NCR GEOSPATIAL DATA EXCHANGE

Stakeholder Initiation Meeting Notes – May 19, 2011

Prepared By:

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Thursday, May 19th Initial NCR Stakeholder Meeting

Attendees: please see Table 1 at the end of these notes.

Opening Statements: Tom Conry, Project Steering Committee Member, introduced the project to attendees.

Team Introductions: Heidi Hammel, Consulting Team Project Manager, introduced the KCI-PhotoScience Joint Venture Team members.

Project Overview: Bob Finkle, Facilitator of session, delivered a short presentation that explained the project objectives and goals, provided an overview of the vUSA software, and oriented participants to the project scope, timeline and the agenda for today's meeting.

vUSA 4-minute Video: a video (currently in draft form) explaining vUSA prepared by the Department of Homeland Security was played.

NCR vUSA Node:

It was explained that a prototype development server of the current NCR Geospatial Data Exchange Portal (hereinafter known as "NCR Portal") has been created for all Stakeholders to access and use to become familiar with the current capability based on the core vUSA capability.

- Access credentials will be sent to all stakeholders at the meeting.
- The current NCR Portal resides on a development server hosted by Touchstone, but it will be moved to a permanent testing/staging server soon.
- The URL is https://Ncrdx.sradev.com

Demonstration: Michael Alford of Touchstone presented a demonstration and overview of the Generation 3 vUSA data exchange portal.

Open Feedback

Bob Finkle asked the participants for their early reactions to demonstration of vUSA. During the course of the feedback session the following points, questions, concerns and needs were communicated by the stakeholder participants:

- A requirement was identified that users will want/need to turn on/off different layers within a service.
- Concern about amount of time spent publishing data. Could vUSA pull metadata from existing metadata? GFE could be part of solution.
- If the basemap data across the NCR region contains different reference data, how will that be handled?
- Question: what capabilities are provided with vUSA that allow a participant to find out about data that is available (currently publishes), that was available (was published at one point but is no longer an actively available service), or that is available but has never been published?
  - Need some way of showing that data exists even if a participant has not been granted rights access the information.
  - Good example is inauguration: 40+ users called in looking for data. vUSA could potentially be a "1-stop shop" for data. During inauguration, multiple users were

> searching for specific kinds of data. It would have been valuable to have had an ability to search for specific information (including data and points of contact).
>   - Need a general search page for types of data, contacts, etc.
>   - Using this as an index for data, contact point of contact for additional information, search for data and publishing it to a broader audience. How do you articulate to the broader audience what should be here, what specialties, etc.

- How is this different than WebEOC? Barney Krucoff explained that vUSA would complement WebEOC. WebEOC could use vUSA to expand its access to different information sources and participants without WebEOC access could potentially get WebEOC data (if it was published) through vUSA. A message could occur on WebEOC stating that vUSA data is available or posted. vUSA users also could be used by a different audience than WebEOC users, supporting a focus on special events, (e.g., Marathon, cherry blossom, inauguration, etc.).
- What happens if there is a power outage or a network outage? Need to leverage NCRNet but also need to consider design redundancies that allow vUSA to function during a catastrophic event that disrupts power or internet access.
- Chris McIntosh (now with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, but served as a primary participant in the development of the initial version of vUSA) provided explanatory context for the origins of vUSA:
    - During the Inauguration we had to deal with 83 different data providers…it was a nightmare. That event led to the vUSA concept. The concept was quickly brought into use that further validated the value of the approach during the Gulf Oil Spill. Participants should be cognizant that vUSE addresess needs beyond those of the NCR. There is a need and opportunity for jurisdictions outside of NCR to have access, thus enabling help to come from OUTSIDE of the NCR. vUSA enables the use of data from different places to make better decisions.
    - In response to catastrophic events, the NCR vUSA should have the ability to function outside of the Internet – there is a real need for system redundancy to be provided/available from outside an affected area.
    - Policy, MOU's, etc. need to be put in place to determine what data is to be shared, what formats need to be used to ensure coherence, etc.
- Comment from Airports: People need to use it day-to-day…otherwise when an incident happens, takes too much to get it updated and loaded fully. It will get old if not used routinely. Helps with learning curve in emergency.
    - Need to find a way to make the NCR vUSA operational and used every day so that people are accustomed to sharing information together.
    - Needs to be done in a way so that the operators don't have to take an extra step. This will help it become a part of day-to-day culture.
    - Need less steps or "short-cuts" for operators. If too much to do no one will use it.
- VIPER is ingrained in operational culture….why it is successful? – the answer may provide important clues for making the NCR vUSA successful.
- MOU is crucial. Getting signatures on this is very difficult. Participants would like a copy of the MOU following today's discussion
- Does state signature on vUSA agreement go for all jurisdictions?
- Comment: If vUSA isn't a viewer, should there be an overall viewer?

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Focus Session - Data Sharing Security

- Can people see all data available and then request access? For example, grey it out if you don't have access but add a button so a request can be sent to the data owner to grant access?
- Explained that if you get a request from someone for data, you can review their profile if you don't know who they are. Then they can determine whether you agree to share your data. Would it be possible to add a "request justification" text box to assist the data owner evaluate the request?
- Request: would be nice to keep all links that have been taken down in an archive so you could review past date links and identify data that could be made available again.
- Discussion of tagging datasets as a means to facilitate an advanced search capability.
- Generation 4 will have search capability for file types, titles, etc.
    - Search by location
    - Search by event
    - Don't want to be constrained to just the title for searches.
- Discussion of methods to organize data for better information discovery and searching:
    - Comment that the creation of event categories and new event entries might be a way to tag, organize and store data feeds.
    - Create a custom distribution group.
    - Create a custom entity and invite people into it.
- How is the hierarchy created? Michael reviewed administrative functions.
- Concern about building out the hierarchy so that in an emergency it is there and created. Concern about who would be that ONE administrator for jurisdiction. Could this create a control issue? Michael Alford commented that one person could be key administrator but they could/would be expected to create additional administrators to support different levels in the hierarchy and potentially each 'box' in the hierarchy.
- Comment that role based security could be a maintenance nightmare.
- Discussion of what level of specificity of control as a group should be given to users/participants—how far is too far? Over-compartmentalizing might create inefficiencies and stumbling blocks.
- Explained that the existing vUSA structure lets data owners designate their own level of security. Some jurisdictions might open it all up, others might want to hone down who they share with.

Focus Session - Publishing Data

- Once data is published, is it "discoverable" through a search capability? The ability to search vUSA is considered an important and needed capability.
- Radio and VOIP Feeds are identified in Virginia as becoming more important.
- Aerial imagery
- Pictometry
- Michael Alford explained that although the focus is on publishing and consuming data feeds, vUSA has the ability to store posted data in a cache to support participants that do not have the ability to publish data.
- City of Rockville comment: we have only 1 ArcGIS Server license and this may limit their ability to support vUSA data feeds.
- Question: Is it within the scope of the project to analyze participant architectures or examine the capabilities of participants to support vUSA?

- Virginia putting together a clearinghouse that could possibility be used by smaller jurisdictions as a vehicle to publish their data and participate in vUSA.
- Comment made that Fusion servers could be utilized as a means of taking the load off the jurisdictions. Should this be considered?
    - Josh Jack (of DCEMA) commented that dealing with 3rd party vendors would be difficult.
- Comment that there is a need to have a server in place to upload data as a means of creating a failsafe redundancy.
- Not realistic to "do everything"— one stakeholder recommended making a roadmap/plan that determines and documents the highest priority needs with recommendations on how these will be met.

Focus Session - Consuming Data

- What data feeds need to be on the list? JSON, ATOM.
- Can public announcements, alerts and warnings be integrated into vUSA? Is there a need to make some vUSA information available to the public? Could create a tag for data that is designated for the general public.
- Question on KML/KMZ partially supported. Michael Alford explained this is a current priority and will expect to move into fully supported for this project.
- The need for providing a viewer option with vUSA was questioned – why needed; why spend money on this? It was explained that some participants may not have a viewer available so this is needed to address these gaps. An optional viewer packaged with vUSA will also facilitate the use of vUSA by executives, PIO's, etc. and encourage its regular use. Also, things can "break" so a backup viewer addresses this potential need.
- The viewer is good to have in vUSA to preview the data.
- The project's goal is to have vUSA be a data integration/data protal that supports the current range of existing jurisdictional viewers.

Unaddressed Questions/Other Issues / Concerns

- Discussion of the criticality of moving vUSA into routine use to ensure it is useable in an emergency. Ideas for routine use were
    - Tracking mutual aid, fire calls that send equipment across jurisdictions boundaries;
    - Sharing AVL data feeds to support tracking, coordination and documenting cooperation;
    - Moving stockpile from BWI….police from different jurisdictions switch off at boundaries, see feeds as they cross between jurisdictions; and
    - Fire call in DC with Maryland response units….they can see DC response units on map but not Maryland units. It would be helpful to see ALL units on scene.
- Can we access traffic cameras? Sounds like this might be a licensing issue. Commented that some are accessible for public use but not the entire network. Chris McIntosh mentioned he might be able to lend some help in making this available from Virginia.
- Traffic information, road sensors, cameras, nuclear detectors are all currently integrated with VIPER.

Wrap Up

Bob Finkle reviewed the 'next steps' in the project:

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- Access pilot vUSA site.
- Survey Monkey for system specifications
- Data inventory
- Design review stakeholder sessions

Table 1: Meeting Participant List

The following participants were in attendance:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Nate Foster	City of Arlington, VA
Marc Weinshenker	City of Rockville, MD
Tim Abdella	Consultant
Ziggy Rivkin-Fish	CTCNET
Paul Reisner	DHS
Eva Stern	District of Columbia
Joshua Jack	District of Columbia, DCEMA
Robert Horne	District of Columbia, OCTO
Barney Krucoff	District of Columbia, OCTO
Robert Rike	ESRI
Jack Cibor	HIDTA
Jesse Osborne	Joint Force Headquarters – National Capital Region
Kaushik Dutta	MDTA
Ed Donald	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Sarah Ierley	Montgomery County, MD
Steve Emanuel	Montgomery County, MD
Martha Kile	MWCOG
Patrick Callahan	Prince Georges County, MD
Adriana Umberger	Prince Georges County, MD
Hina Ansari	Prince William County, VA
David Freiberg	Prince William County, VA
Ray Lehr	State of Maryland, DOIT
Sarah Price	University of Maryland
Steve Beavers	University of Maryland
Steve Halpern	University of Maryland
Nikola Ivanov	University of Maryland
Chris McIntosh	Virginia Department of Emergency Management