Editorial

By Landon Blake

What's In This Issue

I'm proud to say we published the 2011 OSGeo Annual Report before the arrival of 2013! (The credit for this lies with the volunteers that make up the OSGeo Journal Team.) This means we should be on our regular publication schedule for next year, with the annual report for 2012 out in the spring of 2013, and a peer review edition out in the fall of 2013. I still hope to publish a peer review edition of the Journal before the end of this year as well.

Inside this volume of the Journal you'll find 2011 Annual Report items from four (4) of our software projects, up from two (2) software projects last year. We have seven (7) chapters that submitted annual report items for this volume, although we lost a report from the Poland Chapter and gained reports from the Italian and Korean Chapters. Once again, the annual report items help you get a clear view of how much OSGeo related activity is taking place around the globe.

Regular Features

We've continued a regular feature from Volume 9 of the Journal in this volume. That regular feature is an interview with an OSGeo member. Last time we interviewed outgoing executive director Tyler Mitchell. This time we interview Anita Graser, a QGIS super user and contributor.

I'm excited to start two (2) new regular features in this volume of the Journal. The first is a column that will feature case studies of the application of open source geospatial software at real world organizations. In the first installment of this column we look at how the open source desktop GIS is being applied at my own company to manage sanitary sewer networks.

The second regular feature is a column that will follow the development of a brand new open source software project. This is the KML Toolkit. The KML toolkit is written in the Ruby programming language. The concept and code for the toolkit was created specifically for the Journal and this series of articles. I wanted to introduce two (2) similar columns in this volume. One for a remote sensing library written in Python and the other an OpenLayers application for tailored OSM data editing. Those columns will have to wait for our next edition. I hope you will enjoy learning about KML and Ruby programming techniques with me as the KML Toolkit is developed. If the column is successful, and we start to see real users and contributors, I'd like to submit the toolkit as an OSGeo Labs project.

Wrapping Up

We have only one topical article in this edition. It examines the problem of sharing GIS data model design, and shares some GIS data model diagrams under a creative commons license.

This volume concludes with an editor's footnote entitled "Do we need a journal?". I've written this article in response to a very insightful e-mail from Cameron Shorter.

What's Coming Up Next

Now that work on the 2011 Annual Report is complete, I'll immediately start collecting items for our 2012 Peer Review Edition. If you have an article to contribute, or would like to assist with the peer review for this edition, please contact me.

I'm working on a couple of short guides to writing annual report items for chapters and software projects. I hope to have this done by the end of the year, so our contributors will be able to use them to submit annual report items in January.

If you have an article on a technology related topic that you want to contribute to the next issue, please let me know. You can send a message to the OSGeo Journal mailing list, or contact me personally. My current contact information is always listed in the footer or the home page at www.redefinedhorizons.com.

The Journal Blog

I've started a new blog about the Journal. I'll be posting updates on each volume there, as well as posting articles

from each edition. Let me know if you would like to contribute to the blog.

Thanks

I want to extend my thanks, first and foremost, to all the people who took the time to submit annual report items for this issue. I know you guys are busy, and many of you would rather be writing code then writing report items. I appreciate your effort and hope you will do me the same favor again soon for the 2012 Annual Report.

The pycsw Team also put a great deal of effort into preparing, reviewing, and editing the OSGeo Project Spotlight that appeared in this issue. I thank them for their efforts.

I also want to give special thanks to Eli Adam. His review and copyediting was critical to this edition of the Journal, and I really appreciate all of his help.