









The Importance of Interoperability and Standards for setting up Spatial Data Infrastructures

Open GIS Consortium, Inc.

Seminario "Interoperabilità nelle Infrastrutture di Dati Territoriali" 26-27 February 2004, Roma

> Guenther Pichler, Managing Director, OGC Europe © 2004. Open GIS Consortium, Inc.

Overview

- The Value of Standards: A Delphi Group Study
- OGC und OGC Europe: Organisation, Vision, Mission und Processes
- Interoperability and OpenGIS®
- OGC Compliance
- Information about OGC: Where can I find what?
- OpenGIS® Reference Model and SDIs



The Value of Standards: A Delphi Study (1)

- Delphi Group Study "The Value of Standards"
- June 2003
- 800+ end users, software vendors, and service providers identified the current attitudes and expectations for software standards



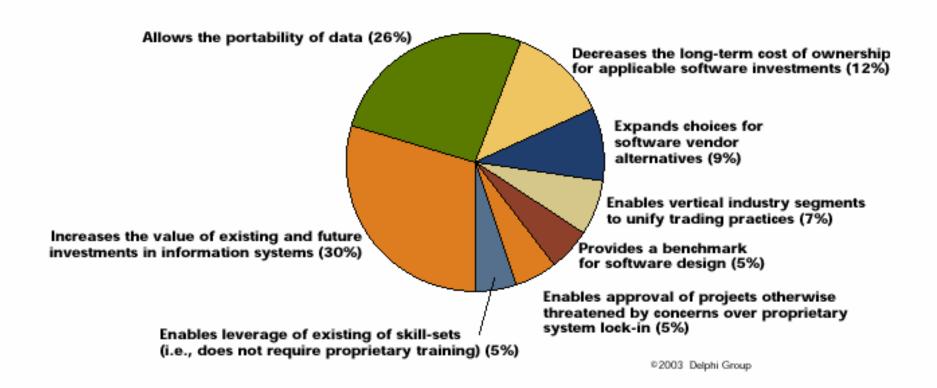
Standards = Liquidity

- "There is a clear and sudden shift in attitudes towards software standards. The climate of economic constraint and risk aversion along with the mandate to integrate systems on both sides of the firewall has created a sea change in the sense of imperative to adopt software standards."
- "In this climate standards create liquidity -- the ability to leverage IT investment in unforeseen ways."



The Value of Standards: A Delphi Study (2)

Which of the following do you believe to be the single greatest benefit offered by approved standards in software development?





What is the OGC?

The Open GIS Consortium (OGC)

- Not-for-profit, international consortium
- 250+ industry, government, and university members (about 1/3 from Europe)

Specification Development Program (since 1994)

- similar to other Industry consortia like W3C, OMG, etc.
- Class A liaison with ISO/TC211

Interoperability Program (since 1999)

 a global, innovative, hands-on engineering and testing program designed to accelerate interface development and bring interoperability to the market

Outreach and Community Adoption Program (since 2002)

- awareness raising, education and training, encourage take up of OpenGIS® interfaces, business development
- Subsidiaries: OGC Europe, OGC Australia, ...

OGC Vision

A world in which everyone benefits from geographic information and services made available across any network, application or platform.

