

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

Autodesk

INPE
MINISTERIO DA CIENCIA E TECNOLOGIA
 INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PESQUISAS ESPACIAIS

INGRES

LIZARDTECH
a celartem Company

1Spatial

FIRSTBASESOLUTIONS

WhereGroup

Sponsors (2007)



Autodesk

Robert Bray & Nathalie Mainland

Autodesk recognizes the benefits of a vibrant geospatial open source community, which fosters greater innovations that meet the specific needs of users. Throughout the year, Autodesk continued to support the open source community and encourage community participation – from helping develop applications, to technology donations and participation at FOSS4G 2007.

In 2007, Autodesk helped MapGuide Open Source graduate from incubation and saw the development of many exciting applications and general interest in open source GIS software increase. This was most evident at FOSS4G 2007. At the conference, Autodesk showcased several open source innovations: MapGuide Open Source 1.2 and Fusion technology, announced its intent to donate recently-acquired Mentor Software CS-Map technology to OSGeo and hosted several presentations and workshops.

One exciting application, the [San Francisco Urban Forest Mapping Project](#)⁷⁹ (UFMP), was built on MapGuide Open Source by the San Francisco Department of Public Works and the non-profit Friends of the Urban Forest with the support of Autodesk. The application code for the map of the trees of the city's urban forest was donated back to OSGeo, allowing other cities to easily adapt this unique application.

Open source geospatial software is revolutionizing the way GIS professionals can do their job; it is democratizing access to information and giving smaller organizations with smaller budgets access to top of the line technology for a fraction of the cost. What we find most exciting is the rate of activity with the code – users are building unique applications on top of open source projects to meet their specific needs – users are able to access the latest innovations backed by the support of an entire community of developers. Autodesk is incredibly proud to be involved with OSGeo and are excited to see what 2008 will bring us!

⁷⁹San Francisco Urban Forest Mapping Project: <http://www.urbanforestmap.org>

INGRES

Andrew Ross, on behalf of the team at Ingres

[Ingres](#) was new to join OSGeo in 2007. The enthusiasm for open source within the community was very impressive to see. Also, the quality and diversity of projects was also fascinating.

We attended FOSS4G in Victoria and enjoyed the workshops and presentations. Above all, the people within the community really made a lasting impression on us. We found everyone to be knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and very approachable. The passion for geospatial technology was everywhere. This kind of energy and

talent bodes well for OSGeo in the future.

We decided to support the community through participation, reuse and contributions to common code such as the GEOS library/ OGR/ and more, and through sponsorship of OSGeo and the GDAL/OGR project.

It is our pleasure, and honour to be welcomed into the OSGeo community. We are looking forward to getting to you know each of you better, and working with you in the future.

See you around.

INPE

Brazilian National Institute for Space Research

Lúbia Vinhas

The [Brazilian National Institute for Space Research](#)⁸⁰ - INPE is Brazil's main institution for space science and technology, whose mission includes building satellites, developing environmental applications, and producing weather and climate forecasts. Since 1984, INPE has had a research and development division for GIS to support its actions in earth observation and to promote GIS and remote sensing technology in Brazil. INPE's Image Processing Division was created with the following aims: (a) local development and dissemination of image processing and GIS systems in Brazil; (b) establishment of a research program in Image Processing and GIS, and (c) pursuit of co-operative programs with universities, government organizations and private companies. In 1986, INPE brought out Brazil's first GIS+Image Processing based on an Intel platform. 150 universities and research labs, up to 1996, used the system extensively.

In 1992, given recent advances in hardware and software and the changes in information technology policy in Brazil, INPE started the development of a free GIS software, SPRING, whose first Internet version was made available in late 1996. SPRING provides a comprehensive set of functions for processing of spatial information, including tools for Satellite Image Processing, Digital Terrain Modeling, Spatial Analysis, Geostatis-

tics, Spatial Statistics, Spatial Databases and Map Management.

INPE is a great promoter of free earth observation data. All images of our remote sensing satellites and the maps of Amazon deforestation are available free on the web. To make good use of such free data sets, we need free GIS software. INPE's activities in Earth observation require state-of-the art GIS technology that can handle large environmental data sets. Free GIS tools such as PostGIS are extremely important to support large-scale applications. In a partnership with Computer Graphics Group at the Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro, INPE is developing TerraLib⁸¹ (Câmara, Souza et al. 2000), an open-source GIS component library. TerraLib enables quick development of custom-built applications using spatial databases. Currently, such capabilities are only available by means of proprietary solutions. As a research tool, TerraLib aims to enable the development of GIS prototypes that include new concepts such as spatio-temporal data models, geographical ontologies and advanced spatial analysis techniques.

INPE believes that FOSS does not happen spontaneously. FOSS development must be supported by public and private institutions. For this reason, INPE both maintains its own FOSS4G software development team, and in 2007 INPE became one of the sponsors of OSGeo:

"Networking and best practices are essential conditions for successful FOSS initia-

⁸⁰INPE: <http://inpe.br/>

⁸¹TerraLib site: <http://www.terralib.org/>

tives. INPE considers that the FOSS4G community needs an organization that can provide the links between the developers and also between developers and users. OSGeo

provides the connections that are fundamental in FOSS4G."

said Dr. Gilberto Câmara, INPE's general director.

