



Facilitate Open Science Training for European
Research





Geo-information infrastructures
for aggregation, visualization and analysis
of heterogeneous geo-spatial Open Data

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction, recent works

- V.Vescoukis, C.Bratsas, **Open Data in Natural Hazards Management**, topic report N.2014/01, EPSI platform EU
- V.Vescoukis, **Architectures for distributed mission-critical geospatial applications: challenges and opportunities**, talk in Geomatik seminars (2014), ETH Zurich
- V.Vescoukis, **Distributed Web-GIS, Linked Open Data**, Lectures in MSc Geomatics (2014), Dept. of Civil, Environmental and Geomatics Engineering, ETH Zurich



Introduction, recent works

- V.Vescoukis, **Geo-information applications development**, Course in MSc in Computing Science (2015), University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- V.Vescoukis et al., **Geo-information infrastructures for inter-disciplinary risk analysis research**, European Security and Reliability Conference (2015), September 2015, ETH Zurich

- V.Vescoukis, **Integration of inter-disciplinary approaches in hazard management: a Geo-Information Engineering perspective**, ETH Risk

Center Fall 2015 Seminars,

FOSTER, 2015, ETH Zurich



THE BIG PICTURE

What is this about?

- Information systems
 - An application idea makes sense if there is a **need** and the intended functionality can be **implemented**
 - Data will be input to the system by its users, depending on the application specifics
- Geo-Information systems
 - An application idea makes sense if there is a **need** and the intended functionality can be **implemented AND the spatial data needed can be made available**
 - The availability of **data drives new application ideas**
 - Need to access data from literally ANY source, in any format:
No data -> No application



Need to share data

- Why NOT share data?
 - Data is expensive to acquire and maintain
 - Proprietary formats mean more 'loyal' customers
 - Data is power
- Why share data?
 - Data enables new services
 - Data creates new knowledge
 - Data does not belong to those who collect it
 - Data is power

Open Data

- Questions
 - What is Open Data?
 - Who creates Open Data?
 - Who needs Open Data?
 - Who provides Open Data?
 - How open is "Open Data"?
 - Quality of Open Data?
- What's the big deal?
- Facts
 - Every human activity (almost!) produces digital data that is stored and processed
 - This data does not "belong" to specific entities: it is "just there"
 - Huge opportunities arise
- Cases
 - Social networking, sharing
 - Daily activities, transportation
 - Sensors, Internet of things
 - VGI, crowdsourcing, ...

Open Data

- Why is Open Data important
 - Decision making
 - Public awareness
 - Transparency
 - New government ethics
- Who supports Open Data
 - Citizens, of course
 - Governments (some!), NGOs
 - Public and even some private entities of any size
- Who benefits?
 - Everybody:
individuals and societies alike
- Who is threatened?
 - Those who want to keep the power of knowledge for their own

Geo-spatial apps and Open Data

- Geo-spatial applications
 - Technologies, standards: SF, GML, WMS, WFS, WPS and many others
 - Data: Images, rasters, vectors
- Data, however
 - Are critical (not as in a "personal address manager" app)
 - Are expensive, hard to maintain up-to-date, non-standard, ...
- Geo-spatial apps rely heavily on data!

What is special about spatial?

- Geo-information systems are about managing geographical information (data)
- What distinguishes geographical data from any other kind of data processed today?
- Are there any unique attributes of software applications that process geographical data?



What is special about spatial?

- Data vs. spatial data
 - Spatial data is data used to describe spatial entities: roads, blocks, buildings, etc.
 - Spatial data is also data about the location of events (purchases, transactions, any activity)
 - Spatial data may also involve time (tracks)
- Spatial data...
 - Is BIG data (and keeps getting bigger)
 - Can be complex (coordinate systems and more)
 - Is computationally intensive to process and organize



GIS and spatial data

- GIS is (used to be) about managing spatial data for applications such as
 - Mapping
 - Geo-statistics
 - Environmental, planning, etc.
- Early GIS software was desktop-based and offered a wide range of geo-spatial analysis tools for targeted application domains
- However, traditional desktop-based GIS applications cannot deal with the quantity and complexity of spatial data produced today



Distributed Web-GIS

- Spatial data
 - Base maps, surface models, imagery
 - Thematic layers, roads, cities, PoIs
 - Events with spatial reference and timestamp: measurements, tracks, tweets, check-ins, etc.
- Services
 - Queries and analytics on data
 - Mapping, geo-statistics, computations etc.
- Presentation
 - Web-based mapping platforms (autonomous, embedded)
 - Handheld devices, infographics, wearables.

Distributed Web-GIS

- Why “distributed”?
 - Data comes from many different sources
 - Possible services are restricted only by imagination
 - Services and computations may be offered independently of data
 - Pluralism and heterogeneity of user interfaces: classic, mobile, wearables (what’s next?)
- What makes it interesting?
 - Unlimited possibilities and business cases
 - Technical challenges raised by diversity

Distributed Web-GIS - example

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Presentation

Desktop

Mobile (Android)

Smart watch

Logic

Environmental
data analysis

Transportation
data analysis

Geo-spatial
statistics

Data

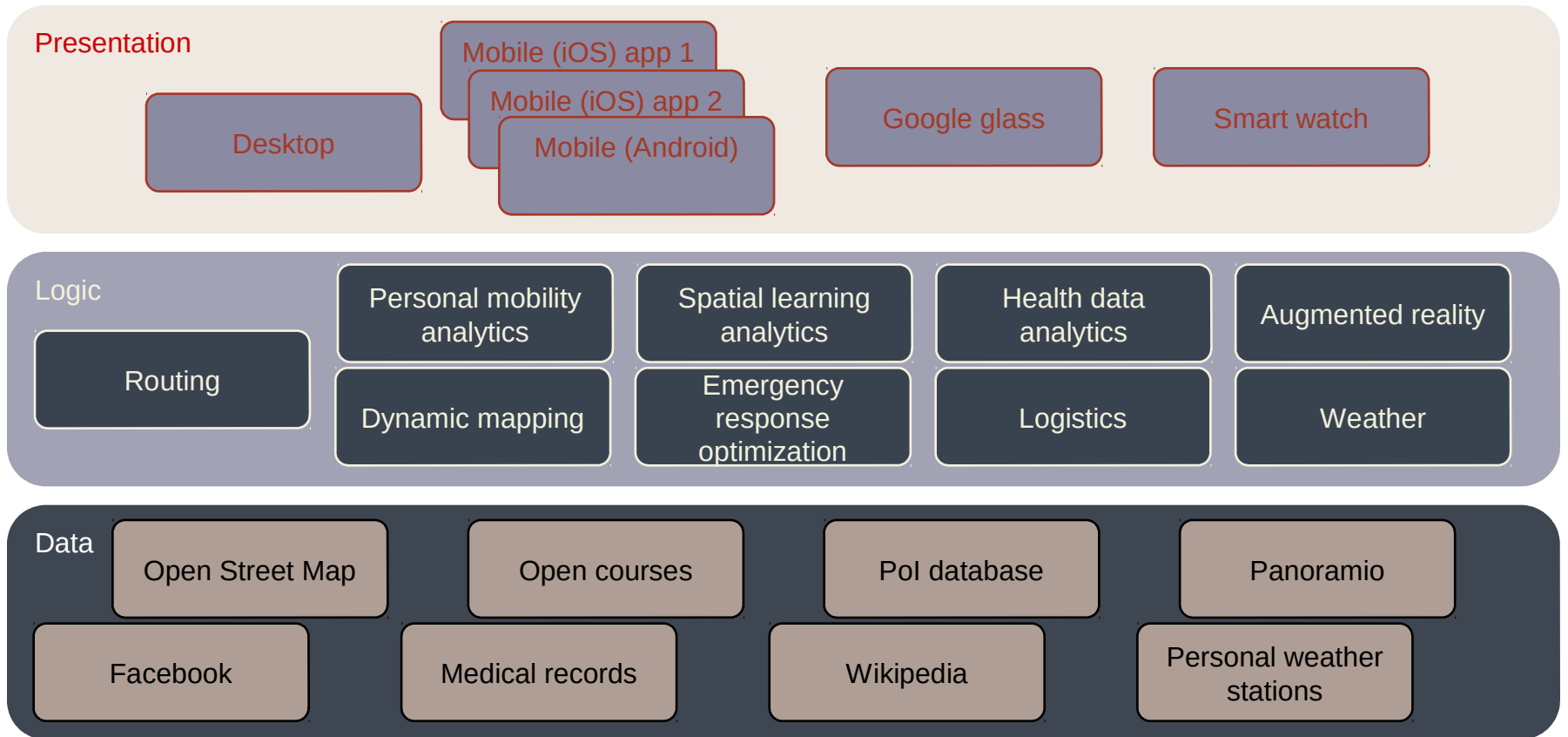
Environmental
measurements
data

Mobility data

City and
population data

Transportation
networks data

Distributed Web-GIS - example

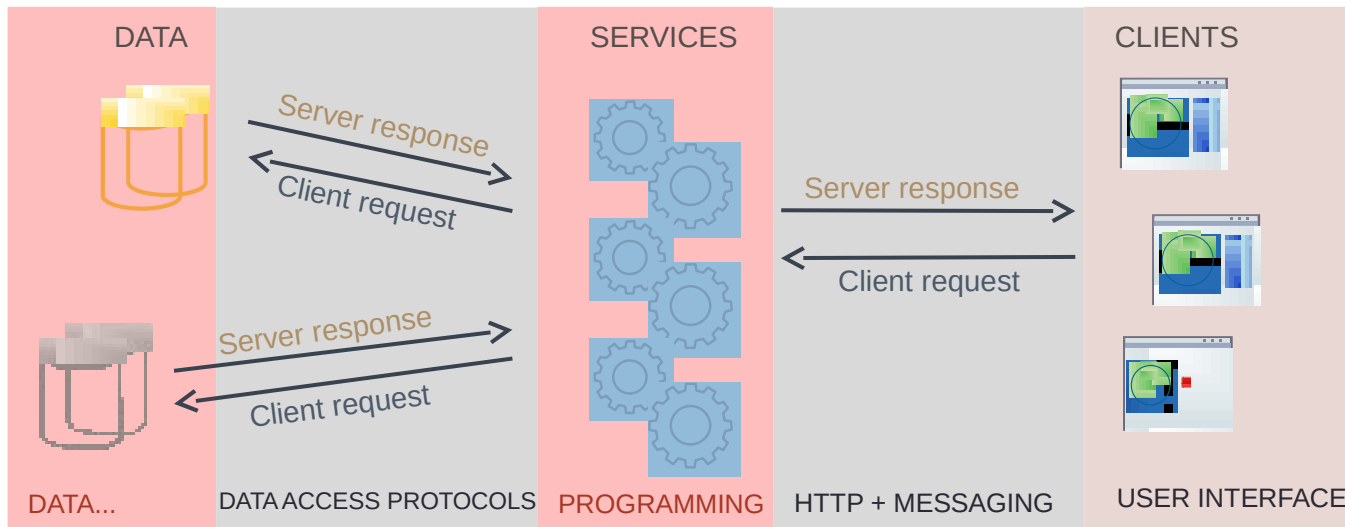


Geo-information applications, today

- It is not about "software development" anymore!
- Even multi-tier applications seem "so early 2000s"...
- How to deal with heterogeneity of spatial data, both semantic and structural?
- Answer: Accept it, go with Open Data and make good use of Open Data technologies
- To do useful things with Open geo-spatial Data, we need infrastructures, not single information systems : aggregation, visualization and analysis, even mission-critical applications!

