The Environment Agency uses Geocortex Essentials for Web-GIS to Help Inform Decisions

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Case Study: Environment Agency

Environment Agency

"The agility of Geocortex is excellent and it is very easy to manage and configure. The fact that business or data people can configure EasiMap, as opposed to IT specialists is a real bonus to us."

Rob Jones, Head of Mapping and GIS, Environment Agency

Industry   Government

Customer   Environment Agency

Challenge   Upgrade aging and less flexible web-GIS technology to publish map services to its web-based users.

Solution   Geocortex Essentials has helped to transform how the EA is able to design, develop, and maintain its Esri web-GIS applications.

Key Benefits:

➤ Improved visualisation of mapping for Flood Risk Mapping and Incident Management

➤ Faster turnaround of permits, reduced bureaucracy, increased efficiency

➤ More agile approach to responding to new or changing business needs

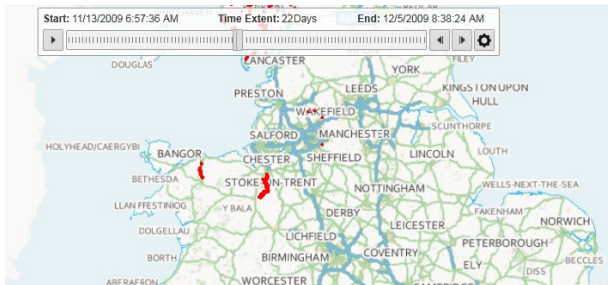➤ Improved sharing and re-use of mapping capability

VertiGIS Studio™

Challenge

Faced with aging and increasingly less flexible web-GIS technology, the EA decided to upgrade its Esri based web-GIS applications and planned to implement Esri's ArcGIS for Server, so that it could publish map services to its web-based users. As a large and diverse organisation, the EA needed a solution that was very flexible, fast, and easy to use.

The solution needed to compliment ArcGIS for Server and be capable of adding data quickly, especially in cases of incident management such as flooding and pollution, which require a fast response time but can be difficult to predict. It also had to be widely accessible and support data input from other organisations that the Environment Agency works with, including Defra and its various agencies, emergency services, and Ordnance Survey Great Britain.

At the same time, the EA needed to be able to configure applications for ArcGIS for Server without having to undertake extensive, traditional programming. This was important so that it could reduce the need for developers and, instead, increase the capability for GIS and mapping experts to be able to produce web-GIS applications.

Following a procurement options appraisal, The EA selected Geocortex Essentials, part of the VertiGIS Suite of products, as part of its Strategic Mapping Platform and next generation EasiMap application. 1Spatial, the UK and Ireland reseller for VertiGIS Studio, supplied Geocortex Essentials and helped the EA implement the EasiMap application.

EasiMap is the EA's primary web-GIS application, providing geographic information, comprehensive map and data navigation, querying and reporting, as well as a range of purpose-specific tools via a browser to internal users.

EasiMap will be available to 12,000 people around England through the EA. On average, over 3,000 people in the EA will log into the system via the internal intranet every day.

Solution

With Geocortex Essentials, the project gets a head-start by taking advantage of the huge amount of pre-built functionality the product provides. EA staff were able to implement the solution primarily through configuration rather than development by using pre-built Geocortex Essentials functionality.

This has allowed them to deliver the project in a timely manner, incur less risk and less cost. As well as being able to build business specific applications much faster than would otherwise have been the case. The EA is also able to provide its end users with a much more up-to-date, intuitive user experience.

"The 1Spatial team have provided good support and helped us out with any problems. They have always communicated really well and have helped us with development where the solution needed to be customised for our needs. 1Spatial will provide ongoing support for the product."

- Rob Jones, Head of Mapping and GIS, Environment Agency

The ability to quickly input and analyse data will provide the EA with an increased level of intelligence and measurable results on which to make decisions and support staff going out on site. This is especially beneficial when dealing with emergency events such as flooding, where the Environment Agency needs to act extremely quickly and get a lot of information out to users.

The next phase of the project for the Environment Agency is on the mobile side, as the Geocortex Essentials HTML5 interface will enable the Environment Agency to provide fast and easy access to maps via smartphones, tablets, and desktop web browsers for both connected and disconnected in-field use.

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Benefits

➤ Improved sharing and collaboration using maps

➤ Clearer, more up-to-date mapping

➤ Simplified information, easier to understand

➤ Use of mapping to encourage collaboration and engagement.

➤ Highly configurable - easier and quicker to make changes to maps and user interfaces

➤ Reduced data management costs

➤ Provided mapping to support the Better Tools Programme.

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For more information, scan the code to contact us directly

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