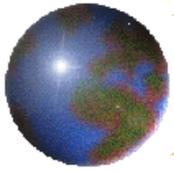


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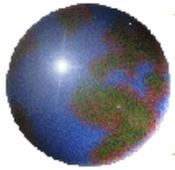
GIS Licensure Panel Discussion Summary



APLS 2012 GIS Licensure Panel

Panel Topics

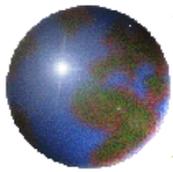
- Developing a licensure option for GIS Professionals.
- Adding GIS as a specialization area of Land Surveying licensure.
- Defining the areas of GIS exclusionary mapping practices.
- Isn't more about the data, really?



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The Texas Experience

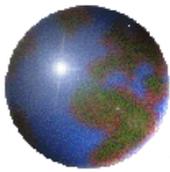
The Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying (TBPLS) raised the question of whether certification and/or licensing of other geospatial practitioners involved in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is needed, and whether TBPLS should be the regulating body in Texas. A taskforce made up of geospatial representatives consisting of TBPLS Board Members, Professional Land Surveyors, Certified Photogrammetrists, and Geographic Information Systems Professionals (GISP) was formed to discuss the pros and cons associated with the questions TBPLS raised.



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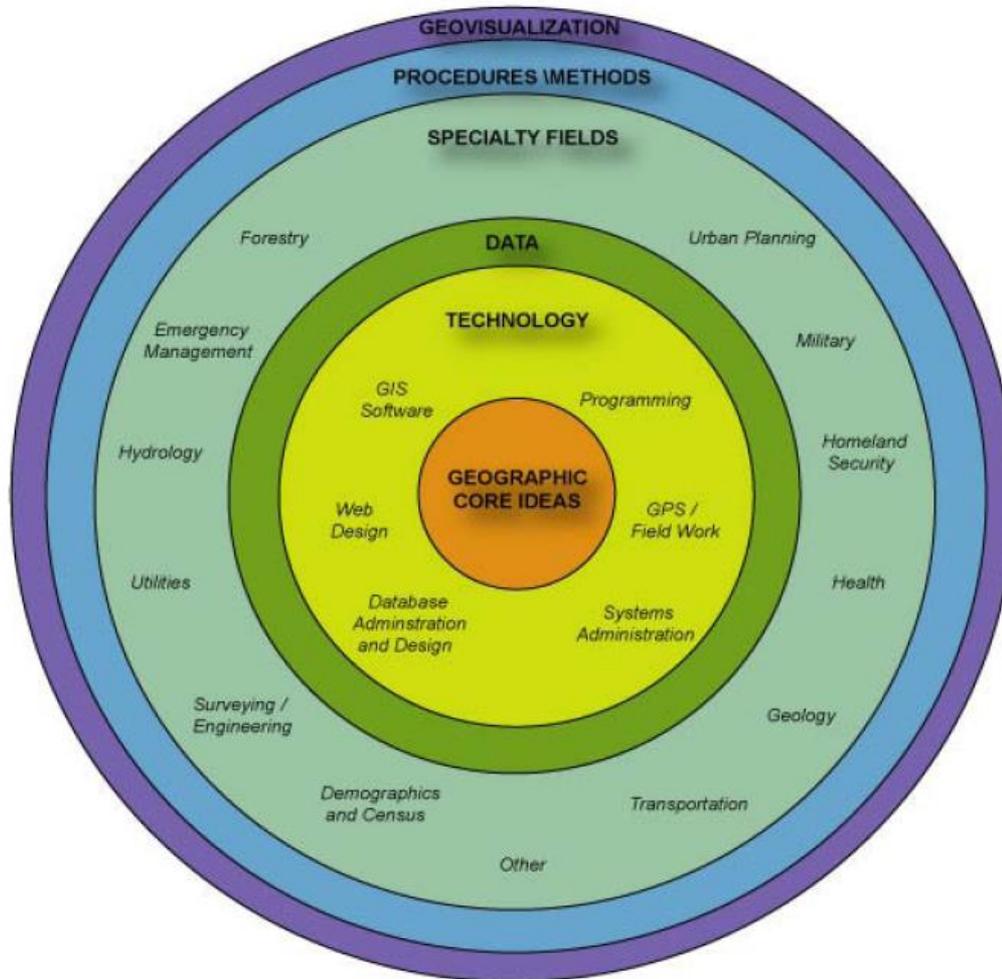
The Texas Experience

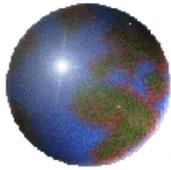
- The decision to explore the licensing of GIS practitioners was based in fear, as the TBPLS was facing abolishment by the legislature.
- They thought that by licensing and regulating additional professions, it would help justify their continued existence.
- A position paper against licensure was published by the taskforce, and the issue went away.
- NCEES Model Law & Rules was the impetus for folks to begin looking at these issues.
- Oregon's approach was good, in that it separated data from practice.
- Surveyors can contribute to the GIS community through their expertise on protecting the public and data accuracy & precision.
- The taskforce developed a concentric circle diagram to exemplify the breadth of GIS and geospatial professions in general. How can you possibly license all these people?



