

# Growing the FOSS4G Community

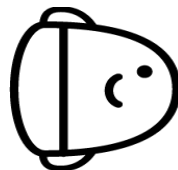
Jeff McKenna

Gateway Geomatics



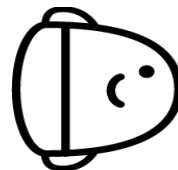
# Outline

- What the community means to me
- In the beginning...
- Current community
- FOSS4G conferences
- Local chapter growth
- Future
- Challenges



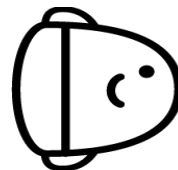
# Community?

“a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society”



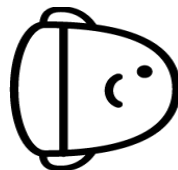
# Without the Community I am...

- just another geographer
- unable to access other resources
- bored
- looking for places to travel :)
- looking for people to have a drink with :)
- unemployed



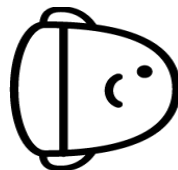
# But With the Community I am...

- part of a network of thousands of users, developers, and decision makers
- able to partner with other organizations
- always busy
- able to travel :)
- recognized as a key member of the community



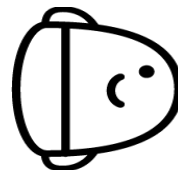
# And I am Able to Become...

- chair of the OSGeo conference committee
- MapServer Project Steering Committee member
- Founding and Charter member of OSGeo
- Founding co-chair of OSGeo Ottawa local chapter



# In the Beginning...

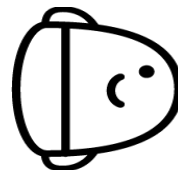
- individual user meetings across the world
- no global organization
- many projects were immature



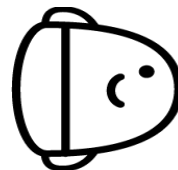
# Important Events



OSGIS 2004, Ottawa, Canada



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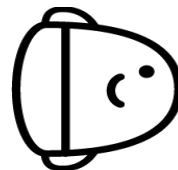
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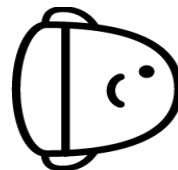


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# Important Events

- OSGeo founded in February/March 2006
- goal is to promote the use of Open Source geospatial software
- structure includes Board of Directors, Executive Director, and Committees

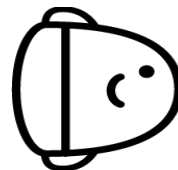


# Current Community

OSGeo Stack:

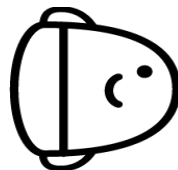
Source Lines of Code	5,450,649
Projects	16
Contributors	200
Effort	1474 person years
Replacement Cost	\$81,072,382

<http://www.ohloh.net/stacks/151/report>



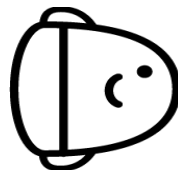
# The MapServer Project

- ready to graduate and become an official OSGeo project
- 5.2 release in July 2008, with nearly 200 tickets closed
- 5.4 release in early 2009



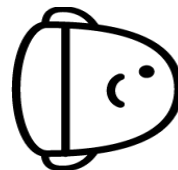
# FOSS4G Conferences

- steady growth in attendance
- large corporate sponsors (Google, ESRI)
- 2010 host to be determined by December



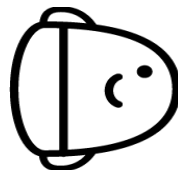
# Sol Katz Award

- Awarded annually by OSGeo to those that have demonstrated leadership in the community



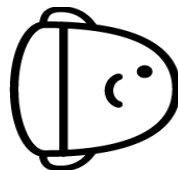
# Local Chapters

- steady growth
- locations include Australia-NZ, Germany, Finland, UK, Korea, Spain, Italy, France, Quebec, Japan, India, South Africa, Brazil, Netherlands,..



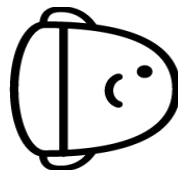
# What about the Future?

- focus on more OSGeo local events
- more reliance on local chapter work
- possibly a community-based site for OSGeo users
- FOSS4G2009 in Sydney Australia
- improved installers for projects



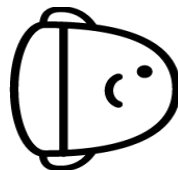
# Is the Community Easy to Work With?

- NO!
  - “Is my bug fixed?”
  - “The documentation is out-of-date”
  - “I'm new,…”
  - “When is the next release?”



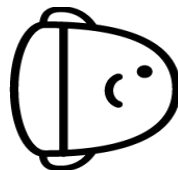
# Challenges

- language barriers
- avoid being NA-centric
- giving credit to both small and large organizations
- attracting sponsorship to support the community



# What Does the Community Need?

- YOU!
- documentation
- testing
- answering questions on mailing lists



# Questions?

Jeff McKenna

Gateway Geomatics

[jmckenna@gatewaygeomatics.com](mailto:jmckenna@gatewaygeomatics.com)

