



**Architecture & Technology  
Working Group (ATWG)  
Thursday, May 25, 2017  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Eastern**

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**Location: USGS National Center  
Room 2A316 (FGDC Conference Room)  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 20192**

Please note that times indicated on the agenda are approximate and may vary based on discussion.

**To join the Webinar via WebEx:**

Navigate to the following:

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?MTID=m146705299efef41d300b9223a8eab5a2>

**Audio Conference Instructions:**

Dial: (703) 648-4848

Code: 17297

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**AGENDA**

1:30 – 1:35	<b>Welcome &amp; introduction</b>	<i>William Mullen, NGA</i>
1:35 – 2:00	<b>System/Technology issues impacting member agencies (i.e., cloud migration, data centers, etc.)</b>	<i>William Mullen, NGA</i>
2:00 – 2:10	<b>GeoPlatform R8 Beta (Test results, problems, etc.)</b>	<i>William Mullen, NGA</i>
2:10 – 2:25	<b>Priority setting in anticipation of reduced budgets</b>	<i>Tod Dabolt, DOI</i>
2:25 – 2:30	<b>Action item review</b>	<i>Andy Fox, FGDC Support</i>
2:30	<b>Adjourn</b>	

**ARCHITECTURE & TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP (ATWG)  
MEETING MINUTES FROM THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017**

**MEETING MANAGER:** William (Bill) Mullen, NGA\*

**MEETING HOST:** USGS

**RECORDER:** Andy Fox, FGDC Support

**GUESTS:**

Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS, In-Person\*  
Tianpu Liang, USDA/NRCS, Phone\*  
Randy Warren, DOC/NOAA, Phone\*  
G. David Cackowski, CENSUS/GEO FED, Phone  
Rich Frazier, DOI/USGS/FGDC, Phone  
Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO, Phone  
Janet Hoyt, FGDC Support, Phone

\* indicates ATWG member

**AGENDA ITEM DISCUSSION**

**System/Technology issues impacting member agencies (i.e., cloud migration, data centers, etc.)**

- Bill Mullen, NGA: Stated that NGA is moving to the cloud and wanted to understand the experiences of other agencies that have gone, or are going through the same processes. NGA has the added complexity of having to provide access to data across multiple security levels to support a variety of customers. Aspects of concern include the type (vector/raster) and volume of data, use policies, storage and access costs.
- Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS: Commented that the USGS is dealing with the same issues. They are using Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) for storage of static data sets, like tiles of elevation data, maps, etc. This provides more reliable, saleable and rapid access to large quantities of files through web links. This approach also helps control costs, by not requiring dynamic processes such as clip-n-ship storage. USGS is considering what data sets and services they can offer for free use, versus potentially more expensive custom dynamic data services, such as custom 'map on demand' or lidar visualization and extraction where more intensive processing can be expensive. He said USGS would like to provide access to copy bulk data directly from the S3 bucket, however this may require the use of 'user pays' buckets to minimize the cost exposure to USGS.
- Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO: Said that NASA provides access to their data via Amazon S3. End users pay for processing costs. Caching data is a good solution. USGS volcano data group is using this approach. Costs for hosting data in the cloud are about 1/3 for Amazon services and 2/3 for framework and support costs. Some of the costs for Amazon services are fixed, and some are variable, but all don't scale at the same rate. Amazon costs include access to a sandbox/staging area. Many of the data sets are vector-based, so they are not really that large and so hosting costs are also not that great, even if they are accessed by many, many users. It's hard to mitigate every potential risk that may never materialize into an issue.
- Bill Mullen, NGA: Wondered if with the deployment of the new GeoPlatform (Release 8), that we will see an increase in the volume of hosted data and wondered what the increased costs may

be from a programmatic standpoint for help desk support, etc. for the Platform.

### **GeoPlatform R8 Beta (Test results, problems, etc.)**

- **Bill Mullen, NGA:** Asked the group members to communicate their testing observations and experiences. Bill noted that the new, easy way to set up new communities within the GeoPlatform raises questions about who can set up new communities and what the process is for doing that. Tod confirmed that there is a formal review and approval process.
- **Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS:** Asked if the existing communities would need to be re-built in the new R8 environment.
- **Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO:** Tod said they would, but while the Drupal-to-WordPress migration process has not been tested yet, it should be fairly straightforward for the simple communities (like the A-16 ones). The more complex/fancy sites may present more of a challenge. A new community site was recently set up in a couple of hours. A US - Mexico Border Community was set up as an example. New widgets available in R8 help make the set-up process faster.