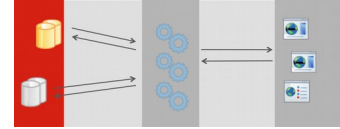
FUNDAMENTALS: ARCHITECTURES AND TECHNOLOGIES

A common reference architecture



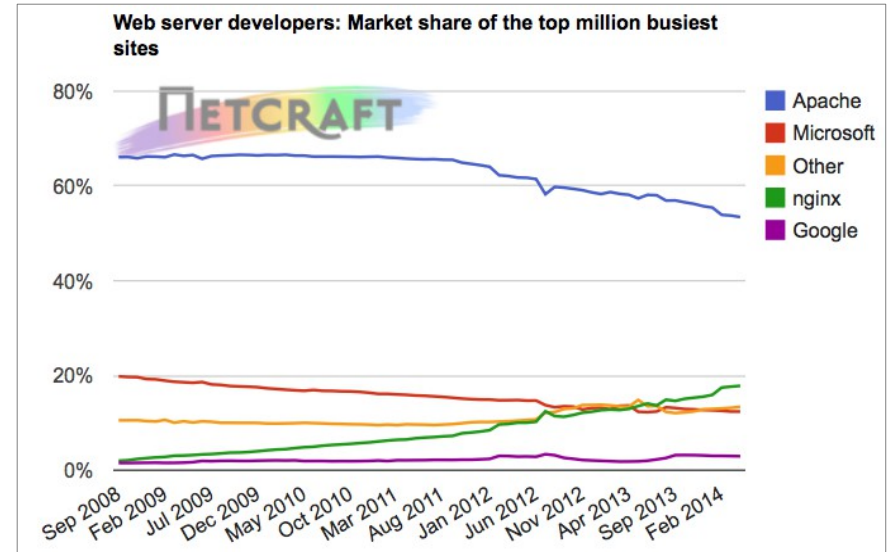
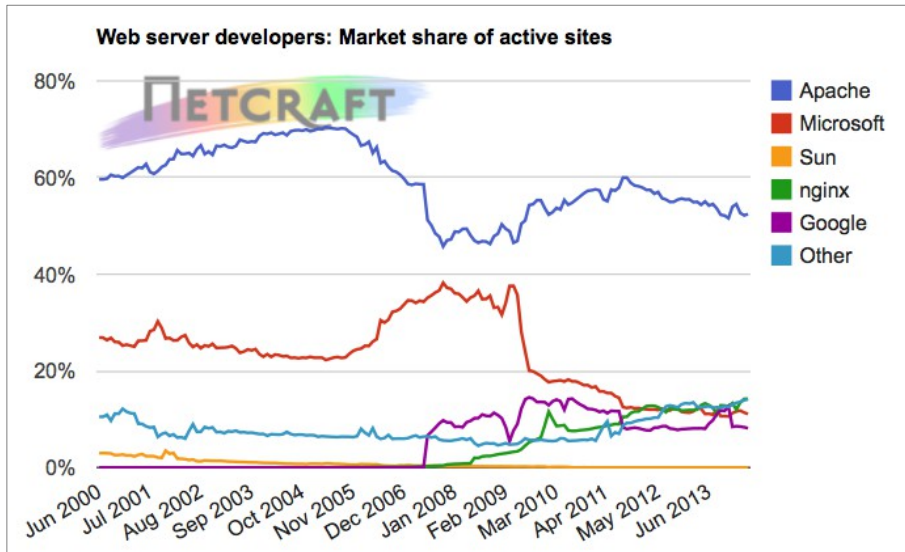
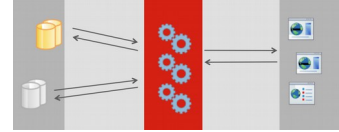
Key technologies: Data tier

- Relational databases + SQL
 - ACID: Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, Durability
 - Heavy processing requirements
 - Relational schemas, data management fundamentals
 - Examples: MySQL, Oracle, SQL Server, Postgres
- Non-relational databases
 - BASE: Basically Available, Soft-state, Eventually consistent
 - Useful for big data manipulation
 - Used by Google, Amazon, Facebook, 4-square, ...
 - Examples: NoSQL, MongoDB, SPARQL



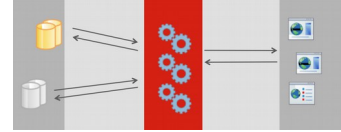
Key technologies: Service tier

- Web servers: HTTP only
 - Apache: ~60%, Open source, multi-platform
 - IIS: ~15%, Proprietary, Windows-only



Source: netcraft.com

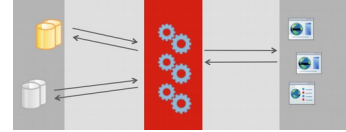
Key technologies: Service tier



- Application servers
 - Support more protocols than HTTP to implement also business logic into the server
 - Lately they lose ground from web service architectures
 - Examples: GeoServer, Tomcat, IBM Websphere, etc.
- Programming
 - Server-side scripting (PHP, Python, ...)
 - Service-specific descriptions (example: SLD for WMS)
 - Java Enterprise Edition, Java Server Pages
 - Microsoft ASP.NET, C#, Visual Studio tools

Server-side scripting

- How server-side scripting works
 - Request received by the client
 - Server runs locally a program (script)
 - The output of the program is HTML or any other text
 - The resulting text is sent to the client using HTTP
 - The client does not know if the received data comes from a script or is static text (stored as text file on the server)
- Scripts have local privileges on the server as needed for connecting to databases or other services



Server-side scripting

page1.html

```
<html>
<header><< >This is
title</title></header>
<body> Hello world
</body> </html>
```



page1.html
page2.html
...

1 <http://www.server.ch/page1.html>

2 contents of page1.html

```
<html>
<header><title>This is title</title></header>
<body>
Hello world
</body>
</html>
```



page1.php

```
<?php
$html_content= "<html>
<header><title>This is title</
title></header>
<body> Hello world
</body> </html>";
echo $html_content;
?>
```



page1.php
page2.php
...

1 <http://www.server.ch/page1.php>

2 result of the execution of page1.php

```
<html>
<header><title>This is title</title></header>
<body>
Hello world
</body>
</html>
```



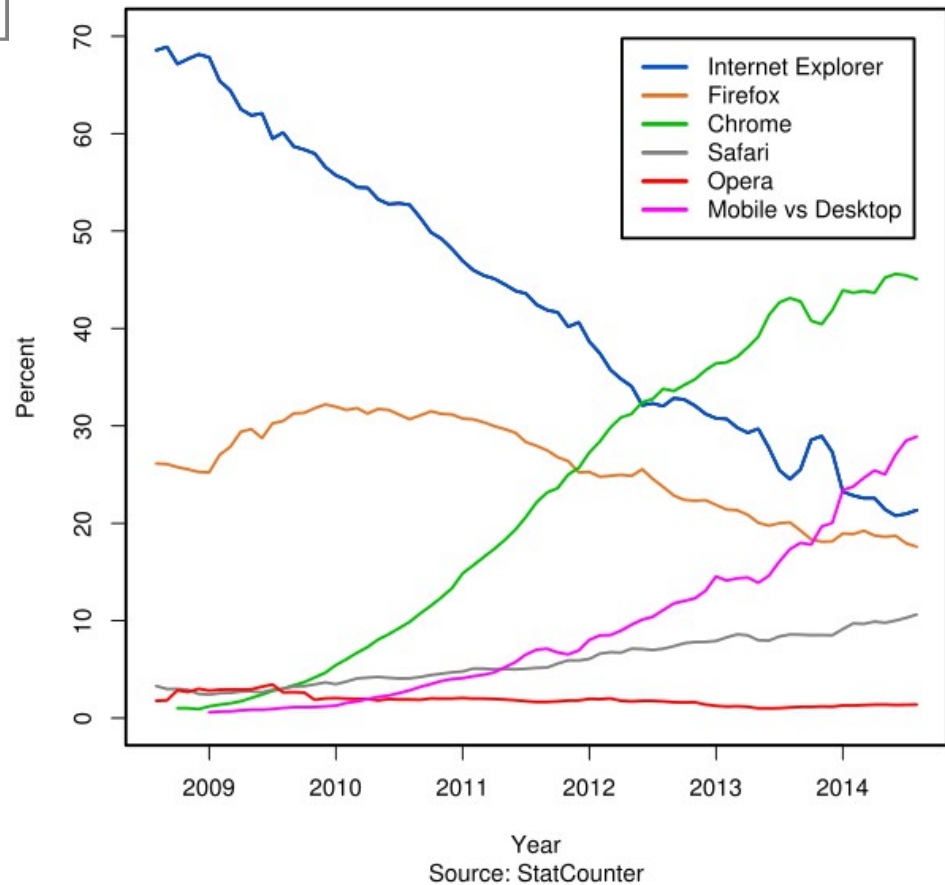
run local
service(s)

2 3
run
page1.php

Key technologies: Presentation tier

- Layout engines
 - Webkit, Mozilla Gecko
- Browser languages
 - HTML/CSS
 - Javascript, AJAX
 - Flash, Silverlight
 - ...
- Client-side scripting

Usage share of web browsers

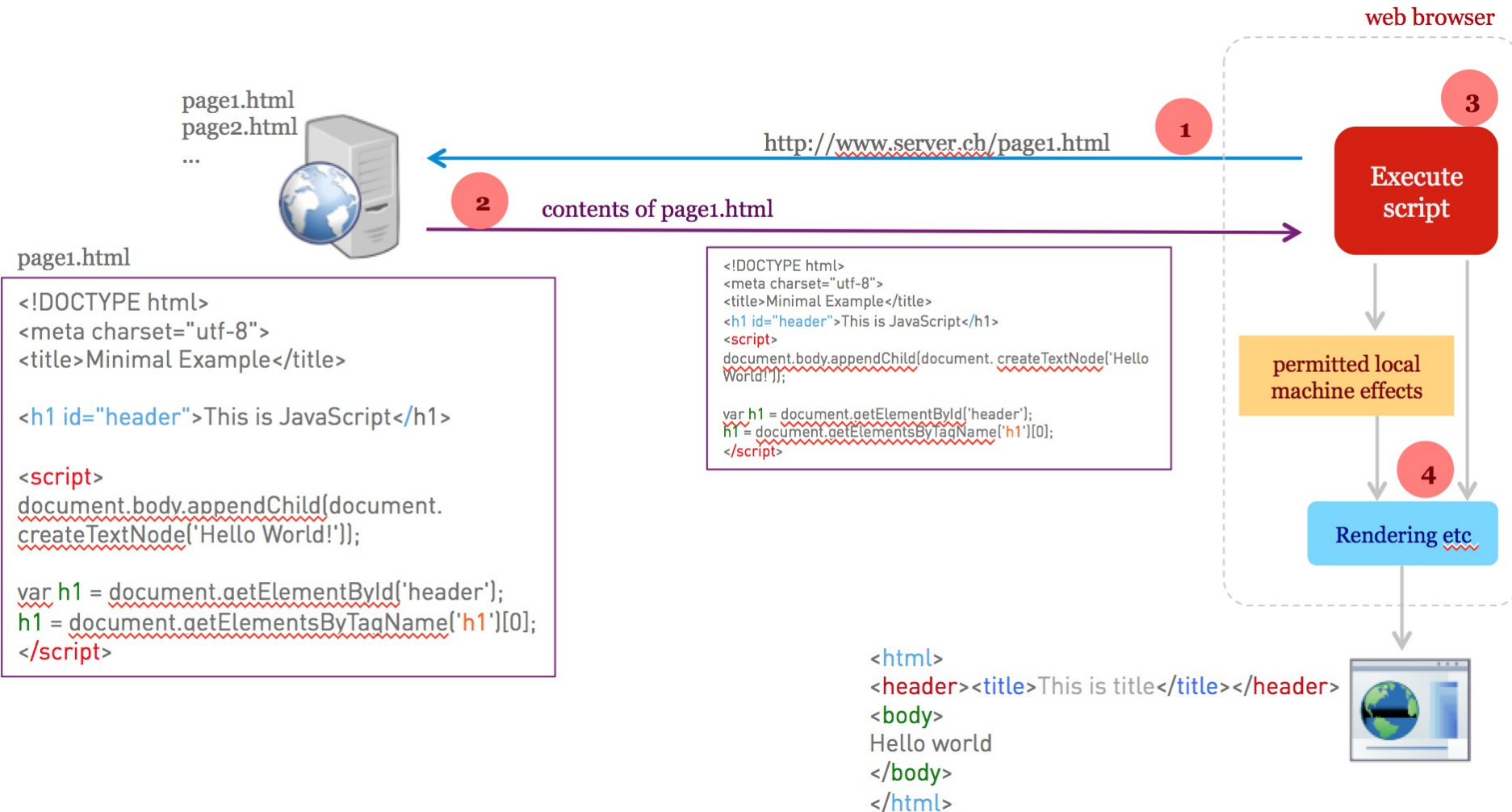


Client-side scripting

- How client-side scripting works
 - Response received by the server contains a recognizable script
 - The browser decides where to execute it (browser or operating system of the client machine)
 - The execution of the script may modify the client machine!
 - The output of the script is rendered as any other HTML content
- Security warning: scripts actually run on the client machine (yours!)

