

# Angus Council GIS

## Corporate GIS Web and Database Developments

### Introduction

In 2003 Angus Council recognised the importance of a Corporate approach to GIS administration and data management. Following a consultancy exercise with Forth Valley GIS (FVGIS), Business Requirements across the Council were identified and a development programme was initiated. This development programme comprised three principle elements:

- building a data warehouse using Oracle® 9i
- creating a robust data management structure
- the use of Intranet GIS as the main delivery platform for GIS functionality and mapping throughout the Council.

Working in partnership with FVGIS, the Council took a forward thinking approach to deliver the infrastructure required for the development programme.

### Requirements

Planning the work programme took a variety of issues into account to ensure a sustainable best value approach was taken:

- Angus Council already had the skill base in the technologies required for developing the GIS infrastructure
- flexible application design would be an essential requirement for the Intranet GIS. This would ensure the system could evolve to meet changing needs



- the long term sustainability of the project would require a 'best value' approach in line with Council procedure
- a close working relationship between the Council and Forth Valley GIS would be essential to ensure completion of the work programme.
- the work programme would have to involve: building a spatial database; Intranet GIS development; desktop GIS review; data management project; Positional Accuracy Improvement (PAI).

### Solution

At an early point Angus Council decided to develop the infrastructure and systems internally – a decision taken on account of the expertise present within the Council. Forth Valley GIS complemented the internal team by providing project management and specialised development resources.

A key aspect of the programme would be the transfer of specialised skills from Forth Valley GIS to Council staff. This would give the Council an ability to continue the ongoing developments with minimal external support requirements.

*Thanks to the assistance from FVGIS we have now acquired the in-house skills to allow us an independence to develop future GIS applications*

*– Jim Mudie, IT Projects Manager for  
Corporate GIS Project, Angus Council*

## Results

With the planning complete the work programme was implemented with Council and Forth Valley GIS staff working together closely. The following results were obtained:

- a data warehouse was built using Oracle® 9i. This stores all the Council GIS related data
- a Council data management plan is being developed and implemented
- in 2004 an Intranet GIS with basic functionality was launched. High levels of system use have been recorded and user feedback has been excellent
- an additional professional level of Intranet GIS has recently been launched. This brought more advanced GIS functionality and a more comprehensive range of data to the users
- a desktop migration strategy has been developed for future rollout
- a comprehensive PAI strategy has been developed and implemented.

## Benefits

Over the last two years Angus Council has developed a comprehensive centrally managed GIS

infrastructure. The minimal investment required for the GIS initiative has delivered a system that is accessible to large number of current and potential users throughout all services within the Council, and a system that is adaptable to future requirements.

As the professional Intranet GIS functionality continues to develop, reliance on expensive and maintenance intensive desktop GIS is diminishing. There is now only a handful of desktop licences remaining in use.

Angus Council has developed expertise in the following:

- Oracle® DBA skills, in relation to spatial data management
- AutoDesk MapGuide® development, enabling internal staff to continue developing the professional Intranet GIS
- GIS application development.

These skills will enable Council staff to develop and rollout GIS functionality and also handle system administration.

## Conclusion

A high level of system use and excellent user feedback illustrate the success of the corporate Intranet GIS project. A further measure of the project's success has been the reliability of the software. There has been minimal down time since the software's operational implementation.

Encouraged by the success of the project, Angus Council are continuing the development of the corporate GIS. This has been made possible by the specialised expertise and skills transferred from Forth Valley GIS. The Council development team plan to add further functionality to meet developing requirements.

**Project type:** Corporate GIS Infrastructure  
**Software:** Oracle<sup>®</sup> 9i, AutoDesk  
MapGuide<sup>®</sup> 6.5, Snowflake Go  
Loader, CADCorp and  
ColdFusion<sup>®</sup>  
**Customers:** Angus Council

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