Wisconsin Consolidated Geodetic Control
OGC-WFS Service Project

Establishing Framework Data Services using the OpenGIS Web Feature Service

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT
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U.S. Geological Survey
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Final Report

Title: Wisconsin Consolidated Geodetic Control OGC-WFS Service Project

Geographic Extent Served by Project: State of Wisconsin

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Collaborating Organizations:
Various organizations have and/or continue to collaborate with us to make geodetic control accessible. Our closest collaborators include Wisconsin’s NGS State Advisor, the USGS Wisconsin liaison, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and many Wisconsin counties.
I. Summary

We oriented our goals for this project along two tracks: an institutional model for partnering, demonstration and education of emerging data exchange technologies and standards; and a technical model for geodetic control framework data integration and delivery. Our institutional model looks at a hybrid approach for framework data integration providing outreach and education to a range of partners from those who would contribute their data in native format to those who would author it from the source as a standards-compliant OGC web service. Our technical model involves exploration and demonstration of open standards and technologies for delivery from both a centralized data model as well as pass-through publishing of information directly from data custodians via cascading web services. Such models hold promise for further solidifying Wisconsin’s emerging spatial data infrastructure. To that end (that never ends) we divided each of the institutional and technical activities into subcategories of effort.

From the institutional perspective, we identified the need for a) online application and desktop client support for these types of standards-based feature services; and b) investigation to find local, regional, or state partners through which to demonstrate the ability to cascade these types of services through neutral needs-based community schemas, whether content standards for federal exchange or state application; and c) compelling cases at the state or federal level for accelerating this activity.

More specifically on the technical framework side, through authoring our geodetic control point web feature service, we looked at a) open source software support for open web services of neutral federal content standards expressed as XML schemas as well as b) incremental automation of the contribution process while relaying best practices for data/metadata maintenance to custodians; and c) ultimately, pursuit of partnering opportunities for direct web services delivery of control from local custodians to an integrated portal application.

Below are outlined our specific successes; technical capabilities; strengths and weaknesses; and finally, future directions as we continue to work harder than ever on these efforts while always seeking wider collaboration and consensus.
II. Successes and Challenges

Specific accomplishments with noted challenges in institutional partnering and collaboration include:

Partnering -

- Contacted 31 non-partnering counties resulting in 10 contributing partners as well as identification of 7 counties that submit control directly to NGS;
- To 21 current and in-progress contributors, provided information and advice on data quality documentation and format maintenance for exchange with applications;
- Prioritized remaining potential contributors in conjunction with and weighted against ramping up PLSS integration effort (see Workflow/application support);
- Strengthened relationship with county partners, WI DOT regional offices and local surveying community as consumers of control point information from the ControlFinder (http://www.sco.wisc.edu/geocat/) application;
- **Challenge:** Did not contact all remaining counties due to unforeseen obstacles in both determining appropriate point of contact as well as time to address broad-ranging questions ranging from privacy/security to standard content definitions;
- **Challenge:** Did not follow up on initial invitation to communicate with NGS IT regarding NGS delivery of control – this is discussed in Future Activities.