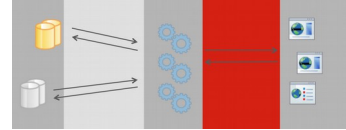


Client-side scripting (simplified)



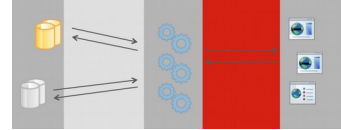
Key technologies: XML

- XML is for Extensible Markup Language
- From HTML to XML
 - HTML is used to mark up text to be displayed to users
 - XML is used to mark up data to be processed by computers
 - HTML describes both structure and appearance
 - XML describes only content, or “meaning”
 - HTML uses a fixed, unchangeable set of tags
 - In XML you make up your own tags
- Both XML and HTML come from SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language)



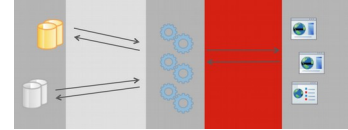
XML

- XML- Related
 - **DTD** (Document Type Definition) and **XML Schemas** are used to define legal XML tags and their attributes for particular purposes
 - **CSS** (Cascading Style Sheets) describe how to display HTML or XML in a browser
 - **XSLT** (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformations) and XPath are used to translate from one form of XML to another
 - **DOM** (Document Object Model), SAX (Simple API for XML), and JAXP (Java API for XML Processing) are all APIs for XML parsing



Key technologies: JSON

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- JSON stands for JavaScript Object Notation
 - Very simple to write and parse using Javascript (it follows a subset of Javascript's syntax, anyway)
 - Efficient and simple structured data communication
 - Data types: Numbers, Strings, Booleans, Arrays, Objects, Nulls
- GeoJSON
 - Simple JSON format for geographical features
 - Objects supported: geometry (position, point, multipoint, etc), features, collections, coordinates

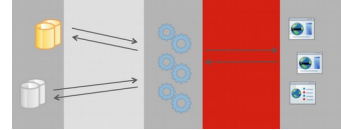


JSON

```
{
  "type": "FeatureCollection",
  "features": [
    {
      "type": "Feature",
      "geometry": {
        "type": "Point",
        "coordinates": [102.0, 0.6]
      },
      "properties": {
        "prop0": "value0"
      }
    },
    {
      "type": "Feature",
      "geometry": {
        "type": "LineString",
        "coordinates": [
          [102.0, 0.0], [103.0, 1.0], [104.0,
0.0], [105.0, 1.0]
        ]
      },
    },
  ]
}
```

```
  "properties": {
    "prop1": 0.0,
    "prop0": "value0"
  }
},
{
  "type": "Feature",
  "geometry": {
    "type": "Polygon",
    "coordinates": [
      [
        [100.0, 0.0], [101.0, 0.0], [101.0, 1.0],
[100.0, 1.0],
        [100.0, 0.0]
      ]
    ]
  },
  "properties": {
    "prop1": {
      "this": "that"
    },
    "prop0": "value0"
  }
}
]
```

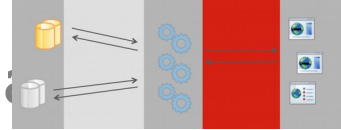
Key technologies: XML-RPC



- Concept
 - Mechanism for calling functions across a network (RPC is for Remote Procedure Call)
 - XML for messaging, HTTP for communication between computers
- XML-RPC structure
 - Data types for requests and responses
 - Basic and complex data types (arrays, structs)
 - Request: HTTP post with method name and parameters
 - Response: HTTP response with return values

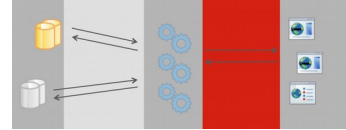
XML-RPC

- Use an XML-RPC library to make function calls
 - Any programming language
 - Apache XML-RPC supports Java
- Generic workflow
 - Develop the function(s) to be called
 - Create the server
 - Register the function(s) to the server (RPC handler(s))
 - Start the server



Key technologies: SOAP

- Simple Object Access Protocol
 - Yet another protocol specification for remote execution of methods over XML and HTTP (other protocols possible)
 - Platform- and language- independent
 - Developed by Microsoft and others (IBM, too)
- SOAP message structure
 - Envelope
 - Header (optional)
 - Body
 - No DTD or processing instructions

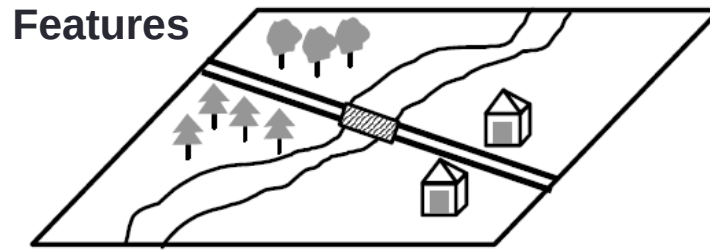


SPATIAL DATA: WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT...

Spatial data management

- **Representation of spatial data:**
All forms of spatial data must be storable in the system
 - Boundaries, roads, blocks, buildings, paths, points, ...
- **Spatial queries:**
Queries with spatial reference or context
 - Which properties lie next to a main road?
- **Integration with thematic data:**
Combine thematic and spatial data in an adequate form
 - Which properties in corporate ownership lie next to rivers?
 - What types of vegetation exist in country X?

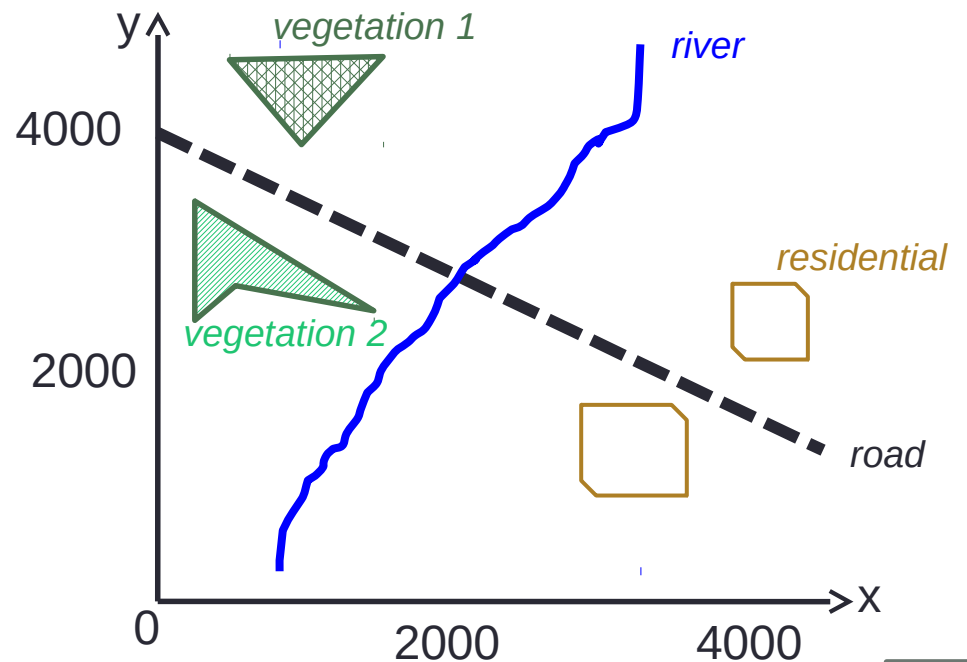
Representation of spatial data



Raster

t1		t1		rv		
R	t1			rv		
t2	R		rv			
t2	t2	R	rv			
		rv	R			
		rv		R	h	
	rv				R	
	rv				h	R
	rv					

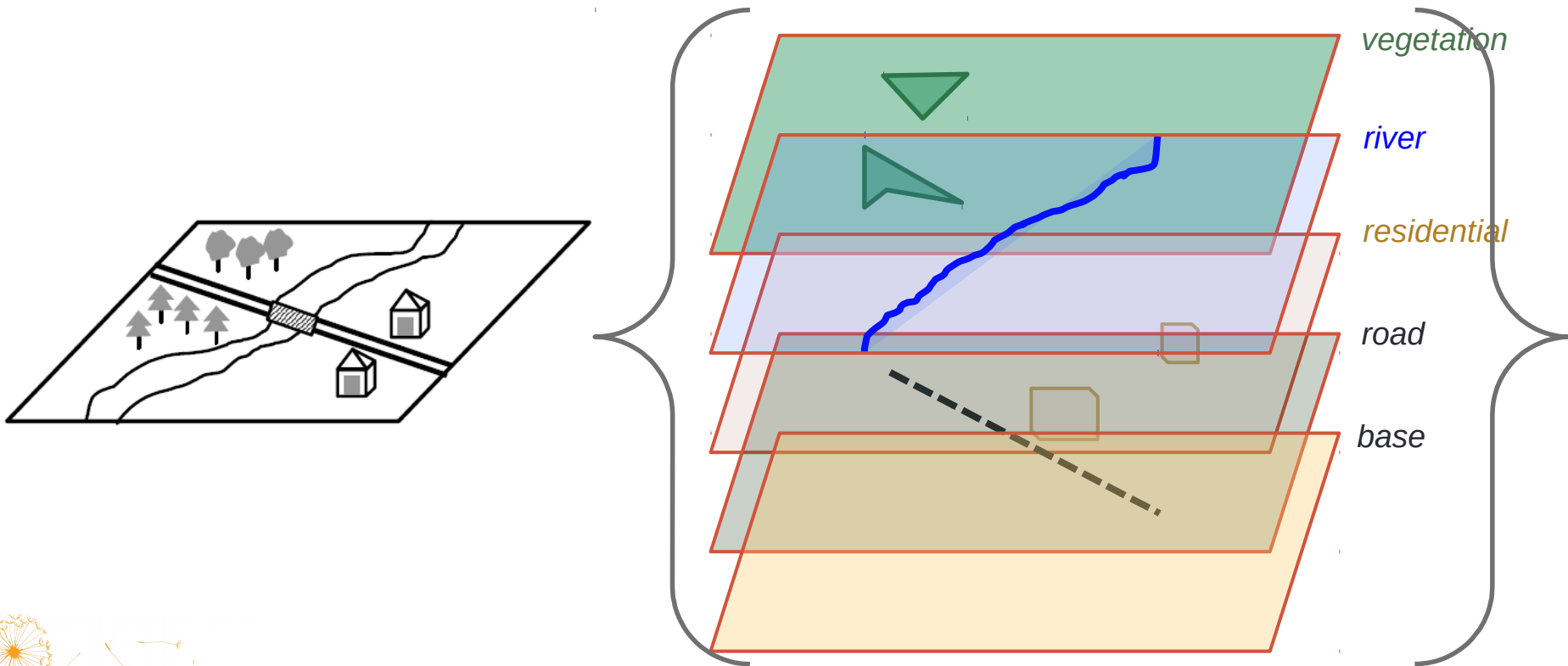
Vector



Representation of spatial data

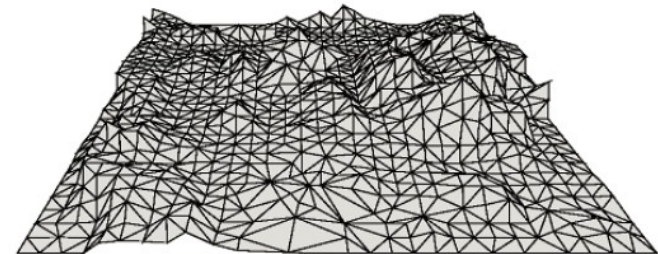
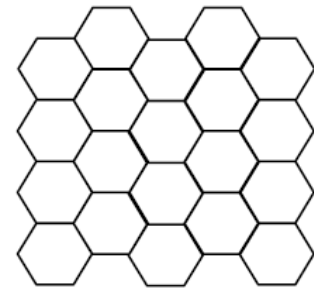
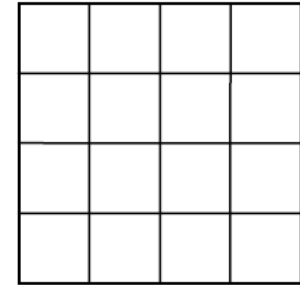
- Layers