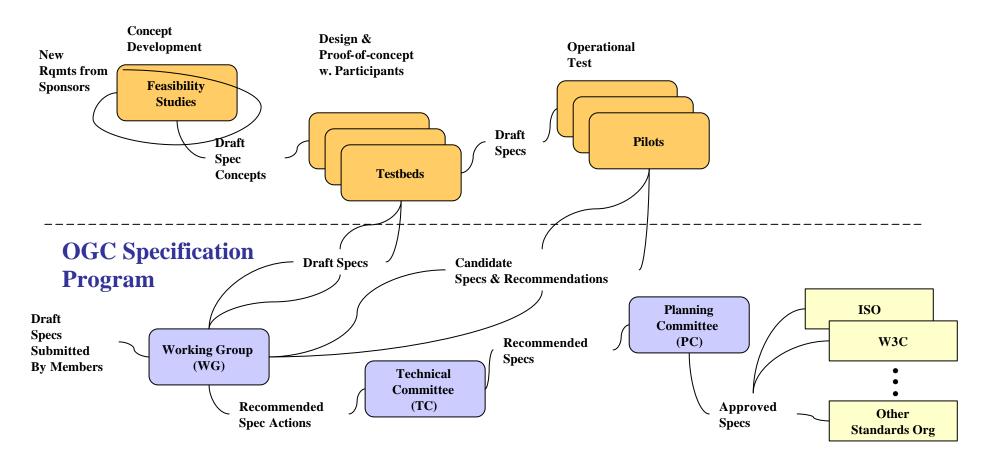
OGC Mission

Our core mission is to deliver spatial interface specifications that are openly available for global use.



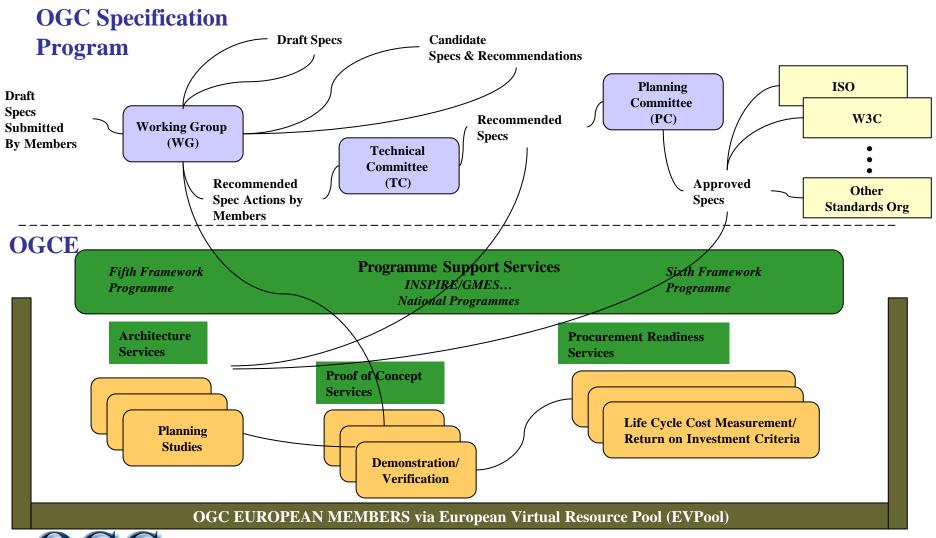
OGC's Mission: OpenGIS® Specification Development

OGC Interoperability Program





OGCE's Mission: Take up and Adoption of OpenGIS® Specifications



OGC Works Closely With Standards Organizations and Consortia in the Technology Community

- International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) TC 211 and 204
- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
- OASIS
- Automotive Mobile Information Consortium
- Open Mobile Alliance
- Initiating discussions with CEN 287



Interoperability and Services

Interoperability =

Ability of locally managed and heterogeneous systems to exchange data and instructions in real time to provide services

Service =

Activity performed by a server component on behalf of a client component

Source: The Importance of Going "Open" OGC White Paper, www.opengis.org



Flavours of Interoperability

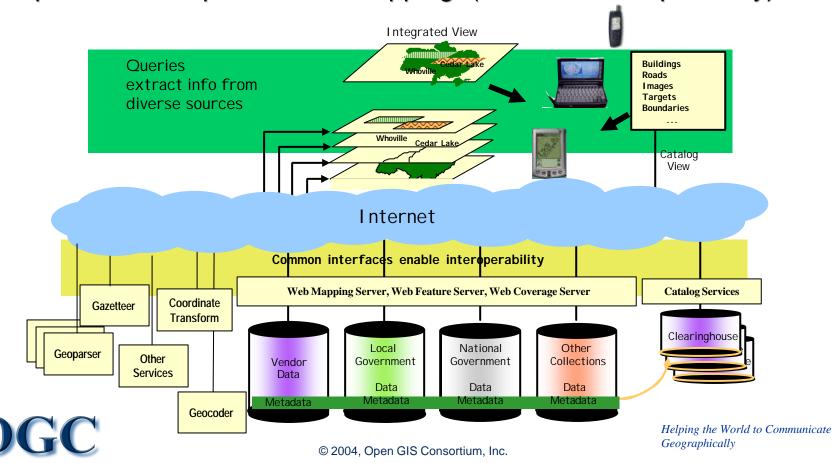
Data Interoperability

- create a generic intermediate data format that allows different systems to share data
- Software Interoperability
 - send a service request, in a known format, and receive a reply
 - -get a service response in a known format
- Information or Semantic Interoperability
 - help systems "understand" that two items with different names represent the same object in the real world
 - decipher equivalences and shades of differences