Workflow/application support -

- Adapted ControlFinder to more specific and changing GPS- and workflow-based output formats as segue to finding WFS position in workflow chain;
- Noted inclusion of ControlFinder in WI Dept. of Transportation regional training video for survey workflow;
- Investigated some commercial, open source and online clients for WFS consumption and demonstration including ArcGIS 8.x-9.1, Gaia 1.0-2.x, Udig 1.0-x and while no direct web client demonstrations were performed, we continue to pursue this goal;
- Effectively incorporated Online Condition Reports for communication back to data custodians; as well as uplift of local partners through data pass-back in updated format with metadata file;
- Are driving force behind Wisconsin Coordinate System Task Force – while this is an ancillary activity, it has been instrumental in clarifying, correcting and enabling quality control point information integration across County coordinate systems independent of software platform;
- Extended partnering model to create integrated application view of PLSS corner information, often from same contributing partners – a prototype exists and is under development for release in early 2007;
- **Challenge:** We continue to watch for better commercial software support as well as compelling use case scenario for WFS service provision or consumption from state or federal initiatives.
OGC Services Outreach –
- Gave presentations at the 2004 Great Lakes Regional Data Exchange (RDX), Wisconsin Land Information Association, Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors, UW campus and Madison Area Surveyors’ Council;
- Continue collaboration, discussion and demonstration within Wisconsin DNR, more recently with the DNR’s Great Lakes Office with respect to our Great Lakes Strategy as well as in observing DNR prototyping of XML-based exchange of data with EPA via their Exchange Network initiative;
- Actively work with UW Sea Grant and UW Environmental Remote Sensing Center in overseeing parallel projects under Institute for Application of Geospatial Technologies (IAGT-Auburn, NY) and Great Lakes Commission (GLC-Ann Arbor, MI) for multi-jurisdictional and regional integration efforts.

III. Technical Details

Specific data management and web service details include:

Data management status -
- Framework data theme service: consolidated geodetic control, PLSS in work;
- Framework data volume: ~25,000 control point records, further divided up as: 10,650 NGS records – 2950 of which are further identified as Wisconsin Height Modernization points; 10,400 USGS 3rd order vertical control; and 3250 local control records; stored in a PostGIS spatial database;
- Primary partnering organizations providing data include NGS, WI Dept. of Transportation and ~ 20 Wisconsin counties;
- Hardware/software configuration: Apple OS X server running Apache web server, PostGIS/Postgresql spatial database, MapServer for web services authoring, and custom scripts for schema manipulation.

WFS status -
- WFS server registration: not yet registered with geodata.gov
- Access experience: Our experience has been that there is not yet well-founded support for WFS services in existing clients – client-side or server-side. We continue to pursue demonstration of utility inside our own application as demonstration for other potential application clients.
- WFS user base: There is not yet demand for this sophisticated level of feature-based data delivery, at least for geodetic control here in Wisconsin.

Project Management -
- Project continuance: This project has and will continue into the foreseeable future as a core function of the State Cartographer’s Office.
- The next phases in this project are discussed below under next steps but are detailed briefly here as:
  1) Installation and testing of Geoserver software as WFS services authoring framework with MapServer providing coupled WMS support;
2) Expansion of framework uplift effort for survey control to include PLSS;
3) Expansion of partnering network to be more comprehensive and incorporate advanced examples of server-based data exchange possibly with NGS, particularly after publishing the new adjustment.

IV. Strengths and Weaknesses

Our continuing primary strength is our long-term connection with and communication paths to local government geospatial data producers in Wisconsin. As our outreach work progresses, we are confident that there are many potential contributors who are yet untapped and willing to collaborate. The other major strength of this project is our ability to sustain the work begun under this grant beyond the end date. This remains a primary activity to which office resources are allocated.

That said, our primary weakness and obstacle to more rapid progress is a lack of official coordination and guidance at the State level in areas such as updated standards for geospatial content and exchange. Wisconsin now has a Geographic Information Officer to spearhead wider adoption and integration of efforts across the state enterprise and recent progress has been made on a Strategic Plan for GIS in Wisconsin as well as recommendations for a state-level geographic coordination council to guide state efforts.

In lieu of concerted state support for OGC-based delivery of geographic information, we have focused on highlighting, where possible, multi-state regional and federal initiatives to which WFS-based exchange may sooner apply and provide more compelling use case scenarios for our efforts.

Recent work in the State ranging from Census review of local data for TIGER modernization, to FEMA floodplain mapping efforts, to a DNR/EPA data exchange (CDX) project have highlighted the need for interoperable feature-level data exchange standards and catalog services and show promise of increased activity in pursuing these standards in the near future.