- a layer contains spatial data under a thematic abstraction
- thematic abstractions are usually application-dependent



Rasters

- Space is represented as a mosaic
 - Non-overlapping cells
 - Each cell contains information about some attribute
 - Multiple-dimensions are possible
 - An image is a raster with optical information
- Cells' shape may be
 - Canonical (grid)
 - TIN



Spatial data management

- Thematic data can be managed on the basis of existing data models (e.g. relational model).
- Spatial data may be integrated in different ways:
 - by employing a DBMS data model
 - by extending a given DBMS data model
 - by separate management in a specialized storage system

Spatial data management

- Geographical Information Systems (GIS):
Visualize and analyze spatial data
 - Search (location, address, ...)
 - Analyze (buffer, overlay, ...)
 - Terrain attributes (slope, features, ...)
 - Measurements (distance, area, perimeter, ...)
 - Can use data from a SDBMS
- Spatial Databases (SDBMS)
 - Efficiently manage large volumes of spatial data
 - Spatial indexing and search (query) optimization
 - No mapping tools

Spatial data management

- Create **new spatial data types**, which are implemented as abstract data types (ADT) within the DBMS.
 - Usage in analogy to primitive SQL data types
 - Spatial index structures can be used within the query process
 - Spatial operators and predicates may be evaluated using special algorithms within the DBMS
- Optimize **indexing and query processing** for efficiency and speed due to the geometric nature of data

OGC

- The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
 - non-commercial organization, consisting of authorities, companies and universities.
 - OGC offers standards for spatial data and services

OGC Simple Features

- The OGC Simple Feature Specification for SQL:
 - Describes a set of geometry data types for SQL based on the OGC geometry model
 - Describes a set of SQL operations on these types
- Characteristics:
 - A "feature" is an abstraction of a phenomenon of the real world ("geo-object"), stored as a dataset in a feature table
 - Modeling of the geometry of spatial objects:
 - Only 0-2 dimensional objects
 - Only linear interpolation between points
 - No explicit representation of topology

Geo-spatial data sharing practices

- Today there are a number of approaches, sometimes called design patterns, for accomplishing geospatial data exchange between dissimilar systems
 - **File based approach:** geographic data is encoded in a structured file format, for batch transfer or download
 - **Application programming interface (API) approach:** geographic data is exchanged as needed between software applications running locally (not on a network)
 - **Web services approach:** geographic data is accessed and exchanged over networks and the Internet between software components, using HTTP and other web-based protocols



Standards and interoperability

- Standards (in general)
 - Are needed to achieve interoperability
 - Specify interfaces that different vendors should use
 - Need to be agreed upon (not easy!)
- Data standards
 - Specify a conception of the spatial world (vocabularies, hierarchies, attributes, ...)
- Web service standards:
 - specify format of HTTP requests and responses: what parameters, names of parameters, type of value for parameters, type of results, security, ...

Main standards bodies

- OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium)
- ISO/TC 211 (International Organization for Standardization, Technical Committee 211)
 - Covering digital geographic information and geomatics.
- W3C (World Wide Web Consortium)
 - Address issues of incompatibility in Web technology by different vendors

Geography Markup Language

- Geography Markup Language (**GML**) has its roots in decades-old geo-data exchange standards in the US, developed to solve the problem of packaging geospatial data in a file format independent of any GIS vendor's software
- XML-based encoding standard for geographic information
- Defines an XML schema for geographic entities
- GML objects can represent features, geometries, topologies, coordinates, observations, styles, values and more



GML and XML

- Because GML is based on XML, it leverages a wealth of standards, tools and practices for data exchange being developed by several consortia around the world
- Standard XML technologies exist...
 - for encoding and data modeling (DTD, RDF and XSD)
 - for linking and associating resources (Xlink)
 - for selecting and pointing (XPath, Xpointer)
 - for transforming content (XSLT)
 - for graphical rendering (SVG, VML, X3D)

GML vs Simple Features

- GML is an XML representation of geometrical entities ("features", collections)
 - It is about communicating data over the web
 - Also, about communicating meta-data
- Simple Features is a standard for adding geometrical data types in databases
 - Definition, Constraints
 - Operations on geometries, topological relationships, spatial operations

SERVICE LAYER OPEN STANDARDS

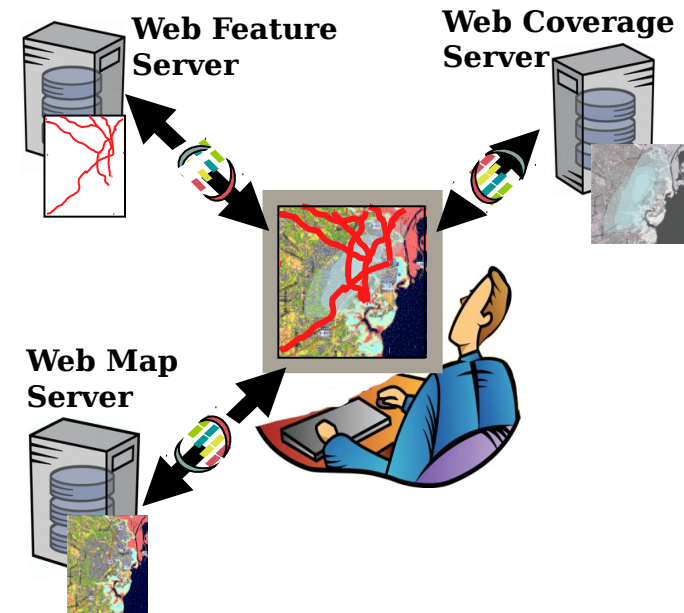
OGC Web Services

- Geospatial Web Services from OGC
 - Map Service: $\text{Map} = f(\text{semantics, map extent, scale, ...})$
-> OGC Web Map Service (**WMS**)
 - Data Access- / Download- / Feature- / Coverage- Service:
 $\text{Geospatial Data} = f(\text{filter criteria})$
-> OGC Web Feature Service (**WFS**) for vector data (Features)
-> OGC Web Coverage Service (WCS) for fields
 - Geocoding Service: $\text{Point} = f(\text{postal address})$
-> OGC OpenLS
 - Catalogue Service: $\text{Metadata} = f(\text{filter criteria})$
-> OGC Catalog Service Web (CSW)

• More at www.opengeospatial.org/standards

OGC Web Standards

- Enable the geo-spatial web
 - **Web Map Service (WMS)**
 - Web Map Tile Service (WMTS)
 - **Web Feature Service (WFS)**
 - Web Processing Service (WPS)
 - **Web Coverage Service (WCS)**
 - Catalogue (CSW)
 - **Geography Markup Language (GML)**
 - **KML**
 - Others...



OGC Web services

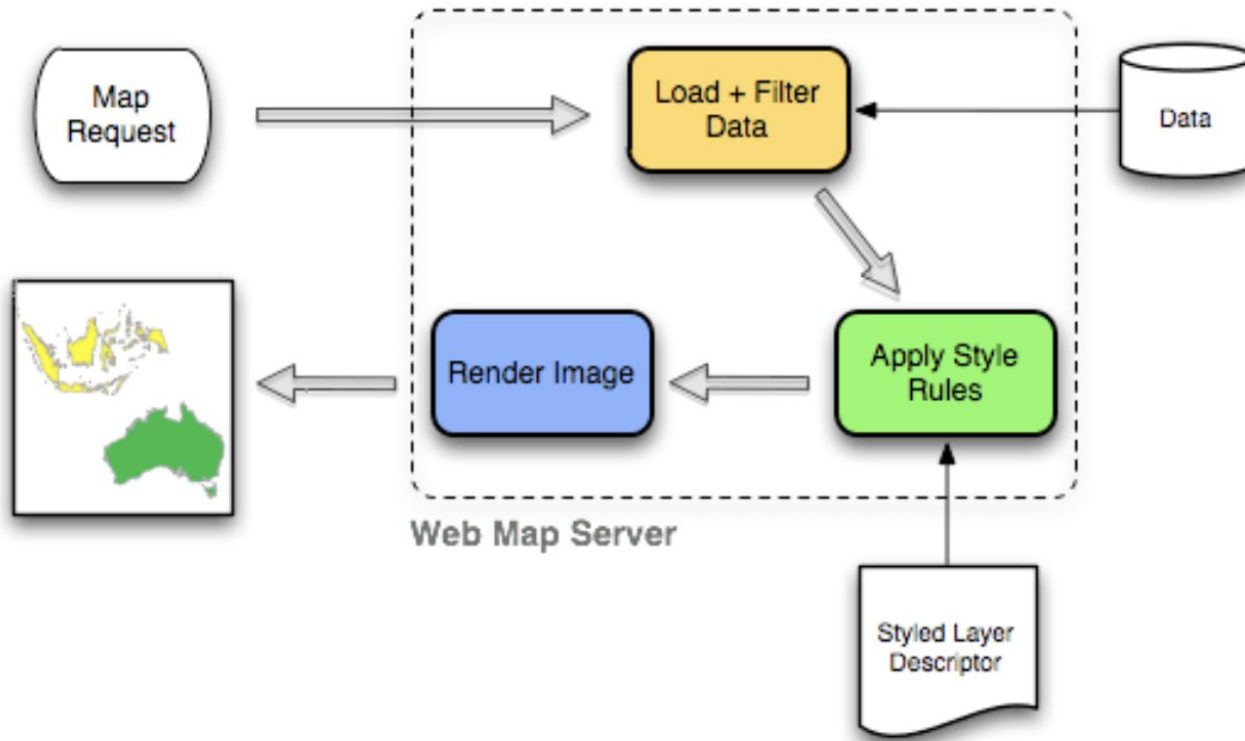
- Map services (WMS, WMTS, WCS)
 - Offer maps for use in your application
- Feature services (WFS, CSW)
 - Offer spatial data
- Processing services (WPS)
 - Provide a framework for spatial data processing over the web
- Enabling technologies for mash-ups and new value-added services

