

2007 Annual Report

Open Source Geospatial Foundation



OSGeo Journal
Vol. 4 / August 2008
Special Edition

Contents of this volume:

Executive Reports	3	Local Chapter Reports	35
OSGeo in 2007	3	Africa Local Chapter	35
News Items from 2007	4	Australia/New Zealand	36
Finance Committee	5	Brazil	36
Committee Reports	6	British Columbia, Canada	37
Education and Curriculum Committee	6	California, USA	37
Public Geospatial Data Committee	9	China	38
Incubation Committee	10	Francophone	38
Journal	11	German	40
Marketing Committee	12	Greek	41
Systems Administration Committee	13	India	42
Website Committee	13	Italiano	45
Software Project Reports	14	Japan	46
FDO – Feature Data Objects	14	New Mexico, USA	47
GDAL/OGR	16	Ottawa, Canada	47
GeoNetwork opensource	17	Romania	48
GEOS	18	Spanish	50
GeoTools	18	Taiwan	51
GRASS GIS	19	Twin Cities, USA	52
gvSIG	20	United Kingdom	52
Mapbender	23	Sponsors (2007)	54
Mapbuilder	24	Autodesk	54
MapGuide Open Source	26	INGRES	55
MapServer	27	INPE	55
OpenLayers	27	1Spatial	56
OSSIM	29	First Base Solutions	56
Quantum GIS	30	LizardTech	57
		WhereGroup	57

Thank you to our 2007 Foundation Sponsors



Committee Reports

Education and Curriculum Committee

Period covered by report: Jan-Dec 2007

Contact name: Charlie Schweik

Key Accomplishments

At the education BOF meeting at FOSS4G 2007 we had 30 people in attendance. We held a second BOF where we did a "Wiki Sprint" to revise the group's web presence on the OSGeo website. At these meetings and subsequent group email discussions afterward, we came up with four major tasks for the 2007-08 year until the next FOSS4G meeting. We maintain this list.⁴ We are developing: (1) an inventory of existing and new educational material; (2) suggested authoring methods, content management system, and a distribution and search facility; (3) a FreeGIS book; and (4) a multi-language OS-Geo dictionary. Some highlights from these efforts to date include:

Educational Material - Highlights

- 20 courses or sets of tutorials were inventoried immediately after FOSS4G 2007.⁵
- Markus Neteler and Helena Helena Mitsova published a third edition of Open Source GIS: A GRASS GIS Approach (2008). See www.grassbook.org.

⁴Work program list: http://wiki.osgeo.org/index.php/Education_Committee_Work_Program

⁵Educational Inventory: http://wiki.osgeo.org/index.php/Educational_Content_Inventory

⁶Tutorial data set: http://www.grassbook.org/data_menu3rd.php

[org](#). In addition, a freely available data set for use with the book but also any other other course or tutorial is available.⁶

Discussions regarding **authoring methods, content management, distribution and search facility** have been on-going. Our current thinking based on group dialog:

Authoring methods:

DocBook was proposed. While there was some support, there were also some concerns about (1) learning curve for new authors; (2) The lack of a FOSS GUI editor for DocBook; and (3) The steps involved in converting DocBook to other formats like PDF. The discussions showed that some in the group who have significant material are using LaTeX. Scribus has also been suggested. We've now concluded that the effort in 2008 needs to be open to a variety of authoring methods, but Docbook, LaTeX (Lyx) and Scribus may be three that we recommend.

Content Management/Version Control:

The OSGeo Foundation has created a Subversion repository for our use. This will be a storage facility where people can add documents and check *development ver-*

sions out for editing. A small committee is in the process of setting the system up and testing it out with the goal of developing a short tutorial to guide our authors. There will be designated *owners* or *maintainers* of educational content. This, we hope, will support building the capability for *new derivative work* based on previous content.

Distribution of "Production" content:

We will try and utilize the OSGeo Wiki to distribute "major" versions of educational content. The idea is when a document is ready for distribution to the masses, it gets converted to PDF format and posted to the Wiki.

Search facility:

A still open issue is building an adequate search facility of educational material. Our inventory wiki page is getting very long already and currently there is no easy way to query for educational material (e.g., show me all the content that is related to GRASS). One important point we seem to be in agreement on is that we want to store educational material by *module* and associated course, but not just by course. This will allow future users to be able to *pick and choose* content from a variety of sources. In 2007 we investigated potential options with *module* capability, including Rice Connections repository. But currently group members have suggested to try out the OSGeo wiki for this purpose, using *category tags*. Landon Blake offered to write a simple desktop GUI that could be used to search for OSGeo educational content. In 2008 we will be continuing to work on this, starting with the idea of using the wiki.