V. Conclusions and Future Activities

Our next steps in this initiative fall into 3 categories: expanded partnering and OGC service how-to documentation and outreach; continued demonstration of current open source software as part of a web services authoring framework; and extension of the partnering model for PLSS integration. Brenda Hemstead is the point of contact for existing and new partnering agencies. She continues to pursue new partners, educate them on current status of standards and activities, and generate documentation for undocumented collections. Brenda will also pursue automated integration of NGS data updates in ControlFinder in a demonstrated effort to encourage local web service updates as well. Our outreach efforts with respect to OGC services have been ongoing in the form of lectures, conference presentations, demonstrations, advice to agencies, and
collaboration with other campus units. Whether through outside funding or gradual assembly, one of our goals remains to provide a step-by-step roadmap to authoring and testing OGC web services, particularly for framework applications.

With respect to future technology, our immediate goals are to implement Geoserver software for Web Feature Service delivery from PostGIS spatial database storage. In conjunction, we continue to pursue demonstration of combining OGC services from commercial and open source outlets in both commercial and open source clients to demonstrate community-wide utility.

Finally, our efforts in providing a unified framework service for federal and local geodetic control have led us to adapt our approach to Public Land Survey System control that has been re-monumented by local agencies. PLSS control point information often lies with the same points of contact; has wider potential local appeal and application; and provides a bridge from looking at point-based feature services delivery to building cadastral framework services from local information.

**Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program**

*What are the program strengths and weaknesses?*

In our experience with the CAP program over the years, its primary strength lies in its seed funding approach. The requirement and leveraging of matching funds-effort, and more recently, the evolving nature of grant categories to facilitate relevance in other coordination and integration activities, particularly at the federal level, have been very important. One major weakness is visibility that these efforts are considered timely and important to concurrent federal agency geospatial data exchange/integration efforts. Example efforts that seemingly run parallel but do not yet appear to be fully “plugged in” to the NSDI web services framework would include Census’ TED/TIGER modernization efforts, EPA CDX project prototyping efforts, and FEMA Map Modernization efforts. We hope that current efforts to address Geospatial Enterprise Architecture within Federal Enterprise Architecture will result in much improved and more consistent standards promotion, points of contact, and exchange requirements. This enables us to gain better traction locally with standards efforts.

*Where does the program make a difference?*

The CAP program makes a difference in Wisconsin in subsidizing outreach and education as part of project efforts, often an under-funded component of standards and technology demonstration and promotion. Also, the CAP program is different (and has made a difference) in seed funding information *infrastructure* whereas many sources of external funding emphasize specific applied areas, many of which could benefit from but do not yet have the advantage of a shared spatial data infrastructure approach within the state.

*Was the assistance you received sufficient or effective?*

For this project, the assistance was both sufficient in amount and effective in facilitating our continuing efforts in metadata/data exchange, web services, and clearinghouse technologies outreach in a forward-looking way. Also, FGDC’s flexibility in extending
grant deadlines is of great assistance to us to realize project goals after the initial deadline.

*What would you recommend doing differently?*
No comments.

*Are there factors that are missing or need to consider that were missed?*
No comments.

*Are there program management concerns that need to be addressed? Time frame?*
It is true that it can be difficult to gauge the timeframe for forward-looking infrastructure efforts. When we began this effort, I think we expected a quicker, greater demand for WFS-style services as part of state or federal activities. So while our development efforts under this activity are complete, the outreach and education component often takes a few years in follow-up.

*If you were to do this again, what would you do differently?*
No comments.
Appendix A

WFS URLs

**NGS Geodetic Control Points from Mapserver**

These links provide responses to requests directly to the MapServer WFS server.

**WFS GetCapabilities**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/scowfs3.gc?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&typename=ngs&request=GetCapabilities

**WFS DescribeFeatureType**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/scowfs3.gc?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&typename=ngs&request=DescribeFeatureType

**WFS GetFeature**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/scowfs3.gc?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&typename=ngs&request=GetFeature

**Transformed WFS Service**

These links provide the same WFS as above with the output transformed to meet the framework data content standard.