OGC Web Services

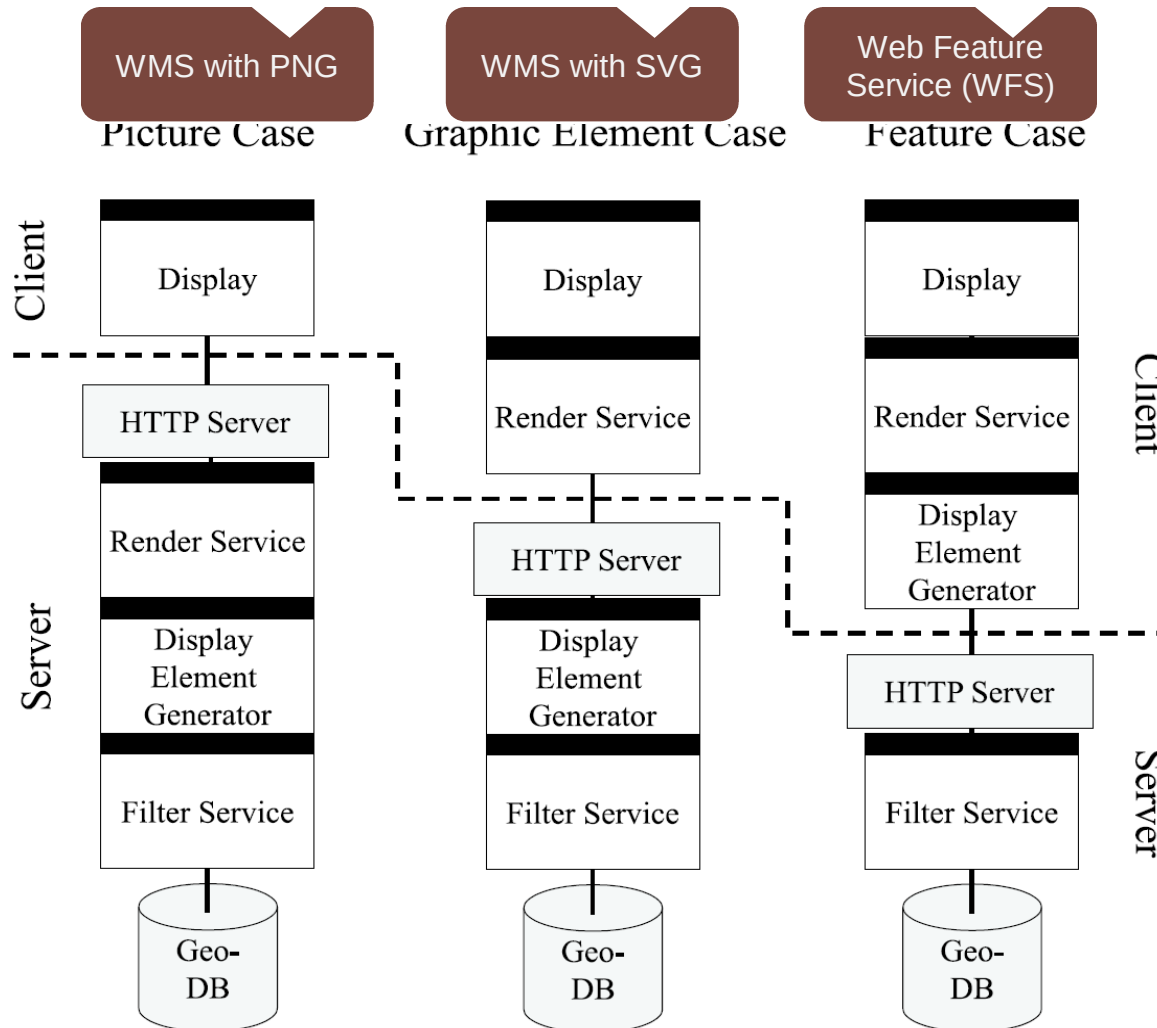
- Interface concept
 - Get the **capabilities** of the service:
returns information about what a specific implementation of the service can do
 - Get **info** on some entity/property:
returns the attributes of entities offered by the service
 - **Run** the service:
accepts parameters and returns the result of the service

OGC WMS - Web Map Service

- OGC & ISO standard for requesting & serving maps over the Internet in pictorial format (PNG, GIF, JPEG).



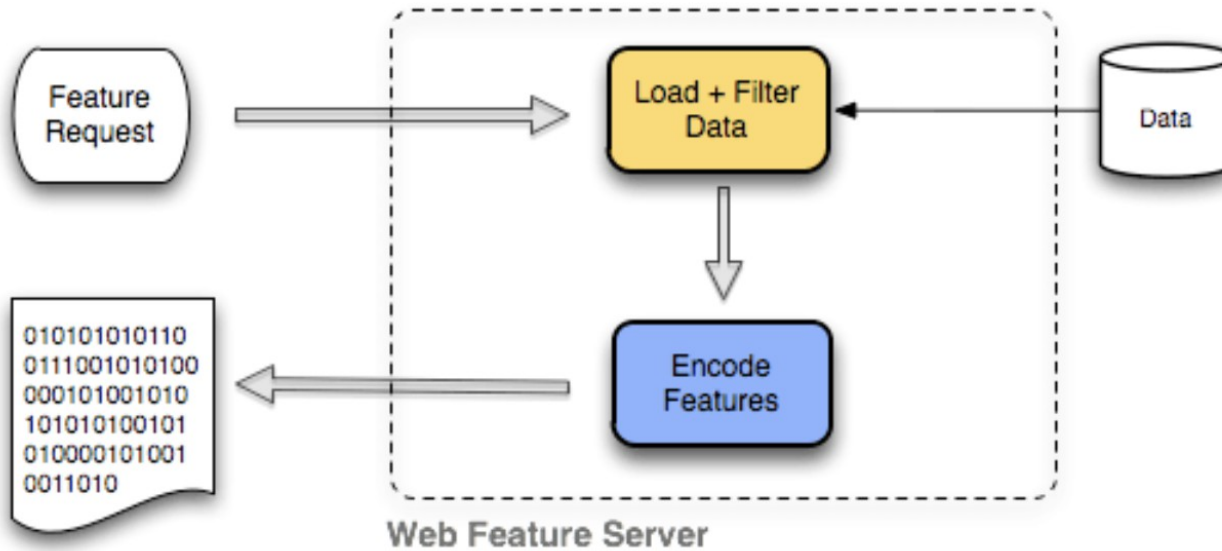
WMS System Architecture



[Image source: OGC 2000
modified by A. Donaubaauer]

OGC WFS - Web Feature Service

- OGC Web service standard for reading & writing geographic features in vector format.



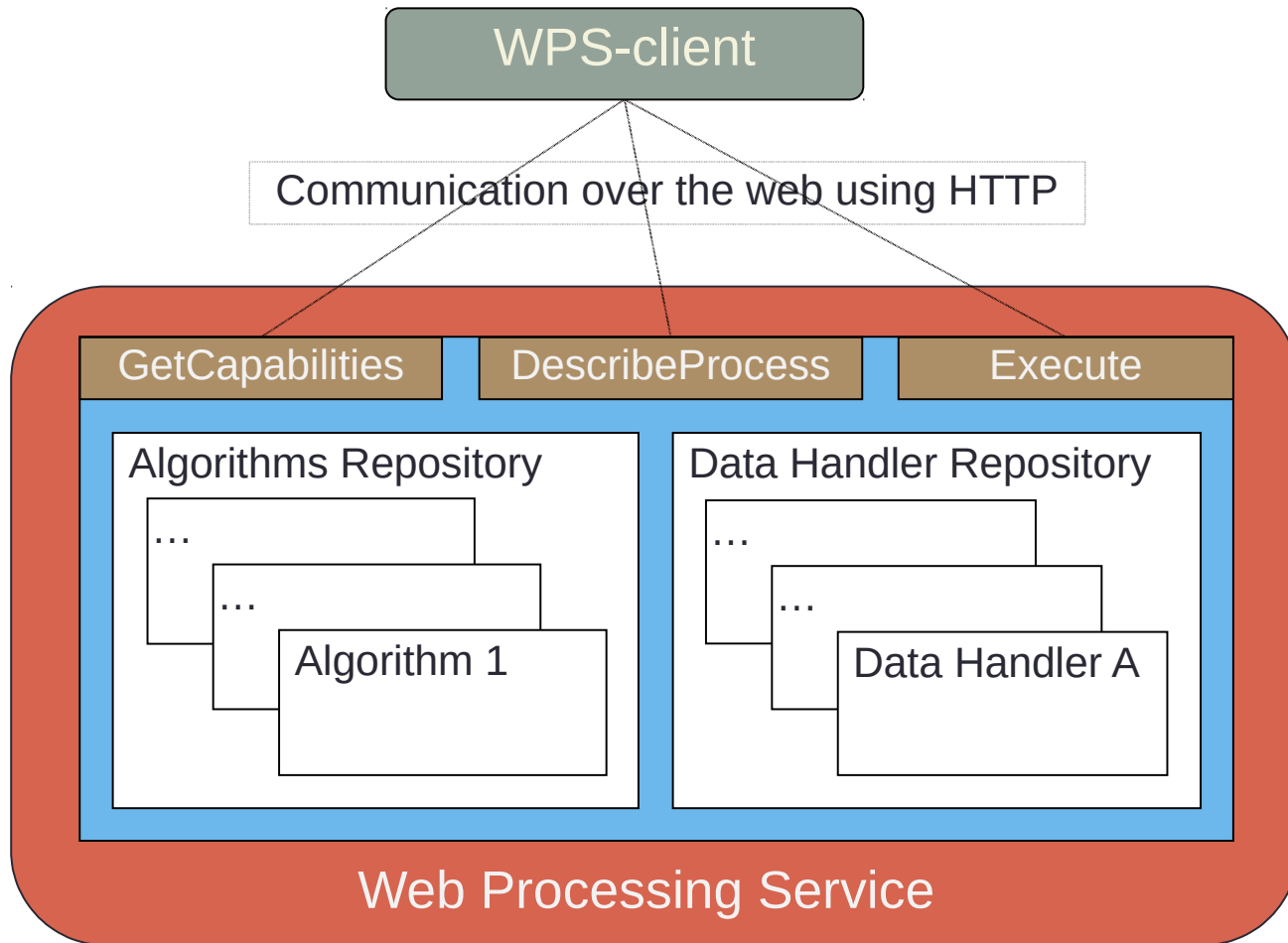
Other web services

- WPS – Web Processing Service
 - Provides rules for standardizing inputs & outputs for geospatial processing services.
 - GetCapabilities, DescribeProcess, Execute
- SWE – Sensor Web Enablement
 - Standards enable users to discover & access sensor data of a sensor Web or sensor network
 - Sensor Observation Service (SOS), Sensor Alert Service (SAS), etc.

