

## Interoperability OGC Gets Interactive

To further its goal of developing and promoting interface specifications to enable GIS interoperability, the Open GIS Consortium (OGC, [www.opengis.org](http://www.opengis.org)) inaugurated its new monthly online newsletter. That newsletter will be available at OGC's Internet site as well as e-mailed to current and potential members, members' clients, and anyone else interested in ongoing OGC activities.

David Schell, president of OGC, noted that the newsletter reflects OGC's expanding commitment to sharing information about new initiatives, developed and published specifications, and members. OGC members have approved several specifications.

⊗ OpenGIS Simple Features permits software packages to communicate about basic geospatial feature definitions, access selection, and modification. Specifications are available for object linking and embedding/component object model, common object request broker architecture,

or standard query language.

⊗ OpenGIS Catalog Interface Implementation is a way for software to browse catalog servers, clearinghouses, and spatial information databases.

⊗ OpenGIS Grid Coverage Implementation enables software packages to work together to define, modify, and share raster imagery.

⊗ OpenGIS Coordinate Transformation Services Implementation provides a means of hosting information in one spatial reference system while serving it in another format.

⊗ OpenGIS Web Map Server (WMS) Interface Implementation allows Web map servers to communicate with one another to access, query, process, and dynamically combine different types of spatial information via the Internet.

Details about these specifications are available at [www.opengis.org/techno/specs.htm](http://www.opengis.org/techno/specs.htm).

Presently, ESRI ([www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com)), Oracle ([www.oracle.com](http://www.oracle.com)), Computer Aided Development Corporation (Cadcorp, [www.cadcorp.com](http://www.cadcorp.com)), and Hitachi ([www.hitachi.com](http://www.hitachi.com)) have implemented and tested

their products for OpenGIS Simple Features conformance. Several companies and organizations have implemented the WMS specification, including, Cubewerx ([www.cubewerx.com](http://www.cubewerx.com)), Polexis ([www.polexis.com](http://www.polexis.com)), SICAD Geomatics ([www.sicad.com](http://www.sicad.com)), ESRI, the Federal Geographic Data Committee ([www.fgdc.gov](http://www.fgdc.gov)), Cadcorp, Intergraph ([www.intergraph.com](http://www.intergraph.com)), GE Smallworld ([www.gesmallworld.com](http://www.gesmallworld.com)), Laser-Scan ([www.laserscan.com](http://www.laserscan.com)), IONIC Software ([www.ionicsoft.com](http://www.ionicsoft.com)), Compusult Ltd. ([www.compusult.nf.ca](http://www.compusult.nf.ca)), Massachusetts Institute of Technology ([www.mit.edu](http://www.mit.edu)), and Geodan ([www.geodan.nl/uk](http://www.geodan.nl/uk)).

ESRI's Geography Network ([www.geographynetwork.com](http://www.geographynetwork.com)) has also recently implemented WMS so that it can display spatial information from conformant Web servers that register and publish data on the site.

Intergraph's GeoMedia project is now WMS compliant as well. In addition, the company has enabled the product to interface with two new draft OGC specifications:

Web Feature Server and Filter (WFS) 0.0.1.1 and Geography Markup Language (GML) 2.0, a geographic version of extensible markup language.

By supporting the new draft standards, Intergraph hopes to help promote the rapid development of WFS and GML, which it sees as critical to the success of emerging mobile GIS and wireless location-based services markets.

In related news, OGC announced plans for an Open LS (location services) initiative last fall and is currently soliciting candidate interface specifications. Companies interested in serving as demonstration partners are encouraged to contact OGC.

For more information about Open GIS initiatives, contact OGC, Inc., 35 Main Street, Suite 5, Wayland, MA 01778, 508/655-5858, fax 508/655-2237, [info@opengis.org](mailto:info@opengis.org). To subscribe to the OGC newsletter, send an e-mail to [subscribe@opengis.org](mailto:subscribe@opengis.org) with "Newsletter" (no quotes) in the subject.

— Jim Engelhardt

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