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Welcome to The Harlow Report - GIS

Welcome to the 1st issue of 2004! In this issue we begin the year by telling you about GITA's new board, why Intergraph is interested in Bill Gates' sewage, and how to get certified in GIS and grab some ESRI loot. Out of the Box and News to Use bring you some short notes of interest. For those of you who would like to know what life is like in California, check out our Just for Laffs feature.

Featured Articles

- **GITA Elects New Board** GITA has a big influence on your industry. Get to know its new board of directors.
- **Intergraph To Track Bill Gates' Sewage.** I could not help but to notice who Microsoft's home town of Redmond, Washington turned to for GIS support to flush away Gates' waste. Sure enough, it was none other than Intergraph.
- **First 1,000 GISCI Certified GIS Pros Get ESRI Bonus.** The idea of GIS certification has been around for at least two decades, perhaps longer. Certification is complicated because GIS is different things to different people. Over the years GIS certification developed into career recognition through the evaluation and approval of individuals engaged in a specific occupation or profession. The GISCI program gives recognition to professionals whom demonstrate competence and integrity in the field and establish and maintain professional practices and ethical conduct.

More to Know

- **Out of the Box** Our collection of news events that may indirectly effect your GIS project. Events are categorized by State and Local Government, Technology, and Utilities.
- **News to Use.** Short takes on the latest GIS news with links to more information

Just 4 Laffs

- **You Know You're in California When ...** Having lived in the Golden State for 20 years, I will attest that this list is quite accurate.

As always, we thank you for your support, and trust that you and your loved ones remain safe, healthy and prosperous.

Chris Harlow



GITA Elects New Board

The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) elected a new Board of Directors for 2004. The new GITA president is Stewart Asbury, president of the SpatialAge Solutions Division, Byers Engineering Company, Atlanta, Ga., Asbury has served as chair of GITA's Annual Conference and Education committees.

If you want to learn a bit about the past, present and future of GIS, the goto guy is J. Peter Gomez, manager of information requirements for Xcel Energy's Asset Management organization, Denver, Colo. He will serve as the association's president-elect for the year.

Drove my Chevy to the ...

Sub headline is with apologies to Karen Levy, 2003 GITA president and information technology project manager for the City of Newport News Waterworks (Virginia). I just could not resist the temptation. By virtue of her excellent job of last year's president, Karen is immediate past president.

Susan Ancel, manager of network services for EPCOR Water Services Inc., Alberta, Canada, will serve as the association's treasurer; and Wilma Kumar-Rubock, vice president and chief information officer for Washington Gas, Springfield, Va., is the association's secretary.

GITA's board of directors would not be complete without the following at-large members, each of whom is appointed for a one-year term: Peter Batty, chief technology officer, Ten Sails, Greenwood Village, Colo.; Brent Jones, vice president of Energy and Telecommunications Services for James W. Sewall Company, Old Town, Maine; Xavier Lopez, director of Spatial, Location and Network Technologies for Oracle Corp., Nashua, N.H.; Lisa Marcou Soiland, director of IT Business Operations for AMS, Fairfax, Va.; David Nemeth, manager of GIS Systems, Operations & Engineering at Panhandle Energy, Houston; and Donald Tomlin, director of information management at Florida Power & Light Company, Miami.

Thanks from the first president

As the founding president of GITA I would like to add my personal thanks to all the members who have served this organization. I know most of the current board members and trust they will continue in the tradition of making GITA the premier GIS association. There is a lot of hard work in front of you new board members, but the rewards are worth the effort (sure they are only psychic rewards, but what's wrong with feeling good about yourself?)

Good luck in 2004!



Intergraph To Track Bill Gates' Sewage

Right off the bat you know that no one at Intergraph wrote that headline. Nonetheless, it is true.

Love him or hate him, there is no doubt that Bill Gates has transformed the IT industry into a daily necessity of life. When it comes to GIS, however, the folks at Redmond Washington, have barely gotten their feet wet. So, one must wonder if they will, and will they do it on their own, or just gobble up someone else.

The answer is ...

I have no idea. But I do know that the first major GIS companies to embrace the WinTel platform was Intergraph. With that in mind I could not help but to notice who Microsoft's home town of Redmond turned to for GIS support to flush away Gates' waste. Sure enough, it was none other than Intergraph.

So what does that mean? Probably nothing in terms of how Microsoft will get into the GIS game. On the other hand, Redmond is a savvy IT community, so this engagement cannot hurt Intergraph (assuming they perform).

Public Works Manager

The City of Redmond, Washington is home to about 46,000 people, but that number doubles with the work-day commuters rushing to make another fortune. Hidden under the ground of every major city are the unsung efforts of the Public Works department. Among other things, they bring in clean water, and take away dirty water.

