

NCR GEOSPATIAL DATA EXCHANGE

Stakeholder Initiation Meeting Notes – May 16, 2011



Prepared By:

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TechGlobal, Inc.

Touchstone Consulting Group

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Monday, May 16th 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. Dennis (Science & Technology Division of DHS and Technical Lead on vUSA) express DHS's interest in engaging local governments, and mentioned the EDXL standard is important.

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 software.

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:

- Clarified that the project produces a data exchange portal, a tool for desktop access (for participants' not using web-enabled environment) and a flex widget that enables vUSA access from any existing system developed using Flex.
- Question: It takes time to publish data. What happens in the background – concerned about security and where does data goes? Team explained the focus is on access of published data feeds and that data feeds do not move data between systems. Security is provided through URL proxies and other methods to be explained in more detail in the next session.
- Question: Is the Virtual USA infrastructure the chosen technology and is the project primarily focused on how to configure a widget? Barney Krucoff explained that the Selection Committee picked the KCI Team because they had an existing system/framework that was in national use and that was in the process of evolution. He said that NCR was getting involved early enough to

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influence the development and refinement of vUSA's capabilities. He further explained that the ArcGIS desktop widget is going to be created for those who do not have web-GIS capabilities and that another widget might be a Google widget.

- An Emergency manager commented there are already many systems out there, but there are neither the people nor time to publish data. There is no lack of users but there is a lack of publishers. His WebEOC exercises have confirmed there is no time in the midst of an emergency to move and load data into their system.
- Question: Will I need a password to access the different systems; how will that be handled?
- Question: Who sets the access rules? People are moving around so authorizations need to change.
- Question: How will we know the data accessed is the most current, or the data we need to a specific event? The Team explained how vUSA provides meta-data and contact information on the owner of the posted data feed.
- Discussion of WebEOC mapper in Montgomery County: currently working with Frederick County to add their data. "Common GIS Layers" are being defined and will be available through WebEOC Mapper. Access to WebEOC will only be available from within the WebEOC application framework. How does the vUSA project 'fit' or tie in to the WebEOC Mapper project? Team explained the vUSA product is neither a replacement nor an alternative to WebEOC Mapper – but rather it is a potential data source to WebEOC. Since all the NCR participants will not have access to WebEOC Mapper, the vUSA product will offer a means by which these participants, using their own native systems, can gain access to WebEOC and other data feeds from the NCR Portal.
- Barney Krucoff mentioned that vUSA is a user interface and environment for sharing information. Hopefully the project will allow us to begin sharing data that we have not even thought of sharing yet.
- A GIS professional comments that he sees this as a great data sharing tool that compliments all the other systems that are in place.
- Public safety people would like the ability to share WebEOC data using the NCR portal so this information can be accessed from within ArcGIS desktop for analysis.
- It was recommended that a button for WebEOC access be provided and that it was important that WebEOC data provide location points that allow the location of WebEOC feeds to be seen on a map.
- Barney Krucoff: It would be great if every jurisdiction had a published feed from WebEOC to the NCR Portal. This project is providing the place/environment to post the feed but funding is not available to establish a WebEOC feed, this would need to be provided by the WebEOC host.
- Barney Krucoff suggested having a main event feed already registered in the NCR Portal. Then if an event is added, the other jurisdictions would have automatic access and could be notified.

Focus Session - Data Sharing Security

- Concerns expressed regarding security needs:
 - Public safety can't just share with all public safety. There needs to be more granularity in the NCR Portal's ability to define who can access published information.

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- A lot of data public safety cannot be generally shared within public safety community as a whole. It needs to be shared with specific individuals.
- CAD contains medical information which can't be shared.
- "Public Safety" contains information that is highly sensitive, e.g. juvenile arrest data (while not actually emergency data but it is an important distinction to be made in general).
- Data security may be context sensitive or event specific. May be possible to publish subsets that are not sensitive.
- The vUSA organizational levels and roles are hard to evaluate because it depends on what type of data is to be shared. Are they being defined consistently across all jurisdictions so that someone sharing with a role is comfortable with who has access?
- Will data have to be coded to follow vUSA roles? Will jurisdictions have to publish multiple feeds to support different various roles?
- Roles should be established to be compatible with the organization's structure. If set by external party it will be difficult to implement and administer.
- CIO's have created guidelines on categories and roles. The guideline is the owner of data determines the level of sensitivity and who it can be shared with. For this to work, published datasets would need to have a "security level" to be published along with the data.

Focus Session - Publishing Data

- What data is needed from other jurisdictions?
 - DC Sniper Incident: one issue was lack of license plate readers. Would like to have this information accessible from one source for the region. Could be used to establish regional road blocks/check points. Gun ranges gave up their membership information during the DC Sniper incident which was unheard of in the past.
 - Currently License Plate data are maintained by local police departments.
 - Currently there is a project going on in the region to federate the license plate reader service.
- CAD2CAD elevating out of proprietary formats into something that can be consumed across jurisdictions.
- How real-time can vUSA handle? As soon as you link, you are accessing directly from the originator.
- Survey was sent to one user a few weeks ago regarding a potential scenario related to another DEH initiative.
- How do static documents work in this framework? They are uploaded to vUSA so unless they are updated....not live.
- If someone has a small shapefile, but doesn't want to create a service is there another option? Right now vUSA allows the posting of a zipped shapefile.
- vUSA does have a cache for housing large amounts of data if needed.
- Comment: some organizations may be at capacity with their ability to support currently published services (for internal consumption). If an incident occurred and they wanted to share

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data using vUSA they would have to take down some services to support the publication of data services for inter-jurisdictional consumption.

