Open Source Desktop GIS for NIC Professionals

Dear members,

GIS division has been constantly providing you various flavours of GIS over the Network. We have been discussing about availability of an open source GIS product at the district level for quite some time. In spite of the fact that there are a large number of such products available on the INTERNET, there appeared a need to adopt one of them so that the same may be adopted through hand holding from GIS div. A number of discussions were held at GIS div. and presentations were made to higher formations, including the input from Open Tech. group from Chennai. I am happy to inform that an open source based thick client desktop product, **gvSIG** has been identified and approved after in-depth analysis of major open source GIS products like fGIS, QGIS, Open Jump, Grass etc. Apart from the satisfying basic GIS requirements, some of the distinct functionalities available in this product are the support for consuming web services of proprietary software's, geo-processing modules, extensive raster data support, editing module and support for Postgre / PostGIS. Pls. note introduction of gvSIG means only to promote the concept and you are absolutely free to make use of any other GIS tool on your own. Spatial data sharing model based on open source GIS SDI client has been extensively deliberated and it was decided to bundle ABDB (Administrative Boundary Spatial Data Base) along with gvSIG software for requirements of NIC users.

With above concept a website dedicated for the activities like downloading the software, spatial and non spatial data, help manual etc. has been designed and can be accessed from http://10.1.31.17/gvsig/default.aspx

The website has been enabled with LDAP authentication and in the first step, users being provided environment to download the Administrative boundaries shape files like State/ District / Sub-district layer up to the villages etc . Pls. note that in view of multiple files the layers up to district level are the clickable service. For layer below districts, users are requested to send their requirement through the data request form, and individual link shall be provided for downloading the same. Efforts have been made to develop a complete transparent process so that requirements and their fulfilment both are recorded. Major objective of this exercise is to assist DIOs and others to sensitize the concepts of GIS and enable development of thematic maps of their districts, value add the MIS with maps. Our measure of success would be making GIS operational at the district level. There will be many more features of GIS in due course of time along with handholding through the training programs.

I hope that you find the site useful . GIS team as shown on the site shall be able to extend any help you require.

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