NCR GEOSPATIAL DATA EXCHANGE

Stakeholder Initiation Meeting Notes – May 12, 2011

Prepared By:

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Thursday, May 12th Initial NCR Stakeholder Meeting

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

Opening Statements: Barney Krucoff, COTR, 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. Participants asked during the demo:

- Can alerts be sent to email/text/voice?
- Can vUSA be configured to integrate with existing regional viewers/systems?
- Is ESF the only breakout we have for functional areas?

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 vUSA is not just for exchanging GIS data but also supports the exchange of other information formats (e.g., WebEOC, CAD, video, static documents).
- What data types are supported? (Response: a wide range of types supported and most OGIS types supported).
- A concern was expressed that Operations-level people would not have the time to sit down and perform the selection steps needed to share data feeds and links – is there a more automated setting on vUSA for sharing data?
- vUSA's GFE interface allows the user to define standard share 'set-ups' and configurations and easily (one click) enable them for sharing.

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- Focus needs to be on achieving seamless GFE integration.
- Expressed that the ability to automate the "push down" of data feeds and data to native systems is also important and useful. For example, if someone has VIPER open, users want an automated "push" of vUSA-enabled data to these systems and not have to have another window open.
- Want the ability to login to a native viewer and have direct access to vUSA capabilities.
- Need to build an automated capability to consume data otherwise it's not useful.
- Michael Alford provided a review of the flex viewer (which is what EMMA is based on). The Flex viewer widget will be made available for users to experiment with.
- Significant concern expressed over the ability to share CAD data – cannot share sensitive data and address data (e.g., rape).
- Users do want CAD data but a sub-set of non-sensitive data would be useful.
- The CAD2CAD project will have ability to publish data for consumption through vUSA in June. Also could use vUSA to provide/deliver data of value to and for access by CAD2CAD.
- DHS spokesperson, Marc Caplan: pleased to see that NCR selected vUSA. vUSA started with EOC and States but DHS wants to expand it for use by local government operations and beyond EOC. This project will be an important learning experience. Noted that vUSA system must be used on a daily basis, not just for emergency incidents. Suggests that the type of information to share is "actionable" – i.e., information that directly supports decision making.

Focus Session - Data Sharing Security

- Suggestion for an additional layer under Virginia…such as northern Virginia, southwest Virginia to support large regions. Some entities operate at the regional level (like RITIS) where they don't fit into the gen 4 organizational levels.
- Michael Alford explained that a regional entity would/could be accommodated as a Level 0 entity with related hierarchical entities handled in Level 1 and 2.
- In relation to roles, there were suggestions to:
  - add a "law enforcement" role
  - have an ability to create a named role with custom distribution
  - have ability to do person-to-person sharing; or have a person request a share for review and approval by the individual authorized to enable the share.
- METRO: there might be a train/pedestrian collision but you would not want to post a video feed of this to everyone; would want to be very selective
- Roles are good, but perhaps a separate security system should be created that grants users a security level.
  - Example from video project where they established Levels 1 (public) through 4 (law enforcement surveillance possibly encrypted). Security levels to be assigned by publisher to the data source.

- o This would be companioned with a security/public access labeling system to control share-rights. Users would be granted an access security 'clearance' to the levels.assigned to information.
- o Consider PCII program. MD Critical Infrastructure data is limited to persons with PCII status.

- In Montgomery County 4 levels are used: Law enforcement, Public Safety (including health), County Government, and Public.

- An issue that needs to be addressed is when a temporary team or task force is created to respond to (or plan) an event with the intent to later dissolve the team/task force members: the need for temporary roles and/or access rights.

- How would the system address the temporary need to elevate a role or security level during an emergency - how would it be accomplish? On a day-to-day basis you have access to certain data levels, but during an emergency you might need access to other levels of secure data.

- The possibility was mentioned of having event / task force / intelligence groupings occur with different and possibly overlapping time periods. An individual's role on the task force might require different security levels.

- Going down a path that results in a system that creates a cumbersome process that does not allow users and access privileges to be created quickly (e.g., entering long passwords, so something like HSID) will jeopardize the success of the system.

- The ability to define/assign a security level when the data/data link is shared could provide specific control that encourages sharing and system use.

- Network security – NCRNet as backbone, state agencies are not participating on this so it became an issue on video project with DOT as a pilot study. If you want state level or other state agencies then these entities would need to get on to NCRNet.

- Potential difficulty in adding specific agency descriptions in the current NCRNet structure

- Another possible role configuration: (1) define user type (2) define access ability (3) define specific role—i.e. system administrator, task force lead (4) define network security—e,g, NCR Net security

- Discussion of use/reliance on NCRNet:
  - o Cannot limit ourselves to NCRNet, should be able to publish/consume from servers on or off NCRNet.
  - o NCRNet is not yet widely used. Just now getting momentum.
  - o Participants should be able to choose NRCNet or another medium.
  - o NCRNet is not widely used or available to all sites.
  - o Is a fiber optic connection still a limitation?

Focus Session - Publishing Data

- What data/information is of interest?