- Concern: Publishing services will create new loads on an organization's current infrastructure and potentially over-tax the system. Revenues are not available at some local levels to upgrade infrastructure.
- One organization reported if they are sharing data they need the ability to monitor who is seeing their data – want the ability to audit down to the individual user.
- There is a need to see who is accessing specific aspects/elements of their data, not just whether the general dataset is being accessed. With some data this is a requirement.
- The more of these issues that are addressed and satisfactorily resolved in this project, the more sharing will take place.
- It was noted that a goal of the project is to have the NCR Portal open for nationwide sharing (sharing between other vUSA nodes). National sharing would require similar security levels/roles, but more detailed security may be possible to implement in the NCR version of vUSA.
- Data formats:
 - Review of data formats currently supported by vUSA.
 - Some organizations have REST services that are secure and require user login authentication – how would these services need to be handled when using vUSA?
 - Question: Would publishing on NCRNet be useful? Mostly negative responses.
 - People want the ability to audit access to their data....who is accessing and what they are accessing. vUSA can tell who is accessing a published dataset but metering is not currently available at the record level.

Focus Session - Consuming Data

- Need to know what data is available to evaluate what information might be of interest.
- Comment: we may be over-focusing on data security issues. There are still lots of datasets that have no security requirements that are valuable during an event. For example, snow storm damage, tree damage, hurricanes, maintenance activities, shelters, road closures, etc.
- DC offers a 311 call fee that provides information on trees down, traffic cam, potholes, etc.
- Currently jurisdictions share data with other GIS departments – sharing is occurring.
- Concern expressed over the sustainability of the project. When grant money is no longer available, will new license fees need to be put in place to sustain vUSA? “Don't create a monster”!
- The value of monitoring the access and usage of a jurisdiction's published data feed was pointed out as a vehicle for determining and evaluating the jurisdiction's infrastructure needs. It would be helpful to have usage audit trails to assist in preparing justifications for infrastructure enhancements.

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Unaddressed Questions / Other Issues / Concerns

- As this moves forward, what will be the on-going costs that will need to be assumed by the participants?
 - Barney Krucoff reviewed the scope of project and stated that additional monies will be available through April 2013 for maintenance.
 - The project needs to identify what categories and possible magnitudes of cost might be implied and needing support on an on-going basis.
- What is the base map? Need base map data of geography outside each participant's jurisdiction to reference and display event data. What type of basemap continuity across the NCR geography is envisioned? NAVTEQ will be available. Explained that DHS state-level data is available to all emergency organizations and will be available on vUSA. Virginia has statewide NAVTEQ license as well. The Virginia state map is also available through VGIN.
- A committee is looking into the sharing of base map data.
- Virginia is working to establish a state-wide GIS clearing house that can provide information to this project. They would like to see their data combined/accessible from vUSA so users don't have to publish data to multiple "clearing houses" – i.e. once to the State clearing house and a second time to vUSA.

Wrap Up

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

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

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Table 1: Meeting Participant List

The following participants were in attendance:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Michael Fried	All Hazards Consortium
John Molnar	All Hazards Consortium
John White	Arlington County, VA
Tim Ernest	Arlington County, VA
Mary Beth Fletcher	Arlington County, VA
Steve Chozick	City of Alexandria, VA
Tom Trobridge	City of Alexandria, VA
Ken Rudnicki	City of Fairfax, VA
Gail Bohan	City of Fairfax, VA
Shafi Khan	City of Falls Church, VA
Margaret Montgomery	City of Manassas, VA
Joe Underwood	Consultant
Rob Ritch	Consultant
Monideep Nag	Consultant
Scott Scheurich	Data Exchange Hub Project Lead
Denis Gusty	Department of Homeland Security
John Codd	District of Columbia, DCRA
Arturo Weldon	District of Columbia, DOH
Thomas Wilkins	District of Columbia, MPD
Zhen Lo	District of Columbia, OCTO
Barney Krucoff	District of Columbia, OCTO
Robert Horne	District of Columbia, OCTO
Greg Thomas	Fairfax County, VA
Tim Menda	Fairfax County, VA
Eric Fisher	Fairfax County, VA
Judy Lamey-Doldorf,	Fairfax County, VA
Maurice Rioux	Fairfax County, VA
Tom Conry	Fairfax County, VA
David McKernan	Fairfax County, VA
Roy Shrout	Fairfax County, VA

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NAME	ORGANIZATION
William Wiegel	Frederick County, MD
Lynda Warthen	Frederick County, MD
Steve Moriarty	Frederick County, MD
Sherry Weakley	Frederick County, MD
Seamus Mooney	Frederick County, MD
Yeon Kim	Frederick County, MD
Mike Fauss	Loudoun County, VA
Brian Wooley	Loudoun County, VA
Craig Schleiden	Loudoun County, VA
Kate Nedrich	Loudoun County, VA
Chris Athey	Loudoun County, VA
Merrill Phelen	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Renee Gordon	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Diane Hirsch	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Catherine Miller	Montgomery County, MD
Pat Powell	MWCOG
Melissa Rivord	MWCOG
Kathy Prescott	Prince William County, VA
Brian Crumpler	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Patrick Ashley	Virginia Department of Health
Dan Widner	Virginia Information Technologies Agency