

GIS and Enterprise Development Processes

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(Technical topic #16)

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When discussing GIS and implementing GIS in an organisation, focus so far has been put on technical issues as application development, data capture and data conversion, systems integration etc. As a result of this, GIS has mostly been considered as a technological challenge.

However this is just one side of the coin. Until now it has been rather difficult, in many organisations, to get a sufficient funding for enterprisewide, or businesswide, use of GIS. You find GIS as isolated islands within the one department of an organisation and dealing with just one aspect on use of GIS utilising few applications. Taking GIS into use is to adopt the principle of enterprisewide or businesswide development processes. It will affect the entire organisation in a couple of ways and this is presented in this paper.

The background is a comprehensive GIS Management training program covering all cities and all regional governments in Sweden with more than 1000 students participating in this training program.

The importance of efficient information management is discussed in the paper and how the USE of GIS can contribute to this. One part of efficient information management is establishing a metadata base meeting the requirements from the users of geographic (and other) data. Another aspect on efficient data management is data quality and the different components in this. We discuss data production quality and its prerequisites as well as data quality declaration. Some important staff tasks concerning information management are also discussed.

To add the 'G' to IS is just to highlight the option of linking data about a geographically located feature together, independent of source, by using the geography. This will get many benefits discussed in the paper.

We also discuss new possible work flows, as a result of utilising GIS, the demands for new skills among the staff as a result of utilising GIS, the importance of the end user – not only as an organisational mantra – and give some words about ethics among the staff, without which GIS will not give the desired results, seen with the eyes of the top management within the organisation.