OSGeo-India

About OSGeo

The Open Source Geospatial Foundation, abbreviated as"OSGeo" ,is an independent ,non profit organization established to support growing requirements of the open source geospatial community. The foundation will serve as an organizing body, a public technology commons, a development community manager, and event sponsor.

About India chapter

Geospatial tools, have gained tremendous support and popularity in India for the past decade or so. Many proprietary software systems with their applications have capurtred the requirements of users in Academia, Industry, Governemnt, local bodies of governance and a host of stakeholders involved in Infrastructure development in the country. The geospatial industry has grown substantially and is poised to grow further. Nevertheless, the benefits of a such growth are polarised towards a small segment of the society, primarily due to high costs of proprietary software in procuring, maintenance and outreach. So far such systems were seen as something to be used for high level planning and complex scientific operations by large corporates and Govt research agencies or departments only. The benefits that could potentiall accrue due to use of open source geo spatial systems are enormous given that India is one of the leading worldwide provider of IT services.

With recent developments in the areas of right-to-information and National Map Policy (http://dst.gov.in/whats_new/press_releases05/cabinet-approves.htm), there is a widespread and increased awareness towards use of geospatial tools. A large portion of geodata will now be freely available. Most goverement departments are now trying to find easier ways to manage, update and publish information for the public. There are also large number of NGOs and citizen organisations, working in areas such as ubran poverty, town planning, solid waste management,rural development, education,environmental issues and many more.

However, growth of GIS is hindered by highly priced proprietory softwares and unavailability of public geodata. Many of such licenced softwares remain unutilized in various government offices because they require either extensive training or easy availability on multiple locations. All this can be changed by the use of Free/Opensource software tools. There is hardly any proprietory GIS software that can show text in Unicode standard in maps . This is significant since all governmet data and most educational institutions work in local language media . FOSS4G has already shown this solution. Thus, Free/Opensource Geospatial softwares can be used for developing systems where more and more community participation and involvement is sought.

The OSGeo India Chapter is formed to fulfill the mission and objectives described in this document. OSGeo India Chapter will follow the Local Chapter Guidelines stipulated by OSGeo and cooperate closely with OSGeo Board in promoting the use and development of OSGeo projects in India. The OSGeo India Chapter will strive to serve anyone interested in Open Source Geospatial Solutions and related issues, and to cover all the activities associated with the application, development and promotion of Open Source Geospatial solutions in India.

Mission

Promoting Free/Opensource Geospatial tools and publicly available Geodata

Advocacy of and promoting Localized GIS along with applications on webmapping

Act as a bridge between various groups like Developers, Application Users, NGOs, e-governance etc.

Mentor various FOSS GIS miniprojects by providing resources such as technical guidence, webspace etc.

Objectives

Follow up on indian language support in various free/opensource GIS tools like GRASS, MapServer etc.

Initiative for standardisation of publicly available geodata

Setting up WMS/WFS based geodata servers using publicly available geodata

Tolkit for localised GIS including with special focus on schools, governments, public causes such as child malnutririon, mass education.

Open source Geospatial tool list

Web Mapping

Map bender   http://www.osgeo.org/mapbender

Map Builder   http://www.osgeo.org/mapbuilder

Map Guide Open Source http://www.osgeo.org/mapguide

MapServer   http://www.osgeo.org/mapserver

OpenLayers   http://openlayers.org/

Desktop Applications

GRASS http://www.osgeo.org/grass

OSSIM http://www.osgeo.org/ossim

Geospatial Libraries

GDAL/OGR http://www.osgeo.org/gdal_ogr

GeoTools http://www.osgeo.org/geotools

Metadata Catalog

GeoNetwork opensource http://geonetwork-opensource.org/

OSGeo Foundation Mailing Lists

Announcements List - keep informed about updates in the Open Source Geospatial Foundation

Discussion List - **interact and get involved in the Open Source Geospatial Foundation.**

Discuss, comment, query and share your knowledge through mail_discuss@lists.osgeo.org

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