WPS - Web Processing Service

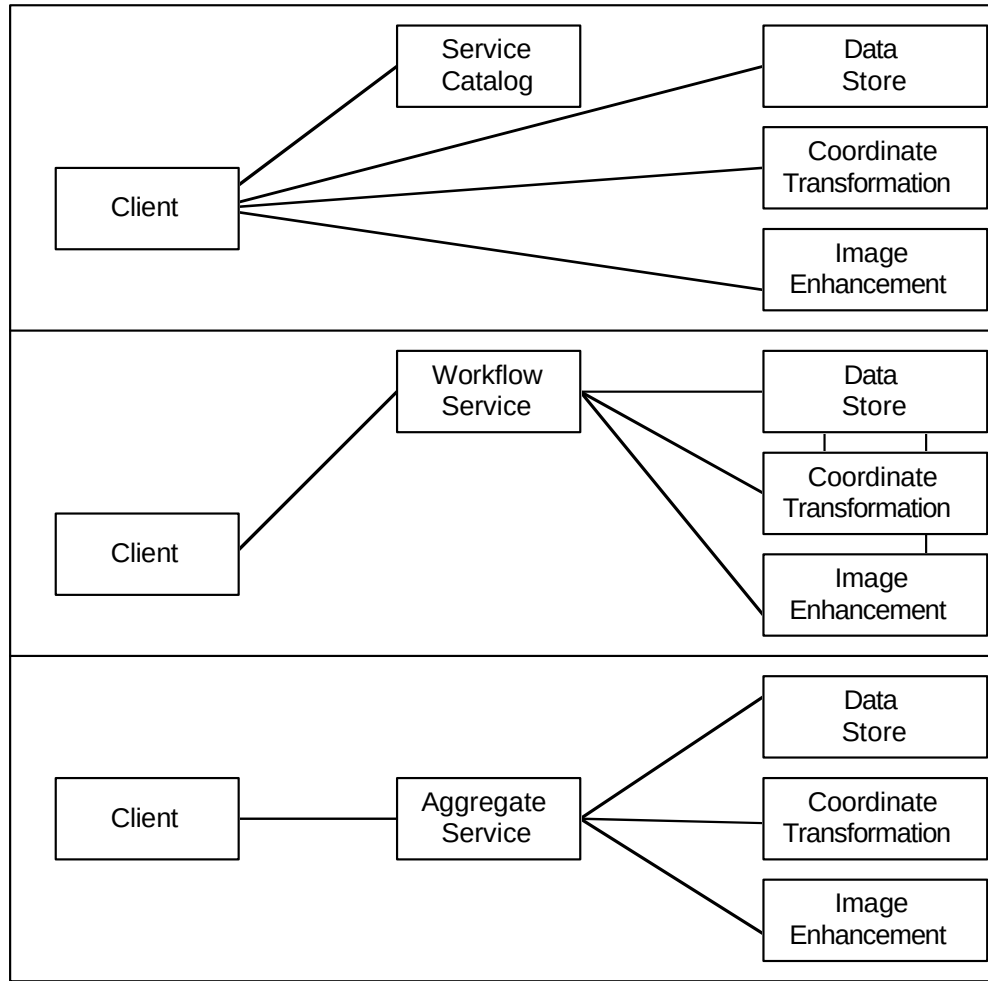
- Standardized interface
- Facilitates the publishing of geospatial processes
- Discovery of and binding to those processes by clients
- Process:
Any algorithm, calculation or model that operates on spatially referenced data and gives any data type, including spatial data, as a result

Web Processing Service



Credit: Open Geospatial Consortium

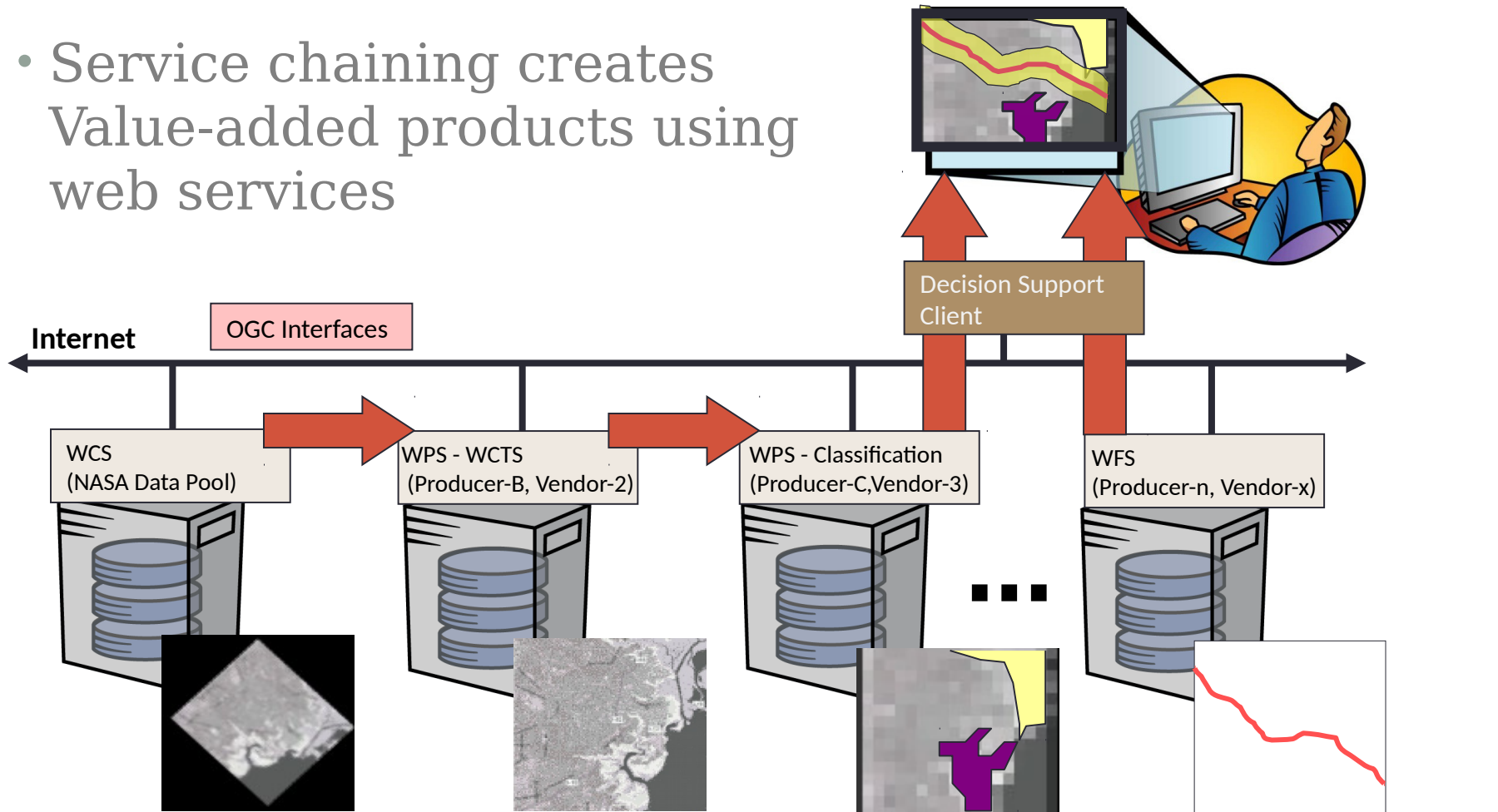
Design patterns for Service Chaining



Credit: Open Geospatial Consortium

Workflow example

- Service chaining creates Value-added products using web services



Credit: Open Geospatial Consortium

Value added and considerations

- Unlimited applications are possible
- Spatial data and service sharing
- Democracy, redefined

- However...
 - It takes some (initial only?) data therapy
 - Quality and validation considerations
 - Privacy issues
 - Mission-critical applications

- A shift of mentality is required



STANDARDS-BASED TOOLS FOR GEOSPATIAL APP DEVELOPMENT: GEOSERVER

What is GeoServer

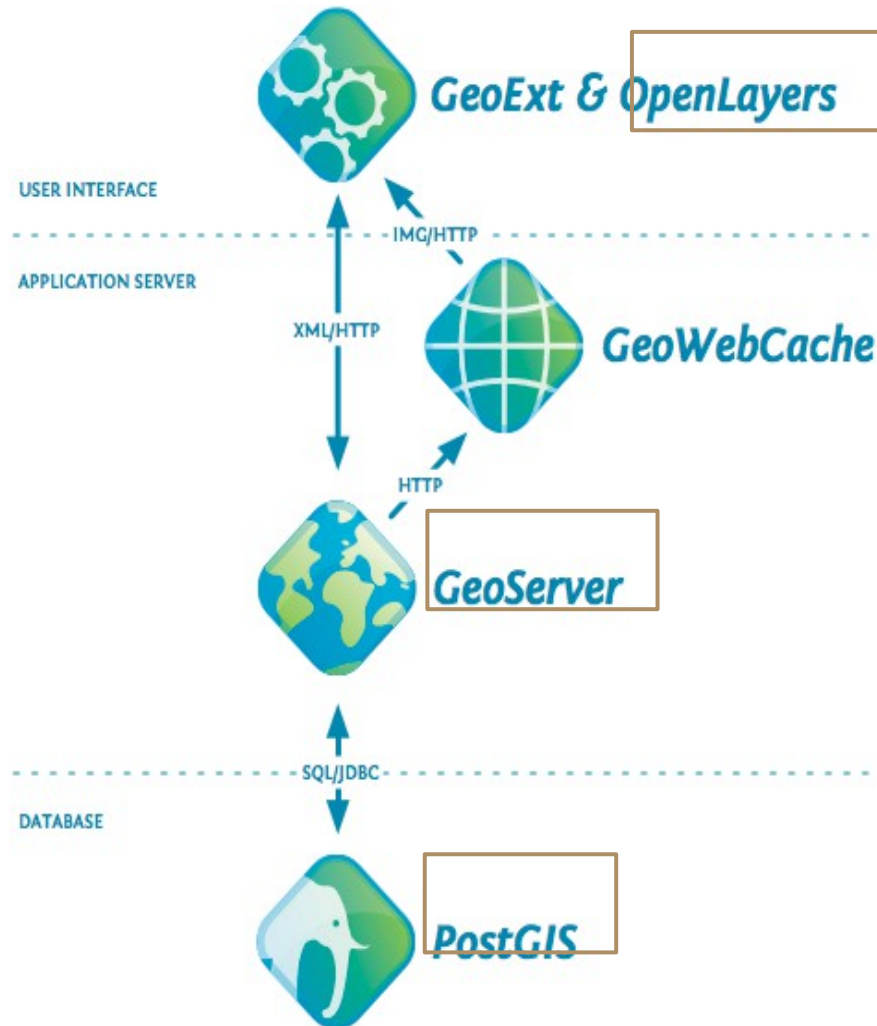
- *"GeoServer is a powerful map and feature server for sharing, analyzing, and editing geospatial data from spatial data sources using open standards"*
 - Support for many back-end data formats (ArcSDE, Oracle Spatial, DB2, MS SQL Server, Shapefile, GeoTIFF, etc.)
 - Multiple output formats (Esri Shapefiles, KML, GML, GeoJSON, PNG, JPEG, TIFF, SVG, PDF, GeoRSS)
 - Fully-featured web administration interface and REST API for easy configuration
 - Configurable role-based security subsystem Java J2EE application works with Jetty, Tomcat, JBoss, and others

Source: boundlessgeo.com

What is GeoServer



Part of OpenGeo Suite



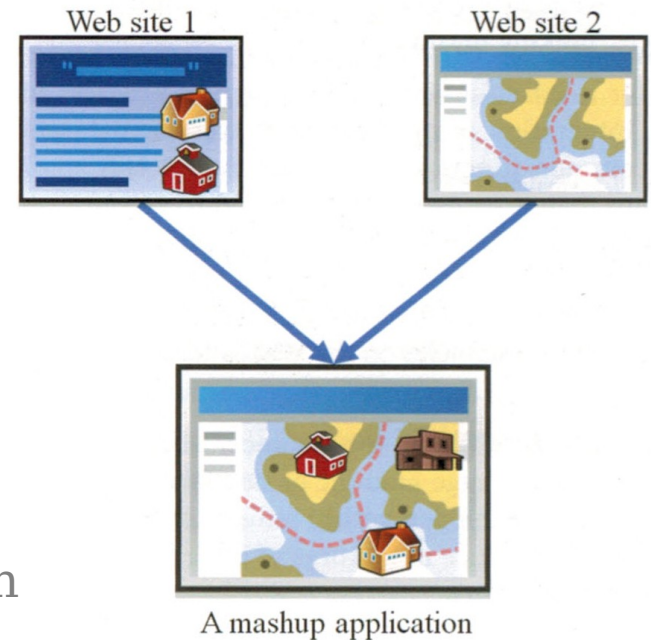
APPLICATION FAMILY: GEO-MASHUPS

What is a 'mashup'?

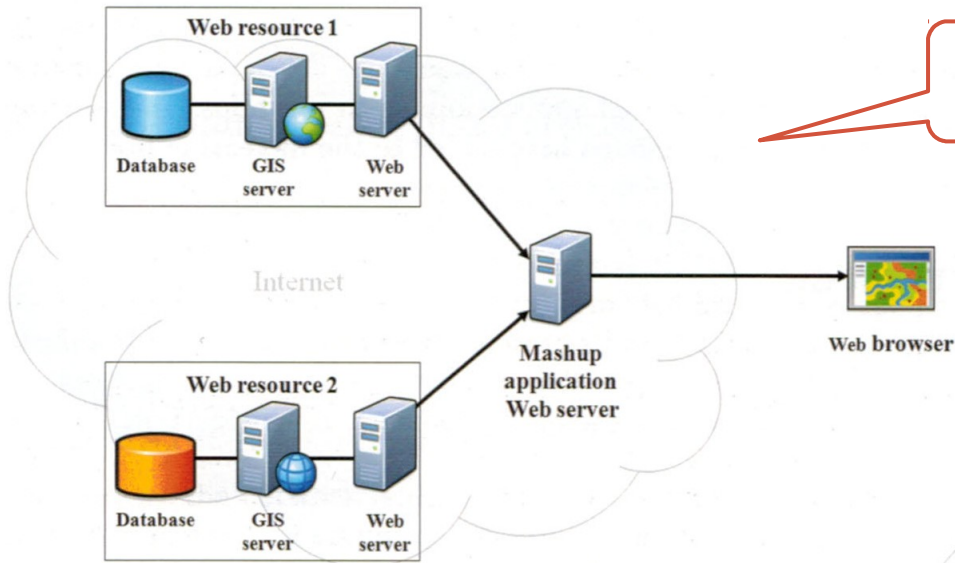
- Mashup: a Web page or application that dynamically combines contents or functions from multiple Web sites.
 - Live linkage to its sources!
- Geomashup: a mashup where at least one of the contents/functions is georeferenced.
 - Integrating multiple data sources based on common geographic location.
 - Topological (e.g., flood boundaries with city boundaries) & graphic overlays.

What can be 'remixed'?

- Maps, web services, web pages, blogs, photos, videos.
 - Housing Maps
 - www.housingmaps.com
 - Craigslist & Google Maps
 - Crime Mapping
 - www.crimemapping.com
 - Crime activity by neighborhood
 - Transportation services
 - Real-time traffic+weather information
 - Road network
 - Routing service

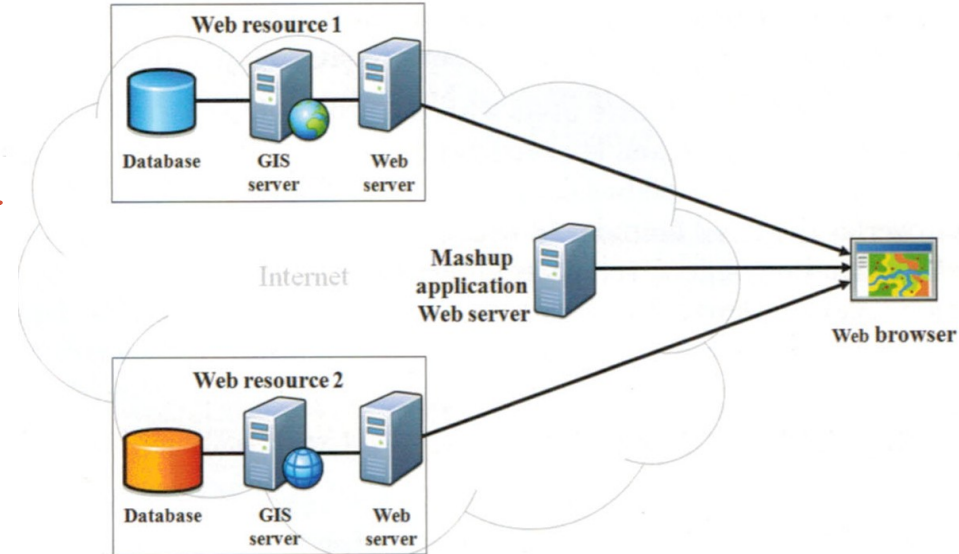


Design patterns for mashups



Mashups: browser-side architecture

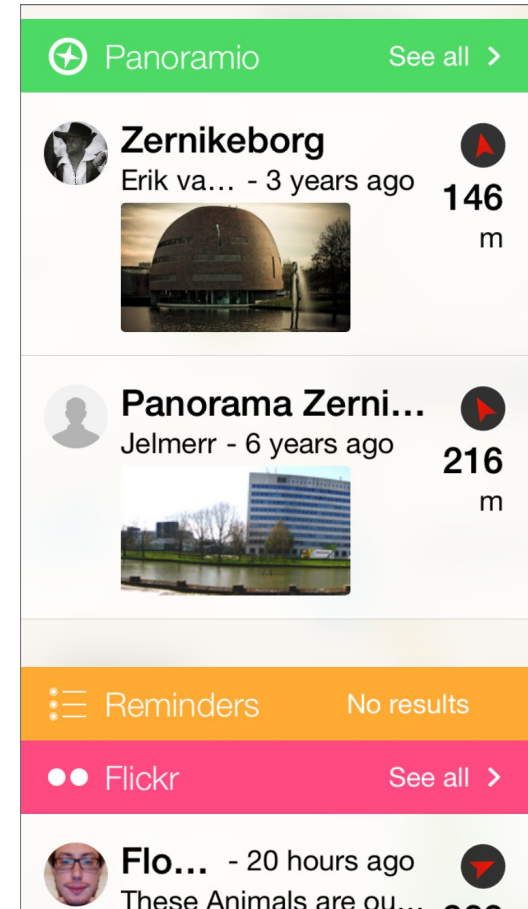
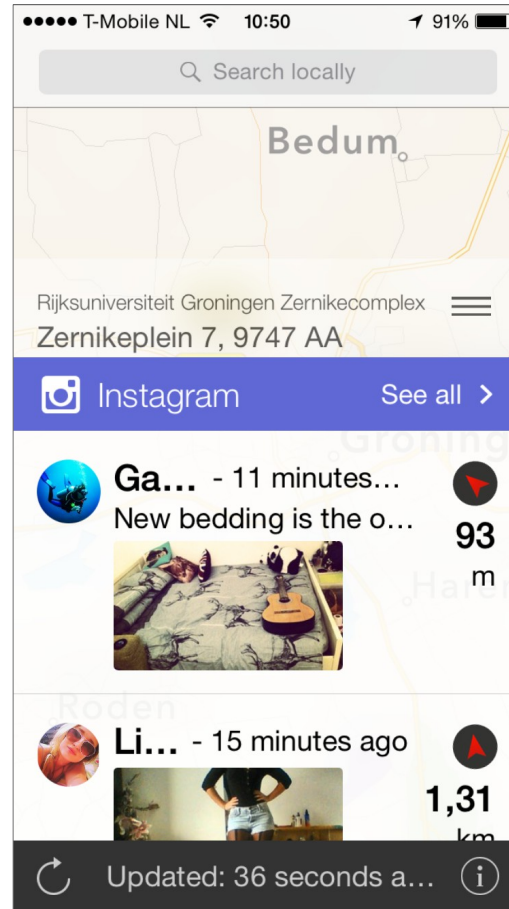
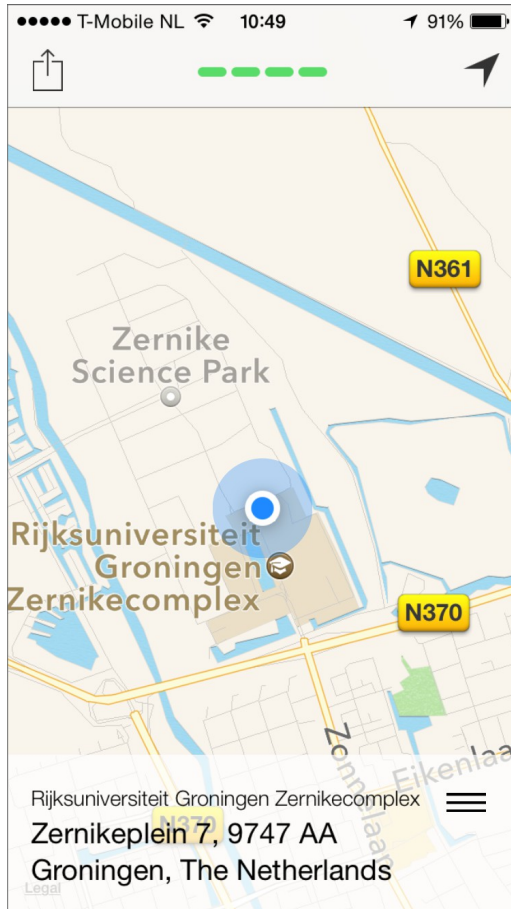
- Maps provided via JavaScript
- Users can view sources
- Google, etc. officially released their mapping capabilities via a JS API.



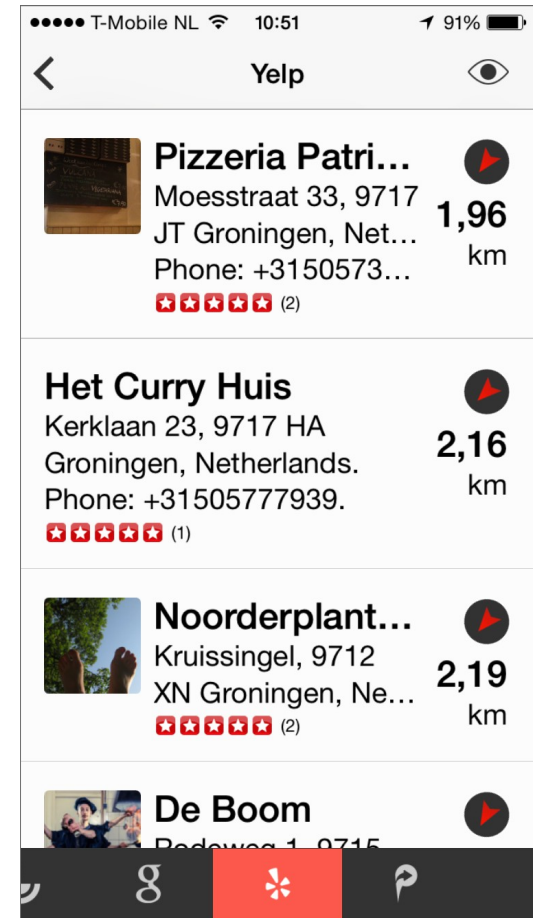
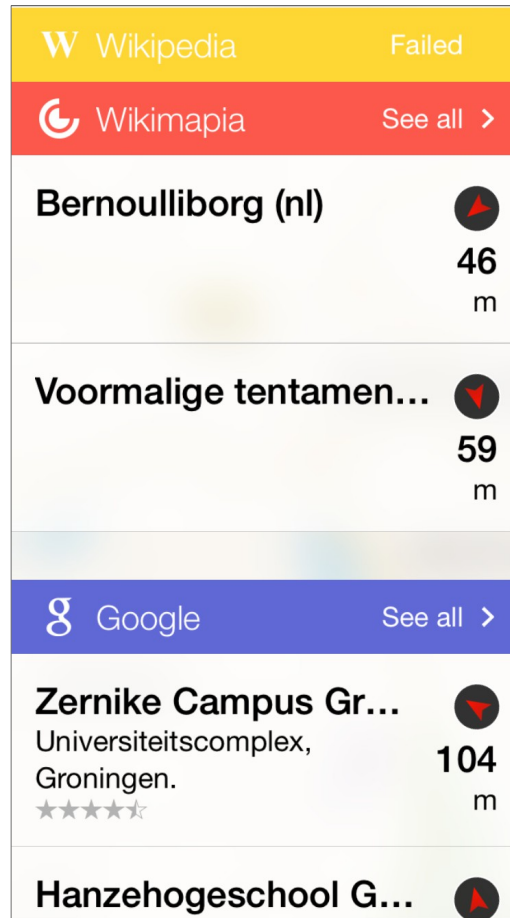
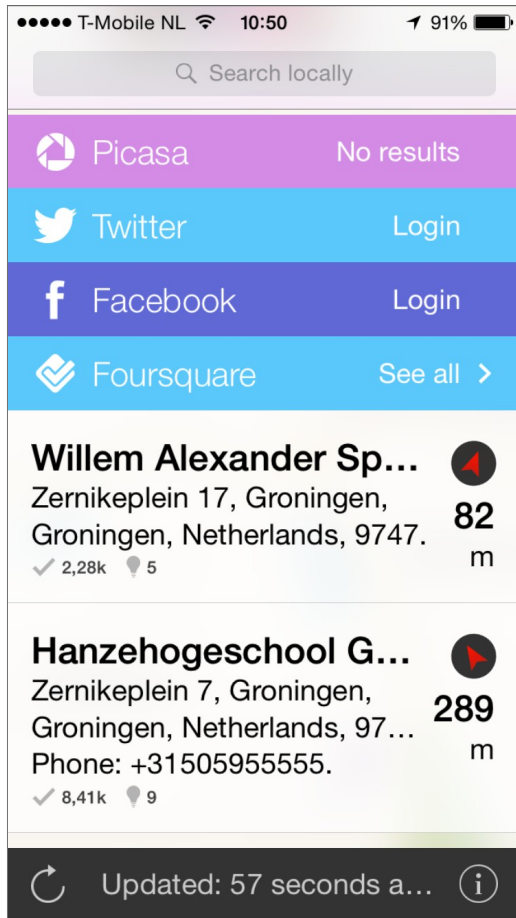
Geo-mashup application design

