University of Florida Geospatial Task Force
Minutes of 12/17/14 Meeting
Collaboration Commons, Conference and Visualization (Room L136), Marston Science Library

Task Force Members Present:

>   Peggy Carr, (Chair) Landscape Architecture - College of Design, Construction and Planning
>   Erik Deumens, Research Computing
>   Renato Fiqueiredo, iDigBio
>   Mike Kutyna, UF Apps
>   Alexis Thomas, Geoplan Center, College of Design, Construction and Planning
>   Joe Aufmuth, UF Libraries, ICGIS (Interdisciplinary Concentration in GIS), SFRC
>   Crystal Goodison, GeoPlan Center (Reporting Minutes)

Task Force Members Absent:

>   Bob Swett, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science
>   Michael Binford, Geography – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
>   Jaclyn Hall, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, College of Medicine
>   Grenville Barnes, Geomatics, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, IFAS
>   Paul Gader, Chair of Computer and Information Science and Engineering
>   Lily Elefteriadou, College of Engineering and UF Transportation Institute
>   Paul Zwick, Urban and Regional Planning – College of Design, Construction and Planning
>   Xiaohui Xu, Epidemiology, College of Health Professions & College of Medicine

Review of Needs Matrix

Summarized prior meeting's discussion on hardware and people needs. This meeting focused on discussing the remaining needs: Software, Data, and Institutional/ Organization. Some notes are below. The entire discussion is summarized into the current version of the Geospatial Needs Matrix (version 6).

Discussion on Software Needs

Learning Software Needs:

- Specified use of Esri ArcGIS software for learning (since that is the major software package). Added need to develop a business model for software costs.
- Added need to explore other relevant geospatial software
- Added need for GUI for interfacing courses w/ HiPerGator

Research Software Needs:

- Modified/ clarified "GUI support for managing batch workflows on UFApps for Research" to "User friendly interface for accessing software and workflow management on UFApps for Research". GUI development could be very costly and not much return on investment. Also, an existing program Galaxy could fill this need.

Extension/ Outreach Software Needs:

- Very similar needs as Research (can piggyback on research needs/ capacity)

<u>Discussion on Data Needs</u>

Learning Data Needs:

- Added need to include training on data management procedures for all courses involving geospatial data. Can reference policies from campus Data Management & Curation Task Force.

Research Data Needs:

- Added Support for PHI and other restricted data via Gator Vault

Extension/ Outreach Data Needs:

- Added a need to explore cloud-based high speed visualization, data processing, and analytics

<u>Discussion on Institutional/ Organizational Needs</u>

Learning Institutional Needs

- Added need for governance structure/ body to represent, administer and direct University geospatial interests. A group to set policies and coordinate/ communicate activities.
- Would need some administrative support and continuity for this governing body.
- Added need to participate in national/ international GIS groups like UCGIS – University Consortium for Geographic Information Science

Research Institutional Needs

- Need to coordinate/ communicate with others on campus engaged in geospatial. Joe compiled a list that was distributed in one of the first Task Force meetings. Primary groups are: Research Computing, Informatics Institute, Data Management & Curation Task Force, ICGIS and UFApps

<u>Discussion on People Needs</u>

Learning People Needs:

- Expanded and clarified training opportunities need to include short-trainings and courses offered through Esri site license.
- Discussed need for staff to help identify, acquire and administer free and commercial software. Possible staff: Map Library or ICGIS Committee. Map Librarian already has small budget to acquire data, but she is just one person making the decision. Perhaps it should be a committee.

Research People Needs:

- Combined needs for data managers and consulting services into "geospatial consulting services to support projects and best practices". Exact needs will vary by unit. Group prefers a model with distributed FTEs to support and enhance the existing distributed network of geospatial expertise. Propose 1 distributed FTE for the first 2 years, with subsequent needs to be determined.
- Discussed addition of Geospatial information science faculty. Some faculty hired with preeminence dollars through Informatics Institute have geospatial expertise. But these faculty are applied geospatial versus geospatial science.

Extension/ Outreach People Needs:

- Modified/ clarified needs. These closely align with research needs so made language in matrix consistent w/ research people needs.

Discussed Final Report

Major themes/ points to focus on in final report:

- Continue the distributed geospatial work being done at UF, but create a centralized computing infrastructure to support
- Strengthen and leverage existing geospatial knowledge and expertise, instead of building/ creating a new brick and mortar geospatial center