

Charter for the Information Transfer and Services Architecture Focus Group

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Charter.** The purpose of this charter is to establish the Information Transfer and Services Architecture Focus Group (ITSAFG) as a focus group under the Geospatial Intelligence Standards Working Group (GWG) of the DOD Information Technology Standards Committee (ITSC).
- 1.2 Information Transfer and Services Architecture Focus Group.** The Purpose of the ITSAFG is to serve as a community-based technical advisory group to the GWG forum dealing with matters related to transferring Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) between environments, GEOINT services, and the architecture of GEOINT services.

2. Definitions

Information Transfer:

Movement of information from one environment to another related to services and interfaces.

Service:

A distinct part of the functionality that is provided by an entity through interfaces. (ISO 19119); A collection of operations, accessible through an interface, that allows a user to evoke a behavior of value to the user. (Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)).

Interface:

A named set of operations that characterize the behavior of an entity (ISO 19119); A shared boundary between two functional entities, an established ordering of parameters (with specific names and data types) and instructions (with specific names and functions) that enables one software component to exchange data and instructions with another software component. (OGC).

Web Services:

Web services are self-contained, self-describing, modular applications that can be published, located, and invoked across the Web. Web services perform functions that can be anything from simple requests to complicated business processes. Once a Web service is deployed, other applications (and other Web services) can discover and invoke the deployed service. (OGC); Web services allow different applications from

different sources to communicate with each other without time-consuming custom coding. (Fatwire.com)

Geospatial Intelligence:

Exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth. [GEOINT Pub 1, page 20]

Geospatial Intelligence Standard

“A documented agreement containing technical specifications or other precise criteria to be used consistently as rules, guidelines, or definitions of characteristics to ensure that materials, products, processes, or services are fit for the analysis and visual representation of security-related activities on the Earth.” Geospatial Intelligence Standards enable the discovery, access, use, integration, dissemination, exchange, and exploitation of GEOINT to include, but are not limited to: A). Format and compression of still and motion imagery and gridded data content, B). Application schemas for geospatial feature encoding, data dictionaries and catalogues, C). Portrayal of geospatial products, D). Metadata tagging, E). Reporting of GEOINT, F). Transfer and exchange of information, G). GEOINT services architecture, and H). Sensor models for GEOINT services, production and applications. (Source: NCGIS)

3. SCOPE

Participation in the ITSAFG is open to the Department of Defense (DOD), other Intelligence Community (IC) organizations, Federal and civil agencies, coalition partners, and commercial organizations that standardize, produce or use geospatial intelligence. The ITSAFG serves as a technical advisor to the GWG regarding transferring Geospatial Intelligence, GEOINT services, and the architecture of GEOINT services standardization activities, responding to the inquiries, tasks and direction of the GWG to review standardization issues, provide salient technical information, and to formulate recommendations for consideration by the GWG. The ITSAFG monitors and participates in national, coalition and international standards organizations and activities to promote the standardization interests and objectives of the NSG. The standardization and related profile topics worked by the ITSAFG include:

- Data services that provide for posting, discovery, access, and analysis of GEOINT data stores and information stores in a distributed, real-time environment.
- Additional services required for positioning, cataloguing, portrayal, change detection, and so on.
- The underlying service architecture.
- Emerging service architecture components and technologies such as OWS, UDDI, WSDL, SOAP, XML, and J2EE.

- "Workflow" architecture and design to include Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) workflows designed to reduce complexity and increase efficiency from the user's perspective.
- Geography Markup Language (GML).
- Keyhole Markup Language (KML).
- Other topics as designated by the GWG.

The ITSAFG coordinates its activities with other forums within the GWG including the Metadata Focus Group and the other GWG focus groups, and with other Technical Working Groups under the ITSC.

4. MISSION

The mission of the ITSAFG is to serve as a geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) community forum to identify requirements for GEOINT services, identify and resolve standardization and interoperability issues relating to GEOINT services, and as a conduit for information and coordination relating to GEOINT services activities within the community.

5. REFERENCES

- a. Charter of the Geospatial Intelligence Standards Working Group (GWG)
- b. GEOINT Publication 1 – Geospatial Intelligence
- c. ISO 19119:2005 Geographic information – Services
- d. ISO 19135:2005 Geographic Information – Procedures for item registration
- e. Library Information Management standards

6. ORGANIZATION

The GWG ITSAFG will follow the basic organization established by the Geospatial Intelligence Standards Working Group.

- a. Chair: The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) National Center for Geospatial Intelligence Standards (NCGIS) will provide a chairperson to head the GWG ITSAFG.
- b. Members: Core members of the GWG may serve as core members of the ITSAFG if they have an interest in the subject area, or designate alternates to represent them. Other ITSAFG members

are associate members of the GWG, who serve as subject matter experts (SMEs).

- c. Guest participants: Non-members may participate on an ad hoc basis in GWG ITSAFG activities when their participation is beneficial. ITSAFG members invite guest participants as required.

7. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Advise the GWG on matters relating to GEOINT services, and particularly recommending GEOINT service standards for inclusion in the DOD Information Technology Standards Registry (DISR).
- b. Identify current standards, research current requirements, and then determine our standards shortfalls.
- c. Serve as the GEOINT community forum for standardization of GEOINT services. This includes the US DOD, Intelligence Community, Federal agencies, coalition partners, and the Geographic Information Technology industry.
- d. Develop the focus Group standard operating procedures.

8. PROCEDURES

- a. The GWG ITSAFG will meet as needed. Generally meetings will be scheduled to correspond with scheduled GWG general meetings, or to support the DISR change proposal development schedule. The chair or core members may request additional meetings, if they are required to address a particular issue that cannot be considered during regular meetings, due to urgency, complexity, or other extraordinary factors.
- b. The GWG ITSAFG chairperson will report on the progress of the ITSAFG at each GWG general session, typically held twice a year.
- c. Detailed procedures are documented in GWG and ITSAFG standard operating procedures (SOP) that will be developed by ITSAFG members.
- e. The GWG ITSAFG will review this charter annually, and recommend changes to the GWG.
- f. ITSA FG information and documentation (i.e. meeting agendas, presentations, ...) will be posted on the GWG web site (<http://www.gwg.nga.mil>) and/or the GWG member portal. GWG

members must request GWG member access to access portal documents.

- g. The ITSA FG will maintain and use an email reflector for electronic dissemination and distribution of ITSA FG announcements. GWG members can subscribe to the reflector through the GWG ITSA FG web page.

Approved:


Mark DeMulder

Chairperson, Geospatial Intelligence Standards Working Group (GWG)

April 17, 2008
Date:


Richard Pearsall

Chairperson, GWG Information Transfer and Services Architecture Focus Group

April 15, 2008
Date: