

The

Minnesota Geospatial Commons

A Vision

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A Vision For...

- Being more effective
- Maximizing collective resources
- Avoiding redundancies
- Making better decisions
- Working together more, better, faster
- A stronger, more collaborative community
- Opportunity!!!

The Vision

- A single place we all go to find and share geospatial “resources”

Data

**Web
Services**

Ideas

Applications

Knowledge

Tales of Opportunity

- Johnny wants to find his way through the enchanted forest of portals.
- Suzy wants to wish upon a web service, but can she trust it?
- Billy wants to share his marbles and data, but he doesn't have a server.
- Emily wants to play collaboration, but she needs some friends.

More Opportunities

- MN is data and service rich – more coming
- Some portals ready for upgrade
- DNR connecting data behind the scenes
- Metadata for services is coming
- The explosion of social media tools - the power of an engaged, connected community

Groundwork

- Grass roots effort
- Idea nurtured by MetroGIS TLW and MnGeo Standards Committee
- Joint Geospatial Commons Workgroup
 - Gathered input
 - Formed vision
 - Test-bed web portal
- Sponsoring agencies like the vision

Input from:

- **Initial Workgroup**

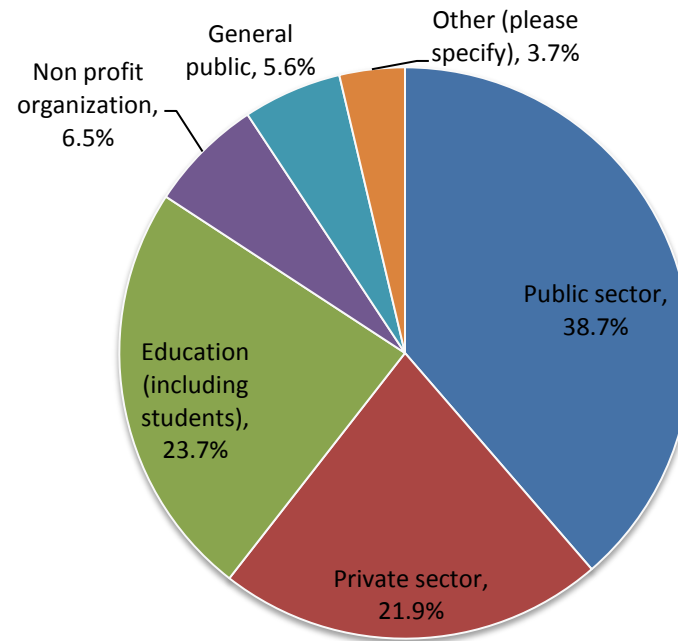
- Federal
- State
- Regional
- County
- City
- Non-profit

- **Stakeholder Agencies**

- DNR
- Met Council
- Mn\DOT
- MnGeo

- **User/Producer Survey**

- Nearly 540 responses
- Casual map users to GIS professional



The Vision

- “Commons”

*Resources that are owned in common or shared
between or among communities* Wikipedia

- What Resources?

- Data
- Web Services
- Applications
- Ideas
- Knowledge

The Vision

- A single place we all go to find and share geospatial “resources”

Data

**Web
Services**

Ideas

Applications

Knowledge

Key Functions

Find

Evaluate

Share

Collaborate

Key Functions -

Find

What is available?

- Search for data, services or applications
 - Structured interface
 - Spatial (e.g. bounding box)
 - Metadata
 - Google accessible
- Catalog – *there is value in browsing*

Key Functions -

Evaluate

Does it meet my needs?

- Metadata viewer
- Map viewer
- Download data or connect to web services
- User Reviews (quality, reliability, etc.)
- Web service monitoring (automated, objective)

Key Functions -

Share

What can I share?

- Publish
 - Metadata
 - Data for download
 - Web services for consumption
 - Applications

Key Functions -

Collaborate

Ideas and knowledge!

- Discussion space
 - Ask questions
 - Share ideas
- Transfer knowledge
 - Blog, wiki
- Connect with peers
 - Building community
 - Fostering Collaboration

The Vision

- A single place to find the data we need and share the data we have
- A place to gain knowledge from trusted colleagues about using data, services and applications (user reviews)
- A place to build trust in our web services so they get used widely

The Vision

- It's connecting (to know one another)
- It's collaborating (to work together to solve problems, to generate new ideas)
- It's understanding (to have more and better data to make better decisions)
- It's building capacity (to do more with what we all have, to be greater than the sum of our parts)

The Vision

- A focal point for our geospatial community – to bring us together, to build a stronger, more engaged, more effective community
- **It is the way we need to do business in the web 2.0 world**

It's Happening!

- We already are doing this...
 - ...less effectively than we could
- We are sharing data...
 - ...in so many portals
- We are sharing web services
 - ...but who has what? Can we rely on them?
- We are sharing applications...
 - ...but only some of them
- We are sharing ideas and knowledge
 - ... occasionally, in a disjointed way

It's Happening!

- We have the desire!
- We have the talent!
- What we need is:
 - Leadership & Coordination
 - So we make progress, so the parts fit into a whole
 - Real commitments
 - To find and/or build the parts
 - A home for the Commons
 - A place for it to live and people to care for it

It's Happening!

- Workgroup – Defined key functions & vision
- DNR – Building back-end architecture
- MetroGIS – Evaluating collaboration tools
- Leadership – Commons workgroup is willing

You!

- If you share this vision... If you see the value
- Be a champion!
 - Policy level
 - Advocate for the project (tell people it's important, valuable)
 - Make it a priority. Use your influence. Tell the right people!
 - Management level
 - Advocate for the project (tell people it's important, valuable)
 - Allocate resources – what talent, time or dollars can you lend?
 - Staff level
 - Advocate for the project (tell people it's important, valuable)
 - Participate - Put your talent and passion to work

The Minnesota Geospatial Commons

What an opportunity!

Minnesota Geospatial Commons Workgroup

An initiative of the MetroGIS Technical Leadership Workgroup, the MnGeo Standards Committee and many enthusiastic members of the MN geospatial community

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