



Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT

Project title: Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

Instrument: Network of Excellence

Thematic Priority: Sub-Priority 1.1.6.3: "Global Change and Ecosystems"

C5.155 E-conference on future-proofing of the Geoplatform components

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Actual submission date: Month 53

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Organization name of lead contractor for this component: MIZPAN

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

This report is based on the e-meeting (Chatzy talk) that took place on the 29th of July 2010 as well as e-mail correspondence from EDIT Geo developers mailing list. It was compiled by Marcin Gašior (MIZPAN) with a generous input from the e-meeting participants: Patricia Mergen (RMCA), James Davy (NBGB), Franck Theeten (RMCA), Andreas Müller (BGBM), Andreas Kohlbecker (BGBM).

Raised issues:

- Overview of the current state of development in the Geotools
- Overview the components still to do:
 - MapViewer version 3
 - Map REST Services version 3
 - Mirroring of GeoPlatform server
- Specific technical issues, bugs etc.
- Work planning and documenting

MapViewer version 3

- Consequently to the moving of the map viewer from CSIC (where the server hosting the services was hacked) to Belgium, some of the modules do not work entirely properly for the moment. Unfortunately the Servr at CSIC was hacked before they could transfer the latest version to RMCA and some code was lost. RMCA could only use an earlier version of the code provided by Pere Roca Ristol (the lead developer of the MapViewer). While partially completed many of the features in the development version did not yet work properly. The known configuration of the software and the library files required by the MapViewer were deleted, and therefore needed to be re-established. These issues along with the completion of features, resolving bugs, and compatibility problems are a cause of some delay in the MapViewer's release. That aside, many of the issues have already been resolved and development is making good progress.
- The layout of the interface will be improved when all the features of the previous version are functional. For now new functionalities will not be added.
- Cleaning the code is the major issue of MapViewer.
 - There are at least 500 files of an unknown usage and origin which make debugging somewhat confusing.
 - It was suggested to conduct the cleaning on the test server first to avoid any malfunctioning of the GeoServices. Old versions or test files finally not used in production will be kept as back-up in case of need to go back to them. The production server to be used for mirroring will just have the minimum files necessary to run properly.
- Extensive use of JavaScript makes the compatibility of the MapViewer with several browsers difficult. Within the timeframe of the project, complete browser independency will be difficult to achieve. There will be a warning that the system has been tested on Mozilla Firefox (version x.x.x) ,and although we strive for browser independency, we can at the moment not guaranty that it would work bug free on other browsers. .

- The important concern is the production of SLD files (OpenLayers style), that works with the REST services but not with the MapViewer.
 - It was suggested to use the REST service functionality for the MapViewer. However, this modification implies a major change of the low level architecture of the MapViewer and is not solution to implement before the end of EDIT (will be placed in the sustainability plan after EDIT).

Geo REST Services version 3

- The Geo REST Services are considered as still underdeveloped and at the same time more frequently used than the MapViewer, including by the users outside EDIT
- The new functionality to use user defined Shapefiles (the possibility to upload a Shapefile via the REST Service) is highly required and will be implemented with the release of version 3.
- It was requested to enable showing point and area data at the same time in the REST Services.
 - It was suggested to join point.php and areas.php scripts.

This will be tested in the framework with the African Plant exemplar groups in EDIT. A meeting is scheduled for August with representatives of the exemplar groups at the National Botanical Garden in Belgium.

Mirroring of GeoPlatform server

- The load balancing will be implemented. Issues internal to the structure of the institutions involved have slightly delayed the progress on implementing the load balancing. Functional mirrors are however installed.
 - It was pointed out that a script performing this task should be installed on a specific DNS server (with Internet connection independent from the portal and emergency power supply).
 - It was suggested to install the image of the server in Madrid (where it previously operated) and then test a load balancer
 - Possible technical solution were outlined: Bind – the standard DNS in many Linux distributions; Apache proxy balancer

Documentation and tasks tracing

- It was decided to increase the usage of TRAC system (<http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/about>) to facilitate tasks, bugs and requests management as well as to document the progress. The access to the trac system is login and password protected. It can be granted by requesting an EDIT CSSO login with the proper access rights. The trac system is specifically meant for the developer community to work collaboratively on the EDIT components.
- Three groups of tickets in main areas were created:
 - MapViewer:
<https://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/milestone/Map%20Viewer%203.x>
 - Geo REST Services:
<https://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/milestone/Geo%20REST%20services%20v3>
 - Geo Mirroring Service:

<https://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/milestone/GEO%20Mirroring%20Service>

- The tickets identified as important, which cannot be completed within the EDIT Framework, will be placed in the sustainability plan after EDIT.
- It was agreed that the code archive should be updated while the work is in progress:
<https://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/browser/trunk/geo>
 - The folders have to be reorganized and separated as the code and files for REST services and the MapViewer are mixed. The problem is that separation of the folders will imply modification of the Apache configuration to keep the same URLs. Nevertheless it will be processed.
- For OGC and INSPIRE compliance there