PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS – OCTOBER 29, 2009

Applications without developers: GeoBC's Mash-up Wizard (Chris Spicer)

Ever wanted to author applications for the non-GIS savvy without the need of a developer? How about an online wizard that would mash-up Google Maps with ArcGIS Server tools, Web Services, authoritative data and user uploaded content? Go no further – the GeoBC Mash-up Wizard is here. It allows the quick development and deployment of web GIS applications which will stand alone or be imbedded in standard web pages. Novice users can craft, edit and deploy applications online effortlessly. Resulting applications won't have a GIS look and feel, increasing your available user base and user comfort level.

Build on a web services architecture, its framework is modular in design, allowing administrators to add additional tasks, web services and content without the need to re-deploy the framework. Applications created in the framework are immediately available for consumption by end users.

This seminar will focus on the capabilities, architecture, expandability and of course a demonstration of the framework in action, internet permitting.

The Simplification of VanMap; A New Generation (Jonathan Mark)

The City of Vancouver introduced VanMap to its staff in 1999 and to the public in 2001. The applications are very data intensive with hundreds of data layers and much functionality. While these applications work well for the more intense user, they work less well for the casual and infrequent user.

This presentation focuses on applications and enhancements the City has done to make it easier for the user while still also maintaining the traditional VanMap applications. In particular, we will discuss and demonstrate:

- VanMapLite (simplified cross-platform raster version)
- The Road Ahead (single purpose VanMap application)
- The citywire address search and Reportal (no maps required; staff only)
- Disability Parking (single purpose VanMap application)
- Host City VanMap (fewer layers, very familiar interface)

Through the discussion and demonstrations, we will show different approaches to making GIS easier to use.

UBC Simple Web Mapping with Editing Capability (Jerry Maedel)

We are a mixed AutoCAD and ESRI shop at UBC. We have much of our landbase data entered in AutoCAD and much of our planning done with ESRI. Our campus data resides on an internal ArcServer web application and we have many worldwide research datasets in ESRI format.

Researchers have a very limited amount of time to spend completing their work and most do not have a GIS background. With the advent of Google more researchers and instructors are being

drawn to the relatively simple and fast dissemination of location based data using Google KML files.

The push now is to make these Google based web applications more useful by allowing online data entry and editing. More like the commercial GIS web applications without the complexity and resultant long learning curve. Is this possible? In the spring of this year I set out with the able help of LaudonTech to see if we could build a simple location based web app that had online data entry and editing capability.

GIS and Transportation Projects – the Lighter Side (Nicole Jung)

In the early stages of transportation projects GIS is typically used to evaluate the different alignment alternatives. The alignments are evaluated to narrow down the number of options and typical analyses are applied determining the impacts on land use, demographics, and natural resources. Additionally GIS has been extensively used in supporting the environmental assessment process once the more detailed alternatives have been developed. GIS in engineering consulting encompasses the lighter side of GIS. In the past GIS projects are created to support the projects and are smaller scale and specific. Now however the face of GIS in engineering consulting has changed with each project built upon demonstrated business practices and standard operation procedures. Making solutions efficient and repeatable within the engineering consulting environment. Using applied examples of two projects I will present smaller scale solutions that apply this new way of thinking.

Redesigning GeoWeb DNV – The District of North Vancouver's GIS Website (Shawn McLeod)

GeoWeb DNV is the District of North Vancouver's GIS website. Originally launched in 2001, GeoWeb provides the public with a variety of information where data can be downloaded, maps can be viewed, and applications can be accessed all from one platform. The original concept for GeoWeb was two-fold: to build a website to house multiple applications; and to build focussed rather than single "one size fits all" applications. Today, this approach is still very much alive but with the advent of new technologies GeoWeb is undergoing a radical redesign.
The impact of Google Maps on our digital society has created a paradigm shift in the world of web-mapping. As a result, new technologies have allowed the DNV to develop specialized GIS applications that bring performance and functionality together under a contemporary design. While building specialized GIS applications requires greater resources the benefits are clear: a focussed, single-purpose application can offer content-rich information while maintaining an intuitive interface. Slated for launch by fall 2009, the new GeoWeb will include a variety of robust applications spanning themes such as census, engineering projects, natural hazards, and property information.

