



MetroGIS

Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data

Geospatial Architecture Subgroup of the MetroGIS Technical Leadership Workgroup

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

DRAFT Meeting Summary

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Council, Room LLA

390 Robert St. North, St. Paul

Members Present: David Bitner, Chris Cialek, Jessica Fendos, Josh Gumm, Lesley Kadish, Mark Kotz, Matt McGuire, Charley McCarty, Alison Slaats, Mike Dolbow, Ron Wencil

Members Absent: Dan Ross, Don Cheney, Jessica Deegan, Nancy Read, Steve Lime, and Hal Watson

Staff Present: None

Others Present: Clive Reece, ESRI

1. Welcome, Introductions, Note Taker

Mark Kotz called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and thanked the members for agreeing to participate on this group. Each of the attendees then introduced themselves. McGuire volunteered to take notes.

2. **Approve Agenda** all
Agenda approved

3. **Approve Meeting Summary from August** Kotz
Meeting summary approved

4. **Review Next Steps** all
Kotz identified the two big issues we are working on:

1. How do we trust web services? We want to clarify what would comprise comprehensive documentation of web services
2. Broker, what is it, and what does it do?

5. **Workgroup Vision Related to Trust Issues** Kotz
Kotz outlined 4 expected trust roles in the Broker.

- Broker Administrator – A central authority that defines a standard way to use it
- New users – Perform an investigation to evaluate trust

- Service Provider – provides some amount of information about their services
- Existing Users – provide feedback about services they have used.

All agreed

This leads to two questions:

1. What level of metadata will the Service Provider provide?
2. Should feedback be anonymous?

This lead to some discussion, here are some highlights:

- McGuire stated that the concept of endorsing services by MetroGIS similarly to endorsing datasets as Randy had touched on in the previous meeting makes sense to encourage trust
- Bitner suggested that the Service Provider provides basic metadata and include any SLAs
- Cialek suggested that MetroGIS endorsement is akin to a SLA.
- Slaats pointed out that some services might be quality but not relating to any MetroGIS business need
- McCarty said that if we collect metrics over time and the good ones will be evident.
- Bitner said that performance measures provide historical information that aides in trust determination, and SLAs aide in future trust measures.

Kotz asked how much documentation is each Role required to supply?

-Gumm replied that we have to require at least some, but full metadata might restrict participation.

-Kotz asked where is the sweet spot?

-Cialek stated that the Geoservices Finder has 20 Fields with 5 required. It is mappable to the ISO metadata standard NAP.

Kotz asked if anybody wanted anonymous user feedback.

No one did.

6. Broker Functions – Revised List all

Kotz reviewed the revised Broker functions list in the agenda packet, and asked if we are missing anything.

-Dolbow suggested a wiki.

-Kadish wondered where the temporal archiving stuff falls, but no one knew. She agreed that it was a data function and not a service function.

7. Existing examples of Brokers - all

All agreed that we didn't find anything in our search that matched our definition of a broker.

- Dolbow stated that a broker must contain search function that returns views, metadata, sort, reliability
- A discussion of the definition of broker and portal ensued.
- Cialek stated that a Portal is an empty vessel that gets filled with stuff
- Bitner said that the broker is a service itself and a Portal is an interface built on broker services.

A common understanding was reached that the broker a back end and a portal is a front end, but the group disagreed on whether we are building both, or just a broker.

8. Presentation of Broker Products – ESRI Portal Tool ESRI

Clive Reece from ESRI presented new features in ESRI's new version of the GIS Portal Toolkit – version 9.3. This is a free toolkit. Some highlights from his talk:

- It consists of a Template Web Application Portal
- Map viewer
- Behind the scenes there are services that enable the discovery of GeoSpatial Resources
- It supports Open Search, so a browser search window could be enabled to search the Portal.
- Has Catalog Service for the Web (CSW) clients for ArcMap/ ADF/ and ArcGIS Explorer
- Map viewer has browser based navigation, printing, and annotation.
- Requires:
 - Database, but not a lot of maintenance
 - ArcGIS server, sort of
 - Modest server
 - Tomcat
 - IIS or Apache
 - LDAP (can be prototyped without LDAP) – allows flavors from many vendors.

9. Next Steps all

We did not have time for next steps. Kotz will hold off on setting another meeting and will consider forming some smaller work groups.

10. Adjourn