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- o John Contestibile discussed some major points from his white paper "Concepts on Information Sharing and Interoperability" and his experience from his video project. The users have defined four basic questions that need answering:
  - Where is it? (location info provided through GIS, GPS)
  - What do we know about it? (information provided by sensors or information feeds reporting on a location)
  - Can we talk about it? (information shared by voice and voice interaction between different participants in different locations – information sharing made possible with WebEOC)
  - Can we see it? (information provided through video of an event or live video of an unfolding event)

- Who is publishing data through web services today: About 1/3 of the participants responded that they are delivering data through feeds today; the remaining indicate they recognize the need to do this and are moving in that direction.

- A CAD manager stated that it is becoming clear they need and are now expected to be responsible to make their information available to others through a vendor-neutral data feed.

- Could possibly publish separate feeds with one tailored to sensitive data (restricted sharing) and the other providing non-sensitive for open sharing.

- This project's goal is not a perfect end game (delivering a perfected system) but to at least create a common place where disjointed data can be accessed and shared across the NCR region is a good first step.

- The INDEX project has 20 layers of published data that could be available through vUSA to show this project is leveraging the work of other projects and meet CIO concerns for taking action and achieving some visible success.

Focus Session - Consuming Data

- The goal for NCR data sharing through the vUSA platform should include:
  - o the ability to consume CAD & video in GIS environment ;
  - o integration tools that talk to each other so end users can consume information from varied environments (e.g., mobile, desktop, web tools).

- Need an initiative to define standards for what CAD data can be shared and how it should be shared, providing the information to this NCR initiative.

- A concern was expressed that a user might not see in her vUSA library sensitive data that is published to another requester and that might be available if requested.

- Michael Alford mentioned that one approach would be have all data feeds being shared visible in the Library but if a participant has not been granted rights to see the data it would be grayed out. This would enable the participant to see the information was available, to look up and contact the person responsible for granting access, and to contact that individual using a "Request Access" button.

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Unaddressed Questions/Other Issues / Concerns

- Results need to go into a work plan to produce milestones. Small achievable actions needed. Suggestion is to craft work plan with 90-day, 120-day, etc. deliverables to show results along the timeline.

- Are there other projects that would be complimentary to this project? Project Team will inquire with the CIO's.

- Where does credentialing occur? Administrators will be responsible for assigning roles and setting up user.

- Barney Krucoff articulated that the CIO goals are, in the short term to self-administer the system, but in the long term to achieve regional authentication using LDAP security.

- What about other, non-NCR jurisdictions such as Baltimore & Howard counties? Are we considering expanding the project? Barney Krucoff said others are welcome and that no one who wishes to publish data will be turned down. The project is interested in establishing "market share".

- How are other vUSA models used in PNW, etc.? Primarily the web interface.

- How is distribution provided, thorough the web or local area network? (Answer: It is provided over the web)

- How is this different (NCR vUSA) from the vUSA? If someone has a vUSA login, how does that relate to the NCR vUSA?
    - A goal is to make the NCR vUSA interoperable with the national vUSA.
    - Marc Caplan explained that the NCR vUSA "node" would work off the parent vUSA. Issue might be if you are on both systems. Suggest you ask question about sharing to the NCR node when you publish data.
    - Can we publish to other vUSA nodes through the NCR dashboard?
    - DHS sees NCR as a node on the overall vUSA.

- Regarding federal participation there are some federal agencies publishing on vUSA now and some are observing NCR with the interest of participation. Nelson Torres advocates for 2-way participation. Let him know about initial targets for data feeds.

- Regarding the interest in publishing sources immediately, there is a concern that the current version of vUSA will be replaced as development progresses and that will require migration of the data so it is possible that only a limited amount of data will or should be published now.

Wrap Up

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

- 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
Mike Smith	City of Alexandria, VA
Marc Caplan	DHS
Nina Semwanga	District of Columbia
Brian Gober	District of Columbia, BID
Erik Johnson	District of Columbia, FEMS
Sean Egan	District of Columbia, FEMS
Robert Horne	District of Columbia, OCTO
David Strigel	District of Columbia, OCTO
Barney Krucoff	District of Columbia, OCTO
Mario Field	District of Columbia, OCTO
Ethan Goldberg	District of Columbia, OUC
Anthony Puzzo	ESRI
Tom Conry	Fairfax County, VA
Shawn Fenn	FEMA
Nelson Torres	FEMA
John Contestabile	Johns Hopkins University APL
Taran Hutchinson	MATOC
Mick Brierley	MEMA
John Reginaldi	MEMA
Michael Shean	M-NCPPC, Prince Georges County, MD
Christine Vandeyar-Wise	Montgomery County, MD
Bill Ferretti	Montgomery County, MD
Bob Moseley	Montgomery County, MD
Apollo Teng	Montgomery County, MD
Alvin Marquess	MSHA
Charlene Howard	MWCOG

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NAME	ORGANIZATION
Dennis Wood	Prince Georges County, MD
Jim Cannistra	State of Maryland, Department of Planning
Mark Helmken	Towson University, CGIS
Michael Bentivegna	Towson University, CGIS
Michael L. Pack	University of Maryland