### **Priority setting in anticipation of reduced budgets**

- **Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO:** Tod said that he will be delivering his suggestions for priorities for the GeoPlatform to decision makers, but is open to ATWG input.
- **Bill Mullen, NGA:** Asked if the group felt that the original mission of the ATWG has been achieved. His perspective is that the ATWG has not provided the timely response/inputs originally envisioned by the Managing Partner.
- **Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS:** Said that he feels removed from what is being planned for upcoming GP development sprints, and how functional priorities are being selected.
- **Bill Mullen, NGA:** Believes this problem is fundamentally based on the difference between ATWG meeting cycles (originally monthly, and even longer now) and the GeoPlatform sprint development and release cycles.
- **Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO:** Tod said that it is hard to weigh the importance of functionality (user stories), especially if they are interlocked. Overall, he says that priorities have been focused on the backbone of the system.
- **Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS:** Asked Tod if the next, high-level priorities have been identified.
- **Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO:** said they have but cannot be shared in an open (non-governmental) meeting. The many key components of the platform (e.g., Communities, Searching, Map Viewer, Dashboards, Object Editor) and program support elements must be balanced. This also raises a governance question – Who gave the GeoPlatform the right to set up services that may be perceived as being authoritative, when they aren't?
- **Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS:** Likes the search enhancements efforts in the GeoPlatform to improve searches, but wants to make sure it is an effort that can eventually enhance the metadata record at its source repository and be available for other catalogs to take advantage of.

- Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO: Is wondering if the GeoPlatform can take on some responsibility for doing large scale searches – maybe do a pilot for this capability. Bill mentioned that NGA is producing some standard map products that could be useful. The metadata content of those products is being evaluated to identify what is missing that would support large-scale searches and what procedures and tools would be needed to upgrade the metadata content of those products. Tod mentioned that the Open Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) metadata and feature services will be registered in the GeoPlatform. Bill is interested in how extended metadata can be leveraged for enterprise level searches.
- David Cackowski, CENSUS/GEO FED: Says he is fairly new to the group. Tod mentioned that Census data is the most ready to go and could be set up quickly to use object editor to get their data into the registry.
- Randy Warren, DOC/NOAA: says that NOAA has their own online data catalog and search capability, but feels that end users will benefit from better search mechanisms. Also, NOAA does give search access to ArcGIS Online users outside of the organization, but restricts their role to viewer only.
- Tianpu Liang, USDA/NRCS: says that they recently did an open data scorecard evaluation and determined that rather than the quantity of data published, users wanted credibility for the data that is published. The priority should be on authoritativeness. He recommends developing a governance policy to stipulate authoritativeness of data sets, especially for the 177 NGDA's.
- Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS: Would like to see AGOL be able to leverage the GeoPlatform's enhanced metadata for searching. Tod is working with the vendor community to ensure that the metadata standards get adopted into their software tool specifications.
- Bill Mullen, NGA: Asked Tod if budget planning numbers are available for the GeoPlatform yet. Tod said they are, but that information is not sharable with everyone in this meeting.
- Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS: Proposed using the GeoPlatform's service checker to inform publishers (via email notifications) about services that are not working. Tod said that capability may be something they can add for R10.
- Rich Frazier, DOI/USGS/FGDC: Reinforced this idea by saying that better integration of the status checker would enable publishers to be more aware of status, and be more proactive about improving availability and performance.
- Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO: Wants the FGDC to look at the technical and policy challenges for publishing of data to the public on the GeoPlatform. He referenced Senate Bill 760 (Data Availability) and how the GSA will use a scorecard and codify the open data policy. He said the Bill seems to have bi-partisan political support.
- Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS: Mentioned the GeoPlatform's Marketplace might be an area that gets more attention from this Administration. Tod says this is a priority for the administration since non-duplication of data is a goal. Some agencies are using other tools for collaboration when they are already available on the GeoPlatform. Tod will be discussing this with them.
- Bill Mullen, NGA: Mentioned that there are some relevant staff changes at NGA for GEOINT collections management (Nancy O' Boyle). He would be willing to coordinate a meeting for Tod, if appropriate.

- Tod Dabolt, DOI GIO: Says NGA will be using GSA for purchasing commercial GEOINT data (Schedule 70) via a catalogue that provides details about the data products. This sounds a lot like the GeoPlatform's Marketplace.
- Rob Dollison, DOI/USGS: Suggested while providing a full national web services view in the Marketplace (as is done for 3DEP) is important, we may still need to provide a basic planned data metadata entry and associated footprint visualization that could be supplied from other requirement gathering tools. The Marketplace could feature these other tools or views from these tools. In addition to being able to subscribe to specific searches on future data plans helps the information comes to the user rather than the user having to remember to go to the site and look. He also inquired about the status of the CRSSP Imagery Derived Requirements (CIDR) Tool for collecting imagery requirements from different agencies.
- Bill Mullen, NGA: Says there is a realignment of resources by the community. NGA no longer has the same authority for the collection of commercial data. The authority is now with the NRO. While the goal is a seamless transition, there may be changes that confront civil agency customers of imagery initially that will need to be worked out. Tod commented that commercial providers are in a position to offer collections via reverse auctions, if they wanted to.

### **Summary of Action Items**

1. Bill Mullen and Andy Fox are to coordinate on scheduling the next ATWG meeting at the end of July. One of the discussion topics can be how to get the GeoPlatform development schedule out in time for the ATWG meetings (sync up the GP development and ATWG meeting cycles).
2. Bill is to set up a meeting for Tod and John Davidson with Nancy O'Boyle at NGA to do a slide-based presentation about the GeoPlatform and how it has been extended. Timing for the meeting will likely be at the end of June or early July.