

Development of Training Materials for NSDI Support Using OGC Standards

Interim Report

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Project Title: Development of Training Materials for NSDI Support Using OGC Standards
Interim Report

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Executive Summary

Work to date on this project has been substantially editorial. A course outline distributed in June and July 2009 resulted in comments that have been incorporated in the ongoing work. Subsequent activities have consisted primarily of garnering documents contributed by the OGCii and OGC as source material, parsing them as appropriate into the various modules planned for this project, and identifying gaps. Focus thus far has been on the technical framework of web services and related standards. Next steps include release of the next course outline, incorporation of materials from the NSDI Framework Data Standard (FDS) Transportation Theme, and edit of the incorporated materials for flow and modularity. As of October 1, we have completed approximately 30% of the anticipated effort. No schedule revisions are anticipated.

Project Narrative

The flow of activities in this project has proceeded essentially as planned.

The course outline continues to build upon the plan distributed at project kickoff. An update was distributed in June and July to stakeholders and administrators, training personnel, geospatial technologists, and experts in the particulars and program of the FDS Transportation Theme, from organizations including the FGDC, OGC, USGS, the NSDI Training Program, and the Department of Transportation.

Recommendations on Learning Objectives, organization, and for additional reviewers have been incorporated in ongoing activities. We note in particular one recommendation to remain flexible regarding the organization of the different modules, given that newly acquired materials or comments from further review might change the balance of information that ends up in the course. We believe our design can accommodate such changes.

As per plan, we are assembling the modules from training materials, workshop reports, and presentations provided by OGC and OGCii. The work consists primarily of selecting and organizing PowerPoint slides in the modules described in the course outline, converting them to the NSDI training template, creating new slides where appropriate from other materials or de novo, and identifying topics for which more content is required. We are also updating out-of-date information as necessary. Slide titles and content are edited to provide smooth flow and appropriate levels of information. The titles will constitute the content of the next draft course outline.

One objective of the current project is to enable reuse of components of the material. Thus, our efforts have been directed first at establishing an appropriate framework in the technologies related to standards-compliant geospatial web services. We are shaping this framework to accommodate and complement materials describing details of the NSDI FDS Transportation Theme. However, the intent is also to facilitate creation of an equivalent set of training modules for other FDS Themes.

Our most substantial current technical challenge is the development of sufficient subject matter on geosemantics at a level that will be of use to NSDI implementers. We expect to resolve this to some extent in our discussions with NSDI FDS program and content development personnel, and the rest through in-house professional expertise and development of new material.

We anticipate release of the next course outline in mid-November, 2009, for review and comment by stakeholders, experts in geospatial science and technology. In particular, we will seek recommendations from subject matter experts in the domain of the FDS Transportation Theme.

Concurrent with the review process, we will continue to develop content within the six modules. We anticipate release of drafts for all of the modules prior to February, 2010.

Our activities during the first half of the project term have been fairly light since project kickoff on April 27. From then until October 1, we completed 30% of the project (approximately one-third devoted to document acquisition and initial review and organization), with equivalent drawdown of funding. We have increased our level of engagement with this effort in the current month and will continue to do so through January 2010. As of this report, we anticipate no changes in schedule.