**WFS GetCapabilities (GML 2.1.2)**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/fullwfs.pl?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&request=GetCapabilities

**WFS DescribeFeatureType (GML 2.1.2)**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/fullwfs.pl?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&request=DescribeFeatureType

**WFS GetFeature (GML 2.1.2)**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/fullwfs.pl?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&request=GetFeature

**WFS GetCapabilities (GML 3.1.1)**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/fullwfs3.pl?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&request=GetCapabilities

**WFS DescribeFeatureType (GML 3.1.1)**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/fullwfs3.pl?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&request=DescribeFeatureType

**WFS GetFeature (GML 3.1.1)**
http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/fullwfs3.pl?service=wfs&version=1.0.0&request=GetFeature
Appendix B

Mapserver Configuration File

NAME cfmap-wfs
STATUS ON
SIZE 400 400
SYMBOLSET "./data/symbols/symbols.sym"
EXTENT -94.88922 42.4918 -84.764 47.08095
UNITS dd
SHAPEPATH "./data/"
IMAGECOLOR 255 255 255

WEB
   IMAGEPATH "./data/tmp/"
METADATA
   "wfs_title" "Wisconsin National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Control Points"
   "wfs_onlineresource" "http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/scowfs3.gc?"
   "wfs_namespace_uri" "http://www.fgdc.gov/framework/geodeticControl"
   "wfs_namespace_prefix" "gc"
   "wfs_srs" "EPSG:4326 EPSG:4269 EPSG:4152 EPSG:26915 EPSG:26916"
   "ows_abstract" "The dataset contains National Geodetic Survey (NGS) control points for the state of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office serves as the custodian of this WFS. Currently only 50 points may be returned at a time from a single request."
   "ows_fees" "none"
   "ows_accessconstraints" "none"
   "ows_contactorganization" "Wisconsin State Cartographer's office"
   "ows_contactposition" "IS - Resource Technician"
   "ows_addresstype" "mailing and physical"
   "ows_address" "550 N. Park St."
   "ows_city" "Madison"
   "ows_stateorprovince" "WI"
   "ows_postcode" "53706"
   "ows_country" "USA"
   "ows_contactvoicetelephone" "608-263-4371"
   "ows_contactfacsimiletelephone" "608-262-5205"
   "ows_emailaddress" "hemstead@wisc.edu"
   "ows_keywordlist" "survey control, geodetic control"
   "ows_schemas_location" "http://schemas.opengis.net"
   "gml_include_items" "all"
   "wfs_maxfeatures" "50"
PROJECTION
  "init=epsg:4326"
END

LAYER
  NAME ngs
  TYPE POINT
  CONNECTIONTYPE postgis
  CONNECTION "user= dbname= host="
  DATA "control_geom from (select oid, category, control_geom, scopid, contributor, contribpid, contribpname, fips, displaylat, displaylong, displaydatum, horlocalaccuracy, hornetworkaccuracy, orthoheight, ellipheight, ortholocalaccuracy, orthonetworkaccuracy, overtunits, url, lldatum from control where category='NGS' ) as ngs using unique oid using srid=-1 "
  STATUS ON
  METADATA
    "wfs_title" "NGS"
    "wfs_extent" "-94.88922 42.4918 -84.764 47.08095"
    "wfs_abstract" "This layer contains NGS control points from the Wisconsin State Cartographers Office."
    "wfs_keywordlist" "survey control, geodetic control"
    "wfs_srs" "EPSG:4326 EPSG:4269 EPSG:4152 EPSG:26915 EPSG:26916"
    "gml_include_items" "all"
END
DUMP TRUE
CLASSITEM 'scopid'
TOLERANCE 5
TOLERANCEUNITS pixels
CLASS
  MAXSCALE 550000
  TEMPLATE 'template.html'
  NAME "jj"
  EXPRESSION /./
  SYMBOL 'circle'
  SIZE 10
  COLOR 255 51 51
  OUTLINECOLOR 0 0 0
END
CLASS
  MAXSCALE 300000
  TEMPLATE 'template.html'
  NAME "jj"
  EXPRESSION /./
  SYMBOL 'circle'
  SIZE 12
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<schema xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
xmlns:gml="http://www.opengis.net/gml"
xmlns:gc="http://www.fgdc.gov/framework/gc"
targetNamespace="http://www.fgdc.gov/framework/gc"
elementFormDefault="qualified" version="05-2005-0.1">
  <import namespace="http://www.opengis.net/gml"
schemaLocation="http://schemas.opengis.net/gml/3.1.1/base/gml.xsd"/>