FreeGIS book

- Víctor Olaya Ferrero, Universidad de Extremadura, Spain has been providing leadership in this education sub-project.
- The table of contents has been fully defined, and each chapter has at least a main author, which is responsible of it.
- A first meeting of authors was held in Valencia in November. A date (March 4th, 2008) was set for a new meeting, and a list of main issues to discuss has been defined.
- So far, more than 430 pages have already been written. All the chapters have at least a brief introduction and a list of key points, so authors of others chapters can know its content and take it into account when writing their own ones.

- One model that is beginning to emerge is the idea of writing articles for the OSGeo Journal that then will be added as chapters to this book. Currently Landon Blake has written a rough draft of Geospatial Metadata chapter intending to follow this model of production.

Multilanguage Dictionary

Work on the [OSGeo Multilanguage Dictionary](#)⁷ project has really just started and Landon Blake has agreed to lead this subcommittee. Several team members are planning on adding definitions to the dictionary based on their current work.

OSGeo Education and General Marketing

Puneet Kishor (University of Wisconsin, Madison) has, over the last year, been involved in several major events where he has been promoting OSGeo Education (and OSGeo in general) activities, including: The Science Commons Open Access Data Meeting; The US National Academies at the workshop on "Information Commons for Science"; The Brazilian workshop "Strategies for Permanent and Open Access to Scientific Data"; UNESCO Paris meeting on "Common Use Licensing of Scientific Data; Specialists Meeting on Volunteered Geographic Information" at Santa Barbara.

Areas for Improvement

We continue to think that there are probably opportunities connecting the Education activities with the OSGeo projects and that we do not have an adequate inventory of educational material available in these projects. It might be helpful to have a designated person from each project be represented and active on this committee.

There appears to be some interest to develop a **packaged CD for Ubuntu** to launch at FOSS4G 2008. This seems to cross several OSGeo committees and we haven't been able to get this mobilized. We have heard that there may be some efforts already underway (perhaps by groups outside of OSGeo) toward this end.

Opportunities to Help

First, we can always use help on any one of the major activities listed above. In addition, more specifically, we could use help on:

⁷Multilanguage Dictionary Project: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/OSGeo_Multilanguage_Dictionary

Inventorying Training Material Not Yet Listed

We are pretty sure that other OSGeo-related projects have tutorials or educational material that we have not inventoried. We encourage other OSGeo participants (and others outside of OSGeo) to add their components to our [Educational Content Inventory](#)⁸ page. If someone would step up to take the lead in contacting each OSGeo project and ask them about relevant educational material we could list or point to, and to encourage them to list any future material on our inventory page, that would be a great help.

Translations

In all of our existing documentation, we could use people to either translate existing tutorials into other languages other than English or by contributing new educational content, or new dictionary terms and definitions. And there is a sizable (400+ pages) written for the FreeGIS book written in Spanish, that we could use translations done into English.

Developing New Educational Material

If you are interested, please add an entry to our [Commitments for New Material Development](#) page.⁹

Developing a Search Mechanism

Currently, all our tutorials are listed in the wiki and typically linked to outside sources. As this list grows, we think we need better methods of finding relevant material for end users.

Developing the Process/System for New Derivative Works

Ultimately, we are working toward a system where people can utilize and download training material and update it where deemed necessary. We haven't yet had that situation happen, but we are getting close. If someone reading this is interested in utilizing someone else's existing content listed on our [Educational Content Inventory](#)¹⁰ page, and wants to create a new derivative of the content, please contact the author of the content and copy the chair of the Education Committee (Charlie Schweik at: cschweik AT pubpol DOT umass DOT edu).

