address,
tell us!***

Charlow@charter.net