<!­­ =========================================================== ­­>
<element name="ControlPoints" type="gc:ControlPoints"
substitutionGroup="gml:_Feature"/>
<complexType name="ControlPoints">
  <complexContent>
    <extension base="gml:AbstractFeatureType">
      <sequence>
        <element name="ControlPoint" type="gc:ControlPoint"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      </sequence>
    </extension>
  </complexContent>
</complexType>

<!­­ =========================================================== ­­>
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substitutionGroup="gml:_Feature"/>
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  <complexContent>
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        <element name="horizontalPosition" type="gml:PointPropertyType"/>
        <element name="localHorizontalAccuracy" type="gc:DQ_PositionalAccuracy"/>
        <element name="networkHorizontalAccuracy" type="gc:DQ_PositionalAccuracy"/>
        <element name="horizontalReferenceSystem" type="gc:MD_CRS"/>
        <element name="link" type="gc:ExternalResource" minOccurs="0"/>
        <element name="vertical" type="gc:verticalInformation" minOccurs="0"/>
        <element name="attribute" type="gc:attribute" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      </sequence>
    </extension>
  </complexContent>
</complexType>
<complexType name="uniqueID">
  <sequence>
    <element name="identifier" type="xs:string"/>
    <element name="idAuthority" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
    <element name="description" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
  </sequence>
</complexType>

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  <sequence>
    <element name="individualName" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
    <element name="organisationName" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
    <element name="positionName" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
    <element name="contactInfo" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
    <element name="roleCode" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
  </sequence>
</complexType>

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  <sequence>
    <element name="authority" type="xs:string"/>
    <element name="link" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
    <element name="name" type="xs:string"/>
    <element name="type" type="xs:string"/>
    <element name="value" type="xs:string"/>
  </sequence>
</complexType>

<complexType name="MD_CRS">
  <sequence>
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    <element name="ellipsoid" type="gc:RS_Identifier" minOccurs="0"/>
    <element name="datum" type="gc:RS_Identifier" minOccurs="0"/>
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</complexType>

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    <element name="codespace" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
    <element name="version" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
  </sequence>
</complexType>
<complexType name="verticalInformation">
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        <element name="localVerticalAccuracy" type="gc:DQ_PositionalAccuracy"/>
        <element name="networkVerticalAccuracy" type="gc:DQ_PositionalAccuracy"/>
        <element name="verticalReferenceSystem" type="gc:MD_CRS"/>
    </sequence>
</complexType>

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        <enumeration value="orthometric"/>
        <enumeration value="ellipsoidal"/>
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        <element name="urlType" type="gc:ResourceTypesEnumerationType" minOccurs="0"/>
        <element name="urlDescription" type="string" minOccurs="0"/>
    </sequence>
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        <enumeration value="DTD"/>
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        <enumeration value="metadataFGDC"/>
        <enumeration value="webPage"/>
        <enumeration value="webSite"/>
        <enumeration value="XMLSchema"/>
    </restriction>
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        <element name="type" type="gc:DataTypes"/>
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<complexType>
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<!-- ============================================================== -->

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<!-- ============================================================== -->

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<!-- ============================================================== -->

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