⁸Educational Content Inventory: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Educational_Content_Inventory

⁹New Material Development: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Commitments_for_New_Material_Development

¹⁰Educational Content Inventory: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Educational_Content_Inventory

¹¹Educational Content Inventory: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Educational_Content_Inventory

¹²Free GIS Book: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Free_GIS_Book

¹³OSGeo Multilanguage Dictionary: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/OSGeo_Multilanguage_Dictionary

Outlook for 2008

Our primary goals for the next FOSS4G conference is to have, in place:

1. An initial **set of educational material** with *designated maintainers* that is open access and, at least in some instances, allows for new derivatives ([Educational Content Inventory](#)¹¹);
2. A working content versioning system (probably Subversion-based);
3. A system for **searching educational material** that will allow, as new material is added, users to find tutorial *modules* or complete courses, relatively easily;
4. Recommended **authoring tools** that are easy to use and help us move forward in developing a library of educational material. We intend to accept material in any digital form, but our hope is we can develop some easy standards that will enhance the searchability of the tutorials as our library grows.
5. Continued efforts on the [Free GIS Book](#)¹² and [OSGeo Multilanguage Dictionary](#);¹³

New Educational Material

Several OSGeo education members are developing new teaching material and have made informal commitments to make some or all content available through the OSGeo educational collaborative.

These are (in no particular order):

- *Advanced Topics in Geographic Information Systems* (Scott Mitchell, Carleton U., Canada. Language: English)
- *QGIS and GRASS orientation workshop* (Scott Mitchell, Carleton U., Canada. Language: English)
- *Exploring and Interpolating Fields* (Maria Antonia Brovelli, Polytechnic of Milan and Polytechnic of Zurich and Markus Neteler, Centre for Alpine Ecology, Italy. Language: English)
- *Training Notes on Spatial Data Sharing using FOSS 2008* (Venkatesh Raghavan, Osaka City University, Japan and colleagues Shinji Masumoto, Sarawut Ninsawat, Daisuke Yoshida, Susumu Nonogaki, Willington Siabato. Language: not specified)

- *E-course on FOSS GIS* (Moritz Lennert, Free University of Brussels, Belgium. Language: French)
- *Geospatial Analysis, Modeling and Visualization* (title may change). (Helena Mitasova, North Carolina State University, USA. Language: English.)
- *Introduction to Remote Sensing using FOSS* (set of modules). (Ned Horning, American Museum of Natural History, USA, and Maili Page and Charlie Schweik, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA)

More detail on these efforts are listed [here](#).¹⁴

In addition, members will continue to market our education efforts and OSGeo in general. One member, Puneet Kishor will be giving lectures at a data and management workshop in Panama City organized by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and CATHALAC, and then later in spring he will be presenting a paper at AAAS. In both events he intends to underscore the need for open geospatial data and education information

Public Geospatial Data Committee

Period covered by report: Jan-Dec 2007

Contact name: David Bitner

Key Accomplishments

- Presentations and BOF at FOSS4G2007
- Support of Open Street Map, Open Aerial Map, and the Flight Gear Scenery Project
- Support of pulling together imagery during San Diego fires
- First [OSGeo Educational data set](#) available¹⁵

Areas for Improvement

- Clear mission and direction that make it clear to members and outsiders who we are and what we do
- Work with others with similar goals so as not to reinvent the wheel
- Partner with those who need support of our resources
- Work more closely with Education Committee and education datasets

- Define clear areas where volunteers can be engaged

Opportunities to Help

- Strategic Planning – without clear direction, it is hard to know where we can put peoples' efforts to work
- Cataloguing work - both on software setup side (GeoNetwork) and collecting metadata for public data sets
- [Open Geodata Licensing](#) success stories - writing about how your organisation or project has moved to an open licensing approach, sharing decisions with others¹⁶

Outlook for 2008

- Revised Mission
- Clear Directions
- Well defined areas where volunteers can get engaged
- A "GeoPortal" to data running on OSGeo systems

¹⁴Education material: http://wiki.osgeo.org/index.php/Commitments_for_New_Material_Development

¹⁵Education data set: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Edu_Data_Package_North_Carolina

¹⁶Open Geodata Licensing success stories: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Geodata_Licensing

Incubation Committee

Period covered by report: Jan-Dec 2007

Contact name: Frank Warmerdam

Members: Frank Warmerdam (chair), Chris Holmes, Robert Bray, Mark Lucas, Cameron Shorter, Steve Lime, Arnulf Christl, Jody Garnett, Markus Neteler, Paul Spencer, Richard Gould, Norman Vine, Daniel Morissette, Howard Butler, Jeroen Ticheler, Julien-Samuel Lacroix

Key Accomplishments

The following projects entered incubation in 2007:

- gvSIG
- FDO
- QGIS
- GeoNetwork
- GEOS

The following projects graduated from incubation in 2007:

