

Deer Commission for Scotland

Moving towards efficient government...

Introduction

The Deer Commission for Scotland (DCS) is responsible for furthering the conservation, control and sustainable management of all species of wild deer in Scotland. This involves monitoring the number of deer culled, and managing a licensing system for culling in the close season.

DCS needed a new business system that would provide better, more accessible data management facilities. The longer-term aim was also to provide better access to information for clients and for the public. This would help satisfy the requirements of the Freedom of Information act, e-Government targets, and of the Data Protection Act.

Requirements

The Commission has offices in Inverness and Stirling with no direct computer network links between them, and some staff also work from home.

The licensing and monitoring duties require the gathering of a lot of business data. This was stored in an Access database that was replicated across the two offices. The database also contained duplicated information. Other issues included:

- Staff working remotely or at home had no access to business data
- No access for public or clients
- Inconsistent data
- Clients could not submit cull returns on-line.



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Solution

Early in the project it was recognised that a web-based approach would be the best solution as most staff and clients have access to the internet.

Forth Valley GIS were commissioned to develop a secure extranet site, with web based forms and reports built using Macromedia ColdFusion®. We also designed a new database structure to hold the business data using SQL Server™.



The application has security built in to control user access to every form and report. This makes sure

DCS staff can only carry out authorised procedures, and makes sure that clients have read-only access to their own records.

FVGIS also developed a procedure for generating standard letters in Word format directly from the extranet application to avoid any un-necessary data processing.

We also provided DCS staff with access to on-line mapping using a modified version of the Forth Valley GIS "Geolink" web-mapping application. This provides a flexible, easily administered map interface.

Data Management

Forth Valley GIS provided advice on the procurement of an externally hosted web server. This was set up with the necessary software for hosting the new business application, and an appropriate backup regime was put in place.

A major issue with the old database system was the existence of duplicate names and addresses. FVGIS designed the new database so that every name and address is only stored in one place. DCS are in the midst of carrying out a rigorous data cleaning process

prior to the data being moved to the new database.

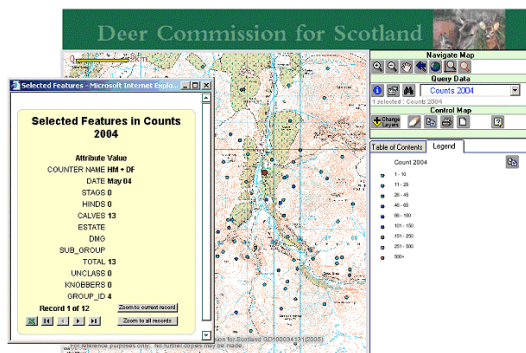
The mapping application is made easier to administer as it comes with its own web-based data management system to help with controlling access to map layers.

Benefits

The development and implementation of the new site brings with it the following benefits:

- Improved access to business data for DCS staff
- Easier accessibility for clients
- Controlled access to data and online forms for clients and public, helping meet Freedom of Information and e-Government targets
- Reduction in duplicate or incorrect data
- Lower administrative overheads
- Access to live mapping for all staff
- Geographic presentation of information

Future developments include more map-based reporting for the public, and greater interaction between the mapping and the data entry forms.



DCS Staff can view deer count information on the extranet using the interactive web mapping application.

Project type:	Web application development & data management
Software Platform:	SQL Server™ 2000; Macromedia ColdFusion® MX; ESRI ArcIMS9.1®;
Customer:	Deer Commission for Scotland

For further information, visit our web site where
you can fill in an on-line request for further information:
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