MapServer Software Project Report

About MapServer

MapServer is an Open Source platform for publishing spatial data and interactive mapping applications to the web. Originally developed in the mid-1990's at the University of Minnesota, MapServer is released under an MIT-style license, and runs on all major platforms (Windows, Linux, Mac OS X).

Key Accomplishments

MapServer Version 6.2 was released on November 14, 2012. This was a major release that included several new features. These features included mask layers, precise symbol placement, label leader offsetting, SVG symbology and multiple font support.

There were also several minor releases of MapServer during 2012. This included the release of Version 6.0.2 on February 8, 2012 and Version 6.0.3 on May 18, 2012.

The MapServer Software Project participated in the Seattle/IslandWood

Code Spring in February 2012.

The project also made a migration of their source code repository and ticket management from SVN and Trac to GitHub.

Areas for Improvement

It remains a challenge for the project to keep documentation up-to-date and to continue to attract additional programmers to the project. There is a backlog of 550 or more open bugs that need to be addressed and triaged more effectively. The software project would also like to attract more students for Google Summer of Code.

Opportunities to Help

The MapServer Software Project could use help with maintenance of the project website, project documentation, and translation efforts. New programmers are always welcome, and a great place to start work is the bug reports. Experienced users can contribute to the release process by testing the release candidates and reporting their results.

Outlook for 2013

MapServer will participate in the Boston Code Sprint in March, 2013. Mapserver 6.4 will also be released in 2013. A list of planned enhancements to MapServer 6.4 is available.