- [OpenLayers](#)¹⁷
- [MapGuide Open Source](#)¹⁸

The following project applications for incubation are pending:

- GeoMOOSE
- ORCHESTRA
- deegree

- JVNMobileGIS

This year we approved the [Project Graduation Checklist](#)¹⁹

Work Areas

The committee struggled with several issues this year, and will continue to work on them:

- What degree of professional legal support should be bringing to the incubation process?
- What key qualities do we look for in new projects?
- Is incubation suitable for geodata projects or other kinds of projects that do not meet our normal software project expectations?
- What support should be providing to new projects just getting established?
- How much should a mentor be doing to encourage a project in the incubation process?
- Should we providing more resources, or applying additional pressure to projects that appear stalled in incubation?

Outlook for 2008

There are several projects that appear close to graduation and we see continued interest by new projects in joining OSGeo through the incubation process.

¹⁷OpenLayers: <http://www.osgeo.org/openlayers>

¹⁸MapGuide Open Source: <http://www.osgeo.org/mapguide>

¹⁹Project Graduation Checklist: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Project_Graduation_Checklist

Journal

The Official Publication of OSGeo

Period covered by report: Jan-Dec 2007

Contact Name: Tyler Mitchell, Editor-in-chief

A New Work

In late February, 2007, the OSGeo Journal was born. In total, 3 volumes of the Journal were published in 2007. The purpose of this new project was threefold but has continued to morph into much more:

1. Present News items from across the OSGeo community
2. Collect Case Studies showing the application of OSGeo-related (and other) technologies
3. Introduce readers to projects, local chapters and other works in OSGeo



Key Accomplishments

This first year of the OSGeo Journal was an exploratory pilot to gauge several things. The results were highly successful, here are a few of the highlights.

Making It Real

Initially we weren't sure how much interest there would be in reading or writing for the Journal. The concept had been tested before under the GRASS News effort. Once we started collecting articles for the first volume, we had no problem seeing that a second volume would be easy to collect content for. The third held the FOSS4G conference proceedings and this report you are reading now, is

²⁰Open Journal System: <http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs>

the fourth. Interest continues to grow at a pace slightly faster than we can currently meet. This is encouraging and shows great opportunities for the future.

Interest Growing

After publishing the first three volumes of the Journal, interest began to grow considerably. There has also been added interest from the academic community looking for a place to published papers that fit the goals of the Journal. This is seen as an important accomplishment because there are really no other venues of this sort available to academic authors.

Team Growing

Our team has also continued to grow. Since starting up with only a few editors, we now have more than 10 people helping in different capacities as editors, plus several others who are available to help as reviewers. We also have an editor/manager overseeing the upcoming peer review processes.

Language Translation

The Francophone Local Chapter has done a tremendous job translating the Journal from English into French. This is not a simple affair and was done very efficiently. It is a great compliment to have this local chapter believe enough in the value of the publication to see the worth in doing this work. Thank you to the group for taking this on. We continue to try to improve the process of Journal production so that the translation can be done easily. Other language groups are always welcome to join in.

Areas for Improvement

There are several areas where we are trying to improve:

- Streamline the process using the Open Journal System (OJS)²⁰.
- Involving more editors and reviewers.
- Providing peer review opportunities.
- Improving layout and design for more attractive printing.
- Spreading the word about the Journal.

Opportunities to Help

You are welcome to help with any of the above areas, in particular we need help running and maintaining the OJS instance²¹, so it can become the primary portal for the Journal. Also, the production has been funnelled,

largely, through a few individuals. Opening up the process for others to help is important for the long term sustainability of the project. Editors, designers, reviewers and authors are all welcome to join. Please introduce yourself on our [mailing list](#) to show your interest.

Marketing Committee

Period covered by report: Jan-Dec 2007

Contact name: [Arnulf Christl](#)

Key Accomplishments

- Revived and then renamed “Visibility and Promotion” to “Marketing”
- Refocused marketing strategy
- Helped organize several events
- Helped create and produce info material
- [GeoConnexion Column](#)²² featuring OSGeo-related articles, thanks to Michael Gerlek
- Started [Service Provider Directory](#)²³
- Started and maintained list of [Advocacy](#) related pages²⁴

Areas for Improvement

- Grow the team!
- Better maintain the [Events Category](#)²⁵
- Request for and then spend money for focused activities
- Spawn and nurse local initiatives
- Maybe focus more on attracting sponsors?