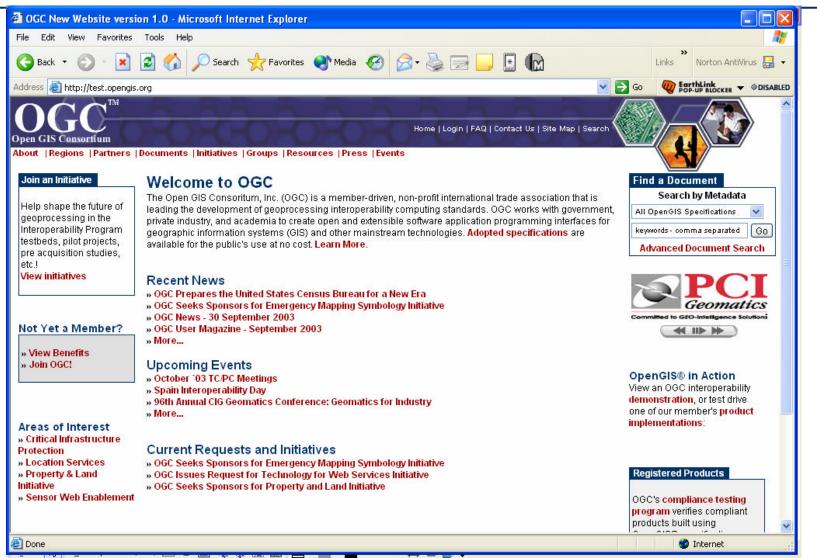
OpenGIS® Architecture-by-Interface: Interoperable Web Services

- Easier access to multiple online information sources and services
- Use and reuse different vendor solutions
 - → OpenGIS® compliance via "wrapping" (Software Interoperability)



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OGC Home Page (new since October 2003)





Compliance & Interoperability Testing & Evaluation Initiative (CITE)

- Guideline Documents
- OpenGIS Simple Features for SQL, Revision 1.1
 - [627KB][Word Version][95KB][Portable Document Format Version]
- OpenGIS Simple Features for OLE/COM, Revision 1.1
 - [509KB] [Word Version][124KB] [Portable Document Format Version]
- OpenGIS Simple Features for CORBA, Revision 1.0
 - [525KB] [Word Version][723KB] [Portable Document Format Version]
- OpenGIS Catalog Services Interface Specification
 - [271KB] [Word Version][182KB] [Portable Document Format Version] Version]
- OpenGIS Coordinate Transformation
 - [57KB] [Word Version]
 [121KB] [Portable Document Format Version]
- OpenGIS Gridded Coverages
 - [55KB] [Word Version][137KB] [Portable Document Format Version]
- OpenGIS Web Map Service Interface Specification
 - [On-line version]
- OpenGIS Web Feature Service Interface Specification
 - On-line version



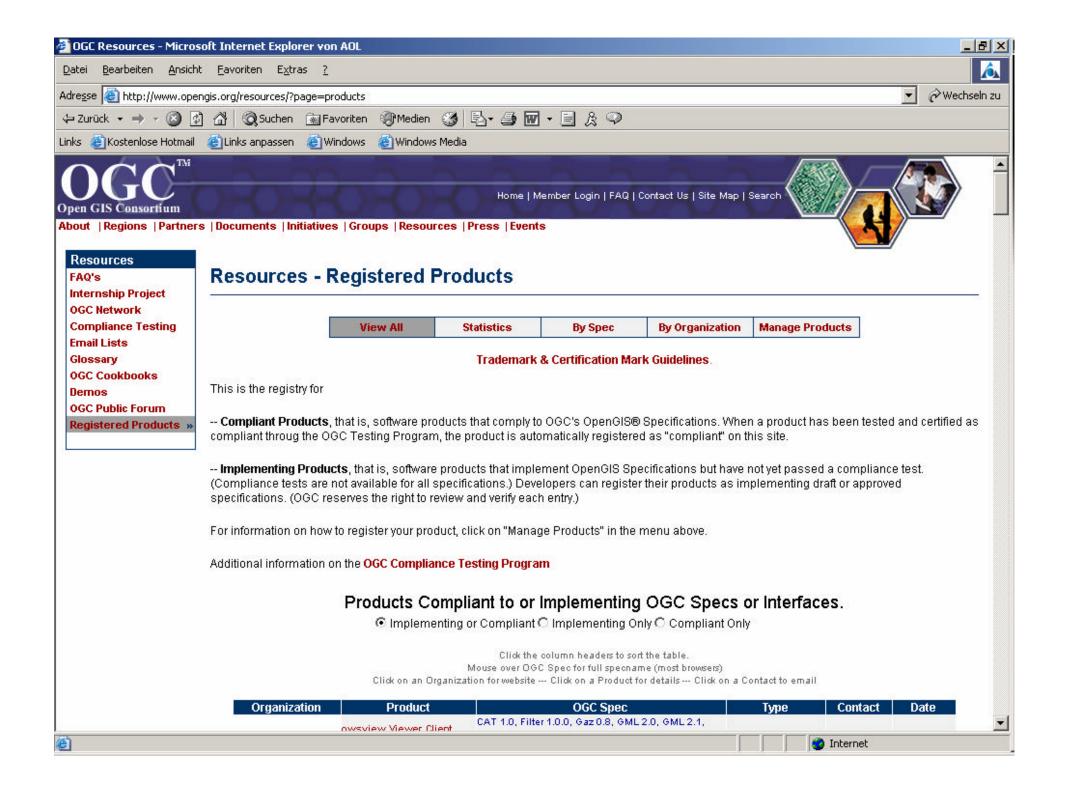


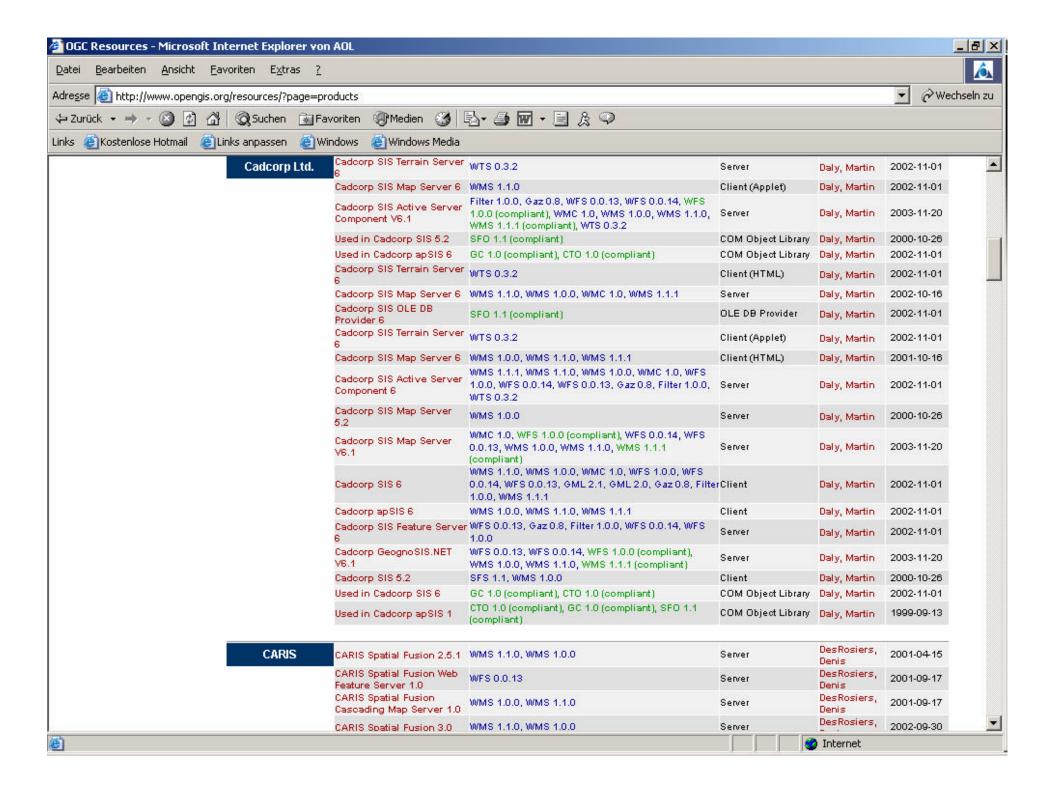
Compliance Testing and Interoperability Testing

- Compliance Testing
 - Software fulfils all mandatory elements of an OpenGIS® Implementation Specification
 - Implementation of optional components possible
- Interoperability Testing
 - Software having implemented an OpenGIS®
 Implementation Specification is interoperable with other components of the same Implementation Specification
- → Formal testing process
- → Result = Certificate



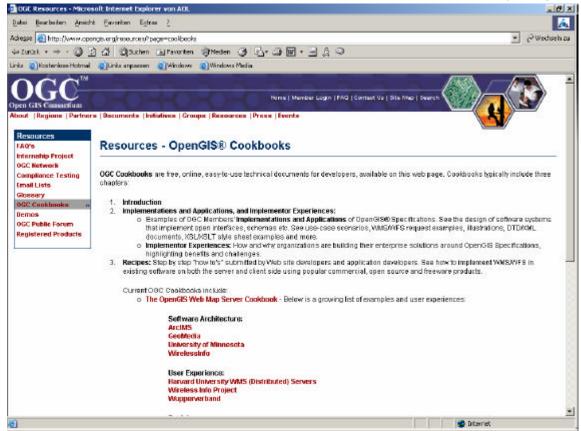






OpenGIS® Cookbooks

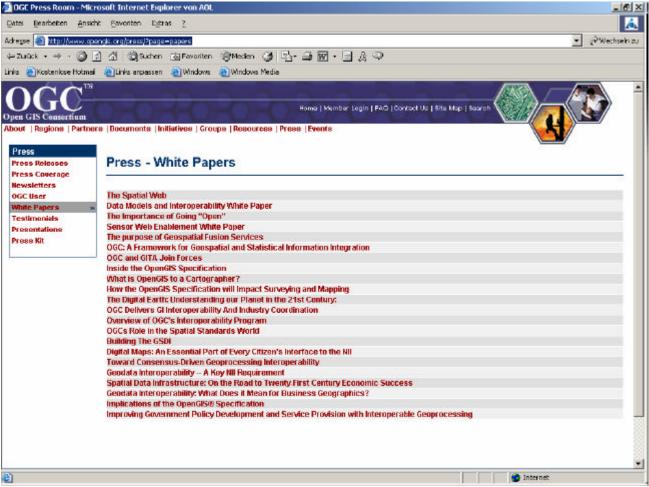
- OpenGIS® Web Map Server Cookbook (available at http://www.opengis.org/resources/?page=cookbooks)
- OpenGIS® Web Feature Server Cookbook (in preparation)





OGC White Papers

http://www.opengis.org/press/?page=papers





Information about OGC

- OGC News* (monthly, English)
 - News and general information
 - Text or HTML
- OGC User* (monthly, English)
 - Documents implementations that involve OpenGIS® Specifications
 - Aimed at a broad range of readers around the world and is written in conversational, rather than technical
 - Examples:
 - Copenhagen: Managing Process with Web Map Service
 Sharing Forestry Data: The Canadian Forestry Service's Distributed
 Interoperability Solution
 New South Wales Taps OpenGIS Web Feature Service Specification
 - New South Wales Taps OpenGIS Web Feature Service Specification to Share Natural Resources Information
 - Policy, Open Standards and GIS: The Open GIS Story in Arkansas
- * Sign up at <u>www.opengis.org</u> for automatic email subscription to these publications (free of charge)