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TBPLS Concentric Circle Diagram

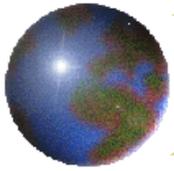




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The Texas Experience

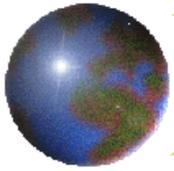
- They looked at the NCEES Model Law & Rules and the GISCI certification as part of their research, and noted that the GISCI is developing a national exam in conjunction with NCEES. Overall, it was felt that the GISCI GISP certification is not a meaningful process.
- There still exists a huge gap in understanding between the geospatial professions.
- Within the TSPS Manual of Practice for Land Surveyors in Texas, "Category 10" covers GIS data.
- Need to understand what Surveyors are responsible for.
- Their Geospatial Chapter focuses on education, e.g. how to work with GIS within the respective professions.
- Established a data/map disclaimer within the state statutes.
- GIS as a specialization of surveying is still hanging out there.



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Licensure

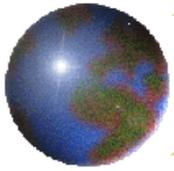
- There is already licensure in place for certain types of practice, e.g. boundary surveying is within the domain of Surveyors.
- Think about going the other way, e.g. provide more freedom to do what you need to do within your trade.
- In practice, the BTR does not protect the public.
- Why would you pay \$10K over \$1.5K for a survey when both have the same license?
- Focus on standards and guidelines, as opposed to licensure.
- Maybe a national level approach is needed.
- Who is the ultimate authority?
- What is the recourse against misuse/misrepresentation by a non-registrant?
- Regulation is misplaced, in that the focus is on the person as opposed to the practice.



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Certification

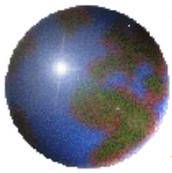
- The GISP certification was the first "glom on" idea.
- The GISP's experience based framework did not hold much value.
- There needs to be some sort of certification, but how do we determine what areas to certify?
- GISP is a trademark.
- Our whole world is credentials, credentials, credentials...
- Noticing the more processes are requiring GISP certification, e.g. contracts, hiring, etc.



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Data

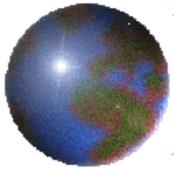
- It's more than just the data, e.g. purpose, intent, etc. play a role.
- The intended use of the data is key.
- Need to define the crossover between making pretty maps and work products/professional documents.
- The intended use of the data drives the approach and methodology.
- Add to existing Development Services rules/requirements for acquiring additional metadata with submittals, e.g. the ground control that was used, data sources, etc.



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Education

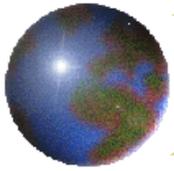
- Explore the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition for geospatial education materials/opportunities.
- Is there an educational issue? For example scanning/digitizing vs. a measurement approach. There is a need to evaluate what is being taught in both educational institutes and vendor-provided training.
- Need to educate the various professional groups, e.g. development/planning, engineers, assessors, etc.
 - There used to be a "speakers board" within APLS for making presentations.
 - Could a canned presentation be put together?
- How does the education aspect scale?
 - Educational institutes.
 - Government.
 - Professions.
 - Public.
- Work towards getting to a point at which if you gave task to 10 GIS professionals, you get back 10 similar answers.
- Education works for professionals, but that's not where the problem lies.



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Organizational

- The APLS Geospatial Chapter was created to be a melting pot of geospatial professions.
- Due to the volunteer nature of our efforts, it can be difficult to get things accomplished, and in a timely manner.
- Threatened litigation is one way to get government's attention. Even though a settlement is made, this does not necessarily change the practice.
- Maybe too much responsibility is being placed upon the front-line personnel, e.g. public counter technicians, plan reviewers, etc.. The requestor may need higher level approval for certain types of submittals.



Questions?