OSGeo Journal

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A collection of recent News and Announcements

Compiled by Jason Fournier

OSGeo's 1st Anniversary

February 4th, 2007 was the first anniversary of OSGeo. At that time 25 people met face-to-face, and many more via phone and IRC, to discuss the possibility of starting an umbrella organisation. These participants represented over 13 different open source projects. The foundational purpose of the organisation was to help promote and continue to develop open source tools in the geospatial sphere. Since that time, much has happened and momentum around OSGeo continues to develop.

For an overview of many of the highlights from the first year please visit Tyler's blog.[1]

OSGeo Accepted for Google Summer of Code 2007

OSGeo is pleased to announce that Google has accepted OSGeo as a mentoring organization for the Google Summer of Code 2007 program. This program provides funding for students to work on open source projects under the support of experienced mentors. The projects participating through OSGeo are GDAL, GeoServer, GeoTools, GRASS, MapGuide, PostGIS, uDig, OpenJUMP and MapServer. Students interested in participating can find more information on OSGeo project ideas on the OSGeo wiki[2] and more information about the program as a whole at on Google's SOC site [3]

Source: OSGeo-Announce list and OSGeo website[4]

New Sponsors

In addition to continuing Sustaining Sponsor Autodesk, new Associate Sponsors include Lizardtech, 1Spatial and First Base Solutions:

- Autodesk - `http://www.autodesk.com`
- Lizardtech - `http://lizardtech.com`
- 1Spatial - `http://www.1spatial.com`
- First Base Solutions - `http://www.firstbasesolutions.com`

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[1]Tyler's anniversary blog article: `http://www.osgeo.org/tyler/osgeo_1st_anniversary`

[2]Summer of code project ideas: `http://wiki.osgeo.org/index.php/2007_SoC_Merged_Ideas`

[3]SOC web site: `http://code.google.com/soc/`

[4]SOC online announcement: `http://osgeo.org/news/soc2007`

GDAL Sponsors

There are also several sponsors who have provided support for GDAL/OGR development through OSGeo's sponsorship programme.

PROJECT NEWS

This section includes brief updates about various projects. For more specific details see the Developer Announcements section on page **??**.

MapGuide

March 2007 - MapGuide graduated from OSGeo Incubation, showing an acceptable level of participation, freedom from code encumbrances, and use of standard open source development methodologies. MapGuide Open Source is currently at version 1.1.0.

MapServer

The MapServer development team plans to release version 5.0 by the end of summer 2007. The 5.0 Release Plan outlines a number of planned updates, including:

- Support for AGG, an up and coming image renderer as an alternative to GD
- Upgrade of WMS support to version 1.3.0
- Improved OGC SOS Server support
- New OGC OWS Common support version 1.0.0
- Dynamic charting capability
- Label prioritization
- MapScript memory management fixes
- Redesign of the LOG/DEBUG output mechanism

The MapServer Release Plan[5] for version 5.0 is online.

Mapbender

Mapbender has recently announced a series of new features as well as future roadmap for new developments, including:

- Integration of OpenLayers as an optional Mapbender module is scheduled for 2007

- WFS-T / Digitizing enhancement: handling of complex geometries
- Wider use of AJAX /JSON and OO technology: improvement of module interfaces to do justice to wider development audience
- Evaluation of packing algorithms: due to traffic minimization, there are few source code comments. JSDoc and PHPDoc will be used to comment in the future. The traffic issue will be resolved by extracting the comments prior to deployment and by packing JS-code.

GDAL/OGR

GDAL/OGR has announced it's 1.4.1 release this past quarter. It has launched a Sponsorship program through OSGeo. The first sponsors are Analytical Graphics, Applied Coherent Technology, SRC, Safe Software, Cadcorp, Waypoint, MicroImages and i-Cubed.

GeoNetwork

Update on developments in the first Quarter of 2007. Work has been concentrated on a couple of aspects of the project lately. They are:

- Development of GeoNetwork opensource version 2.1 resulting in beta releases
- Upgrading of the Community website
- Work related to the OSGEO incubation process

GRASS GIS

Project Update 2007 - Q1:

- Italian GRASS and GFOSS Users Meeting - GRASS and GFOSS Users Meeting, Palermo (Italy), 14-16 Feb 2007
- 12 Feb 2007: New GRASS bug and wish tracker - Gforge based
- 10 Feb 2007: GRASS GIS 6.2.1 winGRASS/Cygwin binaries available

Quantum GIS

The QGIS project officially enter OSGeo incubation in March 2007. This starts the incubation process to bring QGIS into full OSGeo membership. OSGeo is currently incubating a number of projects and QGIS joins GRASS and OSSIM in the Desktop Applications category.

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[5]MapServer Release Plan: `http://mapserver.gis.umn.edu/development/release_plans/mapserver_5_0`

UPCOMING EVENTS

These are only a few of the upcoming events that OSGeo and its members will be presence at over the next few months.

III MapServer Users National Meeting, Brasilia

May 9-11, 2007 This is the MapServer and open source geospatial conference held in Brasilia, Brazil. See `http://www7.univali.br/elis2/enum07/` for English and for Portuguese information.

Where 2.0, San Jose

May 29-30, 2007 The O'Reilly Where 2.0 conference held in San Jose, California, USA. More information: `http://conferences.oreillynet.com/where2007/`.

OSCON 2007, Portland

July 23-27, 2007 The O'Reilly Open Source Convention held in Portland, Oregon, USA. More information: `http://conferences.oreillynet.com/os2007/`.

Map Asia 2007, Kuala Lumpur

August 14-16, 2007 The 6th Annual International Conference and Exhibition on Geographical Information Technology and Applications. The conference theme is *Maponomics — Economic Growth Thorough Geo-Information Technology*. Map Asia leverages an international initiative aimed to provide an apt platform for the convergence, sharing and use of Geospatial technologies. Founded in the year 2002, Map Asia is the largest Annual Asian Conference and Exhibition in the field of GIS, GPS, Aerial Photography and Remote Sensing. Held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. More information: `http://www.mapasia.org`.

FOSS4G 2007, Victoria

September 24-27, 2007 The annual Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) conference brings together the people who create, use, and support open spatial software. No other event brings together members of the open source development, open data creation, and open standards promotion communities like FOSS4G. The event will be held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information please visit the FOSS4G 2007 homepage: `http://www.foss4g2007.org/`.

INTERGEO, Leipzig

September 25-27, 2007 Conference and trade fair for geodesy, geoinformation and land management held in Leipzig, Germany. They expect over 17,000 visitors from more than 80 countries. More information at: `http://www.intergeo.de`.

BOARD

Highlights from recent OSGeo Board of Directors meetings:

- Confirmed Howard Butler as new SAC chair
- Approved formation of New Mexico USA local chapter
- Approved motion for MapGuide OS to graduate from Incubation
- Approved motion for QGIS and FDO to enter Incubation
- Support OSGeo participation in the Google Summer of Code
- Appointed Tyler as OSGeo secretary to replace Rich, and as Chief Returning Officer for to coordinate/monitor elections
- Approved Board and Membership Election Procedures
- Tasked CRO to start with Charter Membership election process
- Financial review

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