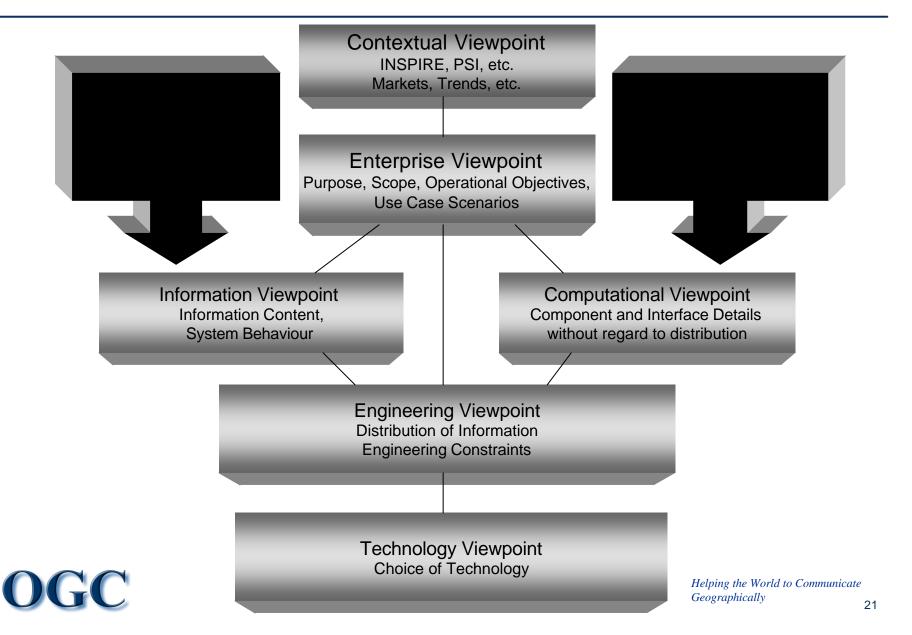
OpenGIS® Reference Model

- Abstraction of ISO Reference Model for Open Distributed Processing (RM-ODP)
 - a way of thinking about architectural issues in terms of fundamental patterns or organising principles
 - a set of guiding concepts and terminology
- Five viewpoints enable 'separation of concerns':

Enterprise	Focuses on the purpose, scope, operational objectives and policies for a system
Information	Focuses on the information content and system behaviour (data models, semantics, schemas)
Computational	Captures component and interface details without regard to distribution
Engineering	Exposes the distributed nature of the system and provides standard definitions to describe engineering constraints
Technology	Focuses on the choice of technology



OpenGIS® Reference Model and SDIs



OpenGIS® Reference Model and OGC Technical Document Baseline

OpenGIS® Reference Model

www.opengis.org/docs/03-040.pdf

OGC Technical Document Baseline

www.opengis.org/docs/03-053r1.xls

Open GIS Consortium Inc.

Date: 2003-03-04
Referenceramber: OGC 03-040
Versin: 0.12
Category: OpenGIS Reference Model
Ethor Kint Bushler

OpenGIS® Reference Model



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Conclusion: A Quote from the EC

- Commissioner Erkki Liikanen, DG Information Society
 "The role of ICT Investment in Solving Europe's Economic Problems" (TeliaSonera Executive Customer Event 2003, Stockholm, 26 September 2003)
- "We need to promote the use of the Internet by stimulating the creation of new content, applications and services. People do not buy technologies. They buy services. Here government must concentrate on areas where it can make a real difference: eHealth, eLearning and eGovernment."
- "To properly ensure access to Information Society services, interoperability between services and devices must be ensured, preferably through open standards."
- "At a European level, we have been concentrating on eGovernance areas such as eGovernment, eHealth, and eLearning as drivers of ICT investment. We have chosen these three areas, because here government can make a difference, and together they account probably for almost 40% of national budgets."
- "Our strategy has been to diffuse the best practices of eHealth and eGovernment solutions that work in practice and which have been accompanied by back-office reform. The time for pure vision or pilot-projects is over. Now we need real action and political commitment."



Thank you very much for your attention!



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