Opportunities to Help

- Join the [Marketing Mailing List](#) to stay up to date on what is happening²⁶
- Create brochures, information material and content for the [Library](#)²⁷ and [Resources](#) pages.²⁸
- Promote OSGeo by linking to the OSGeo portal page ([osgeo.org](#)) and [Wiki](#). Use an [OSGeo Logo](#) on your page.
- Join the local organizing committee. Don't have one? Create it! Don't know how to? Ask the Marketing Mailing List.
- Translate portal page and information material
- Join regular IRC meetings
- Add events to the Wiki. Don't know how to? Ask the [Marketing Mailing List](#).

Outlook for 2008

- Update Logo for graduated projects and sponsors
- More appearances at events
- Create high quality brochure (under way)
- Create communication concept for further planning of focused activities (under way)
- Contact service providers individually to join directory and appear as sponsors

²¹OSGeo OJS instance: <http://osgeo.org/ojs>

²²GeoConnexion Column: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoConnexion_Column

²³Service Provider Directory: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Service_Provider_Directory

²⁴Advocacy related pages: <http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Category:Advocacy>

²⁵Events Category: <http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Category:Events>

²⁶Marketing Mailing List: <http://lists.osgeo.org/mailman/listinfo/marketing>

²⁷Library materials: <http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Library>

²⁸Marketing Resources: <http://www.osgeo.org/visibility>

Systems Administration Committee

Period covered by report: Jan-Dec 2007

Contact name: Howard Butler

Members: Howard Butler (chair), Norman Vine, John Graham, Gary Sherman, Daniel Morissette, Martin Spott, Wolf Bergenheim, Frank Warmerdam, Shawn Barnes

Key Accomplishments

- Completely migrated away from CollabNet and implemented our own infrastructure, which is hosted at [PEER1](http://www.peer1.com).²⁹
- Implemented and maintained several apps: LDAP, Trac, Subversion, Mediawiki, Mailman, Drupal, Buildbot, download server, Subversion mirror, ...

Work Areas

- Remove the wildcard DNS entry for *.osgeo.org, which greatly complicates and limits our infrastructure maintenance.
- Continue migrating member projects who wish to have critical infrastructure bits like Subversion and Trac be hosted by OSGeo.
- Continue towards single sign-on goal – we have Trac, Subversion and Drupal running off LDAP (need Mediawiki and considering Telascience blade logins)
- Keep the lights on...

Website Committee

Period covered by report: Jan-Dec 2007

Contact name: Jason Birch

Key Accomplishments

1. Drupal Updated (Wolf)
2. Layout Updated (many)
3. Many modules added: Calendar, SPD, etc.

4. Multiple translations ongoing

Outlook for 2008

1. Continue to support translators
2. Optimize News and Spotlight publication
3. ...

²⁹PEER1 Hosts: <http://www.peer1.com>

This PDF article file is a sub-set from the larger
OSGeo Journal. For a complete set of articles
please the Journal web-site at:

<http://osgeo.org/journal>

This report was published through the OSGeo Journal, whose normal production team is listed below:

Editor in Chief:

Tyler Mitchell - [tmitchell AT osgeo.org](mailto:tmitchell@osgeo.org)

Editor, News:

Jason Fournier

Editor, Case Studies:

Micha Silver

Editor, Project Spotlights:

Martin Wegmann

Editor, Integration Studies:

Martin Wegmann

Editor, Programming Tutorials:

Landon Blake

Editor, Event Reports:

Jeff McKenna

Editor, Topical Studies:

Dr. Markus Lupp

Peer Review Manager:

Daniel Ames

Acknowledgements

Various reviewers & the GRASS News Project

The *OSGeo Journal* is a publication of the *OSGeo Foundation*. The base of this journal, the L^AT_EX 2^ε style source has been kindly provided by the GRASS and R News editorial board.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivative Works 3.0 License. To view a copy of this licence, visit: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California 94105, USA.



All articles are copyrighted by their respective authors. Please use the OSGeo Journal url for submitting articles, more details concerning submission instructions can be found on the OSGeo homepage.

Journal online: <http://www.osgeo.org/journal>

OSGeo Homepage: <http://www.osgeo.org>

Mail contact through OSGeo, PO Box 4844, Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada, V2G 2V8



ISSN 1994-1897