The Public Works Department of the City of Redmond, Washington chose Intergraph's Geospatial Resource Management (GRM) (<http://imgs.intergraph.com/solutions/>) solutions to help improve delivery of its public services – water and sewer. Using GeoMedia® Public Works Manager, the city will replace its legacy AM/FM system with a data-centric GRM system that links to the city's other corporate systems, including customer information and asset management systems.

According to Intergraph, "The integration between the new GeoMedia/Microsoft® SQL Server-based environment and other systems will enable city employees across departments to access data and directly update data one time for all of their purposes, whether it is for billing, permitting or additional daily tasks."

Why a new system?

"Besides quickly providing the city with numerous financial benefits, the ability to link to other corporate systems will increase efficiency by giving users access to a more complete set of information that is available across our enterprise," said Melissa Faga, GIS Manager, City of Redmond. "The new system will allow us to easily adapt to our growing infrastructure and assets and respond more promptly to our growing customer base." Streamlining engineering workflows for routine maintenance and upgrades New demands such as in-

creased maintenance and updates to public systems combined with increased customer requests prompted city officials to explore various ways to streamline their daily workflows. Besides efficiencies gained for management and administration operations, the new system will give the department a foundation for engineering flow analysis. In addition to supporting typical design and drafting workflows, the new implementation will allow city engineers to use the network model for input to hydraulic analysis programs, such as DHI MOUSE. The network model will now be maintained in one department, eliminating redundant data entry.

The implementation is scheduled to be completed by May 2004.

Conclusion

Whether Microsoft will get more deeply involved in GIS, only Microsoft knows for sure. If they do, it is anybody's guess whether they will buy a major player, build up a smaller company, or just do it on their own.

Considering ESRI's strong hold on the municipal market and the water/wastewater market, I think that Intergraph can rightly put a big feather in its cap. Having their system in the heart of desktop IT should be used as an Intergraph showcase. Now it is up to the people at Intergraph to make sure the system works as promised. Or better!



First Thousand GISCI Certified GIS Pros Get ESRI Bonus

October brings us Harloween and all the candy we can eat; November brings us family and Turkey; December brings the celebration of Christmas and all the trimmings. January ... well January starts with a hangover, and has very little else to offer. This year is different. The folks at ESRI announced a great incentive program for those of you who get your GISCI certification.

My GIS what?

That's GISCI and it stands for the Geographic Information systems Certification Institute. Naturally they have a new GIS professional certification program. Redlands, California – Graduates from the Geographic Information System (GIS) Certification Institutes (GISCI) new GIS Professional Certification Program.

The idea of GIS certification has been around for at least two decades, perhaps longer. Certification is complicated because GIS is different things to different people. The GIS expert at the firehouse does not need to know the same level of detail as the GIS experts at ESRI. Yet somehow, both should be able to be certified. Over the years GIS certification developed into career recognition through the evaluation and approval of individuals engaged in a specific occupation or profession. Today, it is offered by national membership associations representing numerous other career paths.

The GISCI program gives recognition to professionals whom demonstrate competence and integrity in the field and establish and maintain professional practices and ethical conduct.

“The GIS Professional Certification Program, especially its re-certification requirement, calls for GIS professionals to maintain currency in their field on a continual basis,” says Bill Huxhold, chairman of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) GIS Certification Committee, which developed the program. “This donation by ESRI is a very important contribution to that goal, and it acknowledges the value of improving the skills of GIS professionals as they progress in their careers.”

The GIS professional certification process was developed under the guidance of URISA, a nonprofit association of professionals using GIS and other information technologies to solve challenges in state and local government agencies and departments.

Alright already, what's the ESRI bonus?

Okay, Okay. Just get certified and you will receive free materials and training from ESRI. Each of the first 1,000 professionals to obtain certification will receive core professional GIS training and educational materials worth \$335 (That's a generous donation of \$335,000 from ESRI). These resources will enable the professionals to continue developing their skills and support their contributions in their respected fields.

Hey tell me more!

Each graduate will receive:

The Planning for a GIS Virtual Campus class by Roger Tomlinson, Ph.D. and certified GIS professional, and the books

Thinking About GIS: Geographic Information Systems Planning for Managers by Tomlinson,
Beyond Maps: GIS and Decision Making in Local Government by John O'Looney, and
GIS in Public Policy by R.W. Greene.

“The GIS Professional Certification Program furthers GIS technology by recognizing the experience, education, and contributions of professionals from numerous disciplines to the continued professional use of this important technology,” says Jack Dangermond, ESRI president. “The program’s code of ethics will help guide the GIS professional community to make appropriate ethical choices and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and cooperation.”

