GEOweb: The District of North Vancouver’s GIS Website

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Introductions

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Agenda

- The District of North Vancouver
- GEOweb
- Live Demonstration
- Development Strategy
- Technology
- What’s Next?
The District of North Vancouver

- Suburb of Vancouver, British Columbia
- 85,238 citizens
- GIS Department of 7 staff
- 15 years invested in GIS technology
- Mature system:
  - 400+ layers
  - Automated systems
  - Asset Management
GEOweb: Overview

• *GEOweb* is the name of our public GIS website

• Used ArcIMS technology

• We went live in 2001
  – Property Information Explorer
  – Parks Online
  – legal plans
  – engineering drawings

• 150,000 visitors in 2008
GEOweb: Limitations

• GEOweb was in need of an overhaul
• Older GIS web-mapping technology
• Outdated design
• Needed to get more of our GIS out to the public
GEOweb: Vision

• Adopt latest GIS web-mapping technology
• More simple yet focussed applications
• Intuitive and Minimalist design
• Gov 2.0 principles
• Open Data | Free Maps | Rich Applications
Live Demonstration
Development Strategy

• Originally we started to develop on the WebADf framework

• Saw the new Flex API at ESRI San Diego - Aug 2008

• Came back to North Vancouver and stopped all development on WebADf – adopted Flex
Development Strategy

• Worked with ESRI Canada in Dec 2008
• Took the Site Starter and augmented it
• How far could we “bend the girders”?
• Goal was to try to replicate our existing Property Information Explorer
Development Strategy

• Once we received the ESRI prototype we began to reverse engineer it.

• In-house development

• Tried new things, rewrote the basic widgets

• Learned the “language of Flex”
Development Strategy

• Formally created the development team
  – 1 Designer
  – 1 Web Developer
  – 1 Application Developer

• Used an Agile development strategy
  – Develop a new tool each week
  – Review it as a team
  – Make modifications where needed
Development Strategy

• Designed the site and apps in Photoshop
• Tried many skins
• Challenge to tie the apps together but allow uniqueness
• Adopted concepts from:
  – E. Tufte        – “Envisioning Information”
  – J. Tidwell     – “Designing Interfaces”
  – S. Krug        – “Don’t Make Me Think”
• Incorporate *InfoGraphics*
Development Strategy

• Went Live December 2009

• Total Project Duration: 10 months
  – ESRI built a prototype
  – Learned Flex
  – Build our own apps in-house
  – Designed the website
  – Implementation
Technology

- Webservers
- Geodatabase Server
- File Server

External

Internal
What’s Next?

• More External Applications:
  – Solar application (June 2010)
  – Crime statistics application
  – Green application
  – Census application
What’s Next?

• Optimization
• Migrate to ArcGIS 10
• Begin work on the Internal Site
  – GEOweb Plus
  – More focussed applications for staff
  – Editing
Conclusion

• Flex platform
  – Great for building RIA
  – Flexible
  – Incorporates Flash elements

• Allows us to get our info out to the public

• Exciting time for GIS app development
Questions?

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