Spatially Enabling the BC Coroner Service (Clarence Lai)

The British Columbia Coroners Service (BCCS) and GeoBC have brought together their respective expertise to develop an Identification GIS, likely the first of its kind in North America. The BC Coroners Service is responsible for the identification of all human remains in British Columbia. To that end, the Identification and Disaster Response Unit (IDRU), operating out of the Office of the Chief Coroner, has established an identification model that incorporates numerous relational databases. GeoBC focuses on spatial and attribute data associated applications to assist various

clients and businesses optimize the data potential. Due to the expertise of GeoBC analysts, geography is fast becoming as important as any other forensic discipline in determining possible associations between missing persons and human remains. The intent of this presentation is explain how GIS has been incorporated into the BCCS on a daily basis, How cases are handled differently now compared to the past, and setting up an ideal model to compare complex cases.

Keep It Simple Stupid: or If the Shoe Fits Wear It (Bill McKay)

The City of Surrey has changed how it responds to requests for mapping solutions over that last couple of years. Previously most requests were typically resolved by creating additional data layers in COSMOS (City of Surrey Mapping On-line System) which is our robust web GIS platform. Users today quite often want solutions that don't involve a map, or buttons, or anything other than one specific bit of information. We will discuss this trend at the City and demonstrate some focused solutions that 'Keep it Simple'.

Retooling the Thought Process (Derik Woo)

In the last year or so, it seems like everyone and their cat are retooling their web mapping applications or their core GIS systems. Why is this occurring and how are people approaching the evolution of their GIS systems? One of the underlying reasons for this activity is how GIS technology has matured enough to match GIS functionality with user expectations. Prior to the recent technology enhancements, GIS professionals were required to create band aid solutions to meet the dynamic needs of the user community. Now, armed with powerful new technologies, GIS professionals are truly able to build solutions that are lightweight, portable, integrated, and even aesthetically pleasing. This presentation will provide insight into how the Township of Langley is changing its design approach to GIS.

Mapping Emergencies: 9-1-1 through to the EOC (David Hamilton, Daniel Stevens)

Within the City of Vancouver, police, fire and ambulance dispatch are managed through disparate Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems. As such, the ability to share incident information between these public safety agencies can be problematic. This issue is not unique to the City of Vancouver, and is in fact seen in many urban areas around the world. Through GIS, E-Comm has developed a web-based situational awareness system designed to bridge the gap between the disparate CAD systems. The City of Vancouver's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), like many other EOC's, likewise faces the challenge of bringing incident and resource status information together in a seamless, real-time and meaningful way for decision-makers. Events such as the annual Celebration of Light fireworks show that draw hundreds of thousands of spectators to the downtown core keep both dispatch and EOC workers in Vancouver extremely busy. Having these staff working with critical information in separate systems not only makes response operations challenging, but makes it very difficult to pull data together for after-action reporting. The City of Vancouver Office of Emergency Management has embarked on an integration project to bring data from these and other systems together using EmerGeo's mapping system via the City's E Team and E-Comm's E^{2}MV applications. The presenters will describe these systems and how they are bringing it all together using open geo-spatial technology.

Neogeography and the Structural Effect (Chris North)

New technologies and new approaches can have a profound impact on any industry or organization, and GIS is no exception. In recent years, the 'traditional' GIS practitioner has been presented with a rapid shift in technology brought about by so-called 'neogeography' tools and the rapid adoption of consumer mapping tools and services. These new tools, and more importantly the widespread popularity of the capabilities they provide, have created a kind of parallel ecosystem to the traditional GIS industry. The impact of this on GIS as we know it today is profound, and promises to fundamentally change not only the GIS is 'done', but also the very purpose for having a GIS. This presentation will examine the impact of neogeography, and present some thoughts on how GIS practitioners can leverage its promised strengths, and avoid its potential pitfalls.