1Spatial

Graham Stickler

The Open Source Geospatial Foundation has proved to be one of those organisations that is here to stay and is adding value by helping to promote and deliver open source solutions. If you think back 10 to 12 years and look what the Open Geospatial Consortium has achieved and how it has developed since then, I imagine (and hope) OSGeo will have a similar impact and reach in the geospatial community. 1Spatial is proud to be associated with OSGeo since its inception and to be once more supporting OSGeo as a Sponsor in 2008.

1Spatial also participated in the annual worldwide Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial conference (FOSS4G) held in Victoria, Canada, in September 2007, with Chris Tagg, our Radius Studio Product Manager, giving a presentation entitled "Opening Spa-

tial Databases for Data Quality Certification". His presentation discussed the importance of spatial data quality and how, by embracing Open Source technologies, the ability to assess and transform spatial data to ensure it is fit for purpose is possible, regardless of where your spatial datasets are held and the format they are in.

The presentation focussed specifically on the concept of using the Feature Data Object (FDO) open source Application Programming Interface (API) for manipulating, defining, and analysing geospatial information, regardless of where it is stored. Using FDO as a data access bridge we have been able to open up business opportunities previously unavailable to us. Working with the OSGeo community has also helped us to provide a cost-effective and robust solution using open source experts and technologies.

First Base Solutions

Andrew Chan

First Base Solutions (FBS) joined the OSGeo community as a supporter and sponsor in 2007. The company sent a number of staff to the 2007 FOSS4G conference in Victoria and was impressed with the exponential growth in attendees.

At FBS we use the OSGeo libraries and applications to power our various web map on-line repositories and stores, including VuMAP and MapWarehouse.

We are currently incorporating OSGeo applications into GeoARK, our new map appliance that works with Google Earth Enterprise.

OSGeo has given us the means to take development in-house rather than rely on outsourcing resulting in reduced costs.

It is gratifying to see the geospatial industry embracing OSGeo as more companies discover the value of the technology that has been created through open source initiatives.

LizardTech

Michael P. Gerlek

[LizardTech](#) has been a supporter and a sponsor of OSGeo since its inception, and in 2007 we were pleased to see OSGeo continue to evolve and grow and mature. From its beginnings, OSGeo has been about building a community, not just a repository of software.

This past year, we've seen the birth of a number of OSGeo chapters, based around communities of regional interest or common language. The Cascadia Users of Geospatial Open Source (CUGOS) formed here in Seattle back in February, meeting every month here at LizardTech's offices in Seattle – it's nice to have a chance

to meet other open source geo folks face-to-face for a change, instead of just trading emails and IRC messages.

We were also very fortunate this year to meet the global OSGeo community at the FOSS4G conference in Victoria. LizardTech sent five engineers up for the week, and all came home with a much better appreciation of the broad set of libraries and applications we can build on, as well as the people who work on them.

For many years, LizardTech has relied on open source software as one of our strategies for more effective development of robust software. We're proud to associate ourselves with OSGeo, and look forward to another year of collaboration and growth.

WhereGroup

Olaf Knopp & Athina Trakas

The [WhereGroup](#) GmbH & Co. KG is a commercial service provider for spatial Free and Open Source Software solutions based in Bonn, Germany. The WhereGroup's business philosophy is straight forward commercial consultation, development and deployment of user oriented solutions based on professional Open Source software components.

Thus the support of OSGeo is not a question for us but the consequence of our daily business. The OSGeo software stack is the first choice for the WhereGroup when implementing SDIs based on standardized OGC interfaces. Therefore we do not only promote OSGeo in Germany, Europe and worldwide, but support the Foundation at several levels internally and externally: we have actively participated in building policies and shaping the governance models through Arnulf Christl who is a founding member and currently on the OSGeo board of directors.

At the development level we contribute manpower and resources to the Mapbender project, the first project to officially graduate in OSGeo. We have organized the main German language events with OSGeo appearance together with other companies. These activities include the OSGeo Park at the Intergeo trade fair, the Ger-

man language FOSSGIS conference or the Open Source Day at the AGIT conference in Austria. Through these events and appearances at many more smaller events we reach out to several thousand people every year building a solid foundation of trust. Besides investing time and money at this volunteer level inside OSGeo, the WhereGroup also promotes OSGeo at it's own premium event, the Where2B conference, web site, portals, Wikis, news channels and conferences - obviously for no extra charge.

Last but not least our hope is that sponsoring the Foundation will bring some value back to all those who do the grunt work for OSGeo, be it the operation of the CMS, Wiki, SVN, Trac, Mailing lists and all the rest of the infrastructure. This infrastructure forms the platform that Open Source software projects and communities need to develop and grow. We welcome other companies to join this business model and use the OSGeo software stack to generate business. Software is the only product that grows by giving it away. It takes some time and some brains to recognize and understand this, but once adopted it quickly becomes apparent that it is simply the next step in the evolution of how people make business in the immaterial world of software.

We do not only talk cooperation - we live it.

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