- We need to integrate **WMS, WFS**
 - Basemaps, data setup (and license?) maps + data from some provider
 - Operational layers develop software to implement the user experience and respond to user actions, e.g., mouse click on a map, a form, etc. **WPS**
 - Tools develop (or interface to) software to implement business logic, analytical functions, etc.
- Mashups promote development of public participation GIS

Geo-mashup example: localscope



Geo-mashup example: localscope



SENSOR WEB ENABLEMENT: GEO-INFORMATION APPS EVERYWHERE

What is SWE?

- Sensor Web Enablement (SWE) is a set of OGC standards that enable developers to make all types of sensors, transducers and sensor data repositories discoverable, accessible and useable via the Web

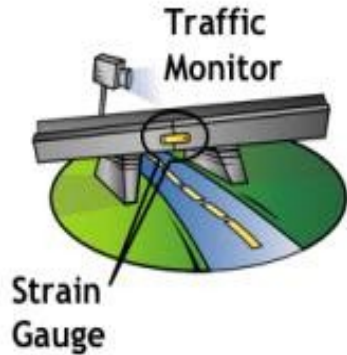
(source: opengeospatial.org)

- A sensor Web is a Web-accessible network of sensors and archived sensor data that can be discovered and accessed using standard protocols and APIs.'

(Botts et al. 2006)

- SWE is about monitoring and controlling Objects, Phenomena and Processes through Web-enabled

What is SWE?

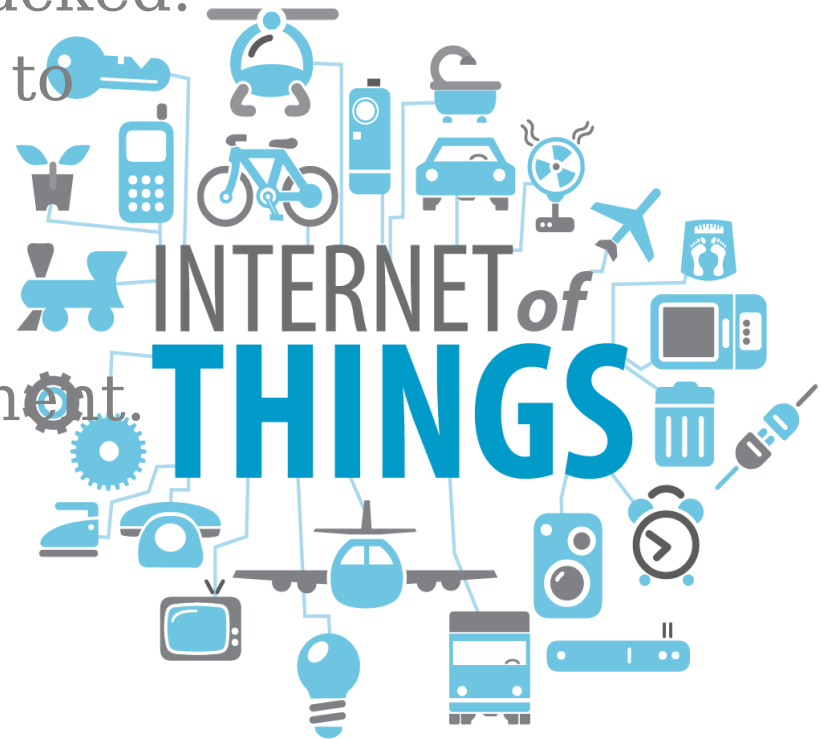


- All sensors reporting position
- All connected to the web
- All with metadata registered
- All readable remotely
- Some controllable remotely



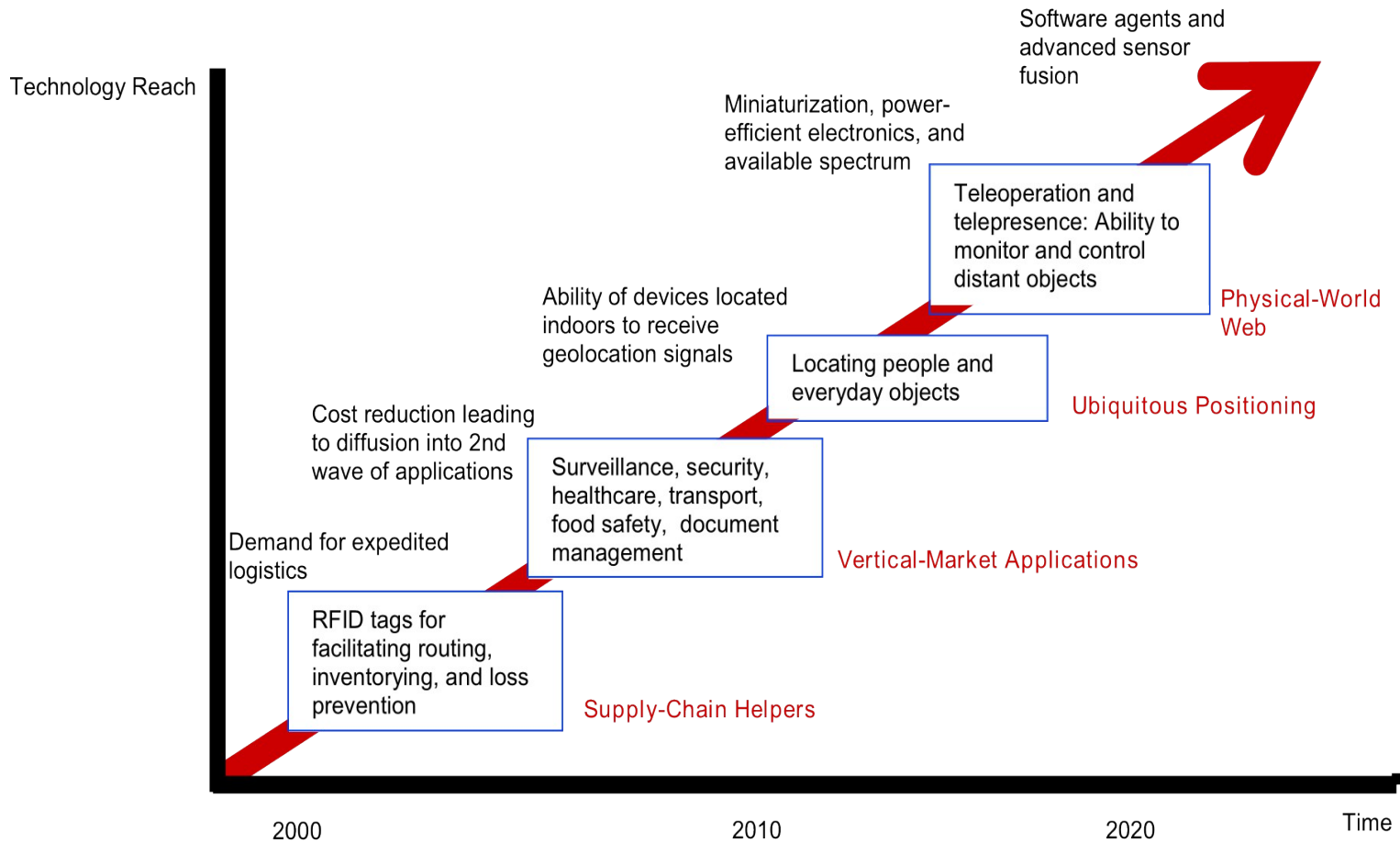
Internet of Things

- Real-world objects (lights, cars, packages, etc.) are **interlinked & connected** to the Internet.
- Location & status can be tracked.
- Network **intelligent** enough to self-organize information.
- **Automatically respond** to context, circumstances, or events from the environment.



Internet of things

TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP: THE INTERNET OF THINGS



Source: SRI Consulting Business Intelligence

The vision behind SWE

- Quickly **discover sensors** and sensor data (secure or public) based on location, observables, quality, ability to task, etc.
- **Obtain sensor information** in a standard encoding that is understandable by my software and enables assessment and processing without a-priori knowledge.
- Readily **access sensor observations** in a common manner, and in a form specific to my needs.
- **Task sensors**, when possible, to meet my specific needs.
- **Subscribe to and receive alerts** when a sensor measures a particular phenomenon.



Why SWE?

- Enable interoperability not only within communities but between traditionally disparate communities.
 - different sensor types: in-situ vs. remote sensors, video, models
 - different disciplines: science, defense, intelligence, emergency management, utilities, etc.
 - different sciences: ocean, atmosphere, land, bio, signal processing, etc.
 - different agencies: government, commercial, private, Joe Public



What are the benefits of SWE?

- Sensor system agnostic => virtually any sensor or modeling system can be supported
- Net-Centric, SOA-based
 - Distributed architecture allows independent development of services but enables on-the-fly connectivity between resources
- Semantically tied
 - Relies on online dictionaries and ontologies for semantics
 - Key to interoperability

Benefits of SWE cont'd

- Traceability
 - observation lineage
 - quality of measurement support
- Implementation flexibility
 - wrap existing capabilities and sensors
 - implement services and processing where it makes sense (e.g., near sensors, closer to user, or in-between)
 - scalable from single, simple sensor to large sensor collections



SWE related standards

- There are several adopted or working OGC standards
 - **Observations & Measurements (O&M)** -The general models and XML encodings for observations and measurements.
 - **Sensor Observation Service (SOS)** - Open interface for a web service to obtain observations and sensor and platform descriptions from one or more sensors.
 - **Sensor Model Language (SensorML)** - Standard models and XML Schema for describing the processes within sensor and observation processing systems.
 - **Sensor Planning Service (SPS)** - An open interface for a web service by which a client can 1) determine the feasibility of collecting data from sensors and 2) submit collection requests.

SWE related standards (cont'd)

- **PUCK Protocol Standard** - Defines a protocol to retrieve a SensorML description, sensor "driver" code, and other information from the device itself, thus enabling automatic sensor installation, configuration and operation.
- **SWE Common Data Model** - Defines low-level data models for exchanging sensor related data between nodes of the OGC® Sensor Web Enablement (SWE) framework.
- **SWE Service Model** - Defines data types for common use across OGC Sensor Web Enablement (SWE) services.