Application materials are available online at www.gisci.org. For more information on the program, check out the details at URISA

Conclusion

Certification is a complicated issue. In the IT world, several suppliers such as Microsoft, CISCO, and Novel have made a big deal about certification. It is an expensive and grueling ordeal. The good news is that technicians get trained and understand the technology in a formal way. The bad news is the human resources departments have gotten so lazy they will not even talk to candidates who are not certified. The foolishness of this is best seen in the transition from Windows NT server to Windows 2000 server. It would not be a stretch for a season NT sys admin to get the new manual and in a few hours be ready to work on Win 2000. On the other hand a bright inexperienced college grad might sit for the Windows 2000 certification and pass, even though he has no hands on experience. I know several sys admins who spent the money to get recertified in 2000 (and now again in XP) just to avoid the problems on the employment line. Make no mistake certifications of this type are big money makers and coerce companies into sticking with one supplier.

That leaves us with GIS certification. The good news is that the efforts are being led by URISA and other industry groups. That is the key – let’s keep it vendor neutral. Equally good news is that those of you who really know your GIS stuff will be able to stand out in a crowd of wannabes. Mostly, let’s use our heads when it comes to hiring people. There are a lot of us old GIS hackers out there who may not take the time to get certified who certainly know their stuff. Take this guy Jack Dangermond, for example. Certified or not, I would put him on my team anytime. How about you?

Out of the Box

Editor's note: In "Out of the Box" we bring you news snippets that are not necessarily related specifically to GIS. These are items that come across my screen that help me understand our industry, by understanding the world around us. For the complete article just click "Details Here." Think of it as thinking **Out of the Box**

In State and Local Government ...

- California approves new Calpine power plant. Calpine Corp. won state approval to build a 1,087 megawatt power plant near Fresno but has no immediate plans to go through with the project. San Jose based Calpine isn't building any new power plants unless it has a contract to supply that electricity, Calpine spokeswoman Katherine Potter says. "It's still fairly early in the development process.;" Ms. Potter says. "We will need to find a buyer (for the electricity) before we will build." This is the second Central California plant to be approved in the past five months. On Aug. 20, Calpine got state approval to build a 1,100 megawatt power plant in the Altamont Hills west of Tracy. Calpine also has no plans to construct that plant until or unless it can find a customer for that power, Ms. Potter says. Details Here: <http://sanjose.bizjournals.com/sanjose/stories/2004/01/12/daily49.html>

- A GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping team from the Yellowstone County Enhanced 911 emergency response program assigned GPS coordinates to Laurel Details Here: <http://www.laureloutlook.com/articles/2004/01/07/news/1recap.txt>

Charlotte's Web Internet [Charlotte County, Florida] sites make county government more useful ... The Web site for the county's geographic information systems is available at www.ccgis.com Details Here <http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20040122/OPINION/401220740/1030>

In Technology ...

- Security experts nix Internet voting plan. An Internet voting scheme called Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment may be dead, at least according to an independent report. The report (<http://www.servesecurityreport.org/>) was released by four whistle-blowing security experts hired by the Federal Voting Assistance Program to evaluate the program, also known as *Serve*. (<http://www.serveusa.gov>) *Serve* is scheduled to become operational in time for 2004 primary elections beginning in February...

Details Here <http://www.eetimes.com/at/news/OEG20040123S0036>

- SCO to Congress: Linux hurts the U.S. The SCO Group Inc. has taken its fight with the Linux community to Capitol Hill. Earlier this month, the company sent the 535 members of the U.S. Congress a letter that called Linux and open-source software a threat to the security and economy of the U.S., SCO confirmed yesterday. The letter is dated Jan. 8 and was published on the Internet this week by an open-source lobbying organization called the Open Source and Industry Alliance (OSAIA). It states that the commoditizing influence of open-source software such as the Linux operating system is bad for the U.S. economy and argues that open-source also skirts export controls that govern commercial products.. Details Here: <http://www.computerworld.com/softwaretopics/os/linux/story/0,10801,89335,00.html>

In Utilities ...

- Power grid operators will work together. Operators of power grids in 22 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and parts of Canada will share information on operations in a bid to improve system reliability after Aug. 14's record blackout. The Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator Inc. and PJM Interconnection LLC filed their joint operating agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the organizations said in a statement..

Details Here.: <http://www.ohio.com/mld/beaconjournal/business/7611955.htm>

- OPEC calls for halt to oil price surge. OPEC's president on Tuesday, January 13, 2004 appealed for high-flying oil markets to stabilize as signals grew that sustained price strength will make it hard for the cartel to enact an expected supply cut next month. U.S. crude has blazed to 10 month highs, topping \$35 a barrel for the first time since the Iraq war, on fears that freezing U.S weather will strain crude oil stocks already at their lowest level since 1975. ities has delayed its post-war production recovery Details Here <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12420-2004Jan13.html>

- Utilities balk at moving poles, decline to bury lines. Officials in Plantation, Lauderhill and Lauderdale Lakes want Florida Power & Light Co. and BellSouth to bury utility lines along State Road 7 to improve the road's appearance, but the companies are reluctant to pay for underground lines right now. State Road 7 was a commercial hub of Broward County in the 1970s, but since the real estate boom in west Broward began in the '80s, the road has fallen on difficult times.Details Here <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-cpowerlines23jan23,0,1007535.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>



News to Use

URISA's 3rd Annual Public Participation GIS Conference

<http://www.urisa.org/ppgis.htm>

URISA will hold a its 3rd Annual Public Participation GIS Conference at the University of Wisconsin July 18-20, 2004/ Spatial News (press release), United States To respond to URISA's call for papers, go to:

<http://www.urisa.org/ppgis.htm>

Fort Myers, Florida Selects Accela for Enterprise E-Government

<http://www.cityftmyers.com>

Fort Myers, Florida selected Accela, Inc., to implement a new enterprise land information system. The system will be used by employees in the Community Development Department to provide a centralized approach to resource, land, and permit management for four key divisions: Building Permitting & Inspections, Code Enforcement, Planning, and Development Services.

Mars for Kids? Count Me In, Little Green Man

http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/funzone_flash.html

NASA created this wonderful site to get kids interested in Mars. Trust me, your kids will appreciate it – it is fun, easy to use and informative. But if you don't get hooked on it first, I'd be surprised. It is a site well worth visiting, Earthling.

ASPRS Publishes Report on Remote Sensing 10-Year Industry Forecast

http://www.asprs.org/asprs/publications/pe&rs/2004journal/january/jan_frame.html

A complete report of Phases I through III of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) 10 year Industry Forecast of Remote Sensing was published in the January 2004 issue of Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing (PE&RS). The study documentation was prepared by Charles Mondello, Pictometry International Corp., Forecast Coordinator; Dr. George F. Hepner, University of Utah; and, Dr. Ray A. Williamson, The George Washington University. Among the important findings of the report, Phase III assessed the effect of 9-11 and related national economic circumstances on industry growth. Consistent with the contraction of the U. S. economy since 2001, study respondents reduced their growth projections in Phase II to 9% over the next few years; downward from the 14% projected in Phase I. The relative small size of most companies providing industry services with limited resources for Research and Development was cited as the primary factor for this reprojected. Phase III further developed the real and potential effects of the attacks of 9-11 on governmental policy indicating that increased restrictions on the public availability of geospatial information have had a negative effect on organizations producing geospatial data and information, especially in data export, airspace restrictions and data purveyance to the public. The executive summary can be obtained through the above link.

You Know You're in California When ...

1. Your co-worker has 8 body piercings and none are visible.
2. You make over \$300,000 and still can't afford a house.
3. You take a bus and are shocked at two people carrying on a conversation in English.
4. Your child's 3rd grade teacher has purple hair, a nose ring, and is named Breeze.
5. You can't remember ... is pot illegal?
6. You've been to a baby shower that has two mothers and a sperm donor.
7. You have a very strong opinion about where your coffee beans are grown, and you can taste the difference between Sumatran and Ethiopian
8. You know which restaurant serves the freshest arugula.
9. You can't remember ... is pot illegal?
10. A really great parking space can totally move you to tears.
11. A low speed police pursuit will interrupt any TV broadcast.
12. Gasoline costs \$1.00 per gallon more than anywhere else in the U.S.
13. A man gets on the bus in full leather regalia and crotchless chaps. You don't even notice.
14. Unlike back home, the guy at 8:30am at Starbucks, wearing the baseball cap and sunglasses, who looks like George Clooney really is George Clooney.
15. Your car insurance costs as much as your house payment.
16. Your hairdresser is straight, your plumber is gay, the woman who delivers your mail is into S & M, and your Mary Kay rep is a guy in drag.
17. You can't remember ... is pot illegal?
18. It's barely sprinkling rain and there's a report on every news station: "STORM WATCH 2004."
19. You have to leave the "big" company meeting early because Billy Blanks himself is teaching the 4:00pm Tae Bo class.
20. You pass an elementary school playground and the children are busy with their cells or pagers.
21. It's barely sprinkling rain outside, so you leave for work an hour early to avoid all the weather-related accidents.
22. Hey! ... Is Pot Illegal?
23. You and your dog each have therapists
24. The Terminator is your governor
25. Pot. It's legal, right?



If you change your
Email address,
tell us!

Charlow@charter.net



**Looking for a domain name, email address or an inexpensive web hosting services?
Go to <http://www.aaadomain.net> where domain names are \$8.75 or less!**