



Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities

Office of Management and Budget • Circular A-16 revised

August 19, 2002

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a016_rev/

This Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16 provides direction for federal agencies that produce, maintain, or use spatial data either directly or indirectly in the fulfillment of their mission. The circular establishes a coordinated approach to electronically develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and establishes the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

Vision

The NSDI assures that spatial data from multiple sources (Federal, State, local and Tribal governments, academia, and the private sector) are available and easily integrated to enhance the understanding of our physical and cultural world.

Purpose:

- Provides for improvements in coordination and use of spatial data.
- Describes the effective and economical use and management of spatial data assets in the digital environment for the benefit of the government and nation.
- Affirms and describes the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) as the technology, policies, standards, human resources, and related activities necessary to acquire, process, distribute, use, maintain, and preserve spatial data.
- Describes the management and reporting requirements of Federal agencies in the acquisition, maintenance, distribution, use, and preservation of spatial data by the Federal Government.
- Establishes the FGDC as the interagency coordinating body for NSDI-related activities, chaired by the Secretary of the Interior with the Deputy Director of Management, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as Vice-Chair.

Benefits

- Spatial Data is a national capital asset. The NSDI facilitates efficient collection, sharing, and dissemination of spatial data among all levels of government institutions, as well as the public and private sectors, to address issues affecting the Nation's physical, economic, and social wellbeing.

- A coordinated approach for developing spatial data standards improves the quality of federal spatial data and reduces the cost of derivative products created by federal and non-federal users.
- Help federal agencies eliminate duplication, avoid redundant expenditures, reduce resources spent on unfunded mandates, accelerate the development of electronic government to meet the needs and expectations of citizens and agency programmatic mandates, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public management.

FGDC Organization:

The FGDC is an interagency committee responsible for facilitating Circular A-16 related activities and implementation of the NSDI.

- Comprised of 32 member agencies, including the Executive Office of the President, Cabinet level, and independent agencies.
- Numerous stakeholder organizations participate in FGDC activities representing the interests of State, local, and Tribal governments; industry; academia; and professional organizations.
- The FGDC Office of the Secretariat (FGDC OS) supports and manages all FGDC-related activities.

Authorities:

- OMB Circular A-16 established the FGDC in 1990
- Executive Order 12906
- E-Government Act 2002, Section 216

For more information:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning>

Supplemental Guidance

November 20, 2010

This Supplemental Guidance further defines and clarifies selected elements of Circular A-16 to facilitate the adoption and implementation of a coordinated Federal geospatial asset management capability. The focus is on geospatial data as a capital asset and provides the foundation for a portfolio management approach to a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Portfolio.

Purpose:

Data management and particularly geospatial data management is one of the essential components for addressing the management of the business of government and for supporting the effective and economical use of tax dollars.

Portfolio management provides a systematic way to manage overall Federal geospatial data assets. This guidance further defines the elements, roles, responsibilities, management processes, and investment strategies for execution of Federal agency responsibilities for implementation of the NGDA Portfolio of geospatial data assets.

Benefits

A portfolio-centric model spans the single agency stovepipes by applying consistent policy, improving organization, enabling better governance, and increasing the discovery, use, and value of the assets.

- Improve support of mission-critical business requirements of the Federal Government and its stakeholders.
- Provide improvements in the coordination and use of spatial data.
- Describe effective and economical use and management of spatial data assets in the digital environment for the benefit of the government and the Nation.
- Define and clarify the adoption and implementation of a coordinated and effective Federal geospatial asset management capability.

Guidance Sections:

- Elements of the National Geospatial Data Asset Portfolio

- Portfolio Management of the NGDA – how the Portfolio is managed
- Roles and Responsibilities Pursuant to OMB Circular A-16 Section 8 – who manages the NGDA Portfolio
- NGDA Portfolio Investment Strategy – recommendations for the NGDA Portfolio

Supporting Reference Materials

Developed to provide further detail on implementation and guidance components. These documents are designed to evolve with priorities, implementation impacts, and advances in business and technology practices.

- *FGDC Structure and Federal Agency and Bureau Representation*
- *Process of Adjusting OMB Circular A-16 Appendix E: Geospatial Data Theme Principles*
- *Lexicon of Geospatial Terminology*
- *Stages of the Geospatial Data Lifecycle Pursuant to OMB Circular A-16 Sections 8 (d)(e)(f)(g)*
- *Key Roles and Responsibilities*

Implementation Steps:

The FGDC is developing key elements of the Supplemental, including:

- Revision of the A-16 Appendix E: NSDI Data Themes, Definitions, and Lead Agencies
- Identification of shared data, services and applications
- Integration of a geospatial data catalog into the Geospatial Platform and Data.gov
- Agency outreach and training materials

For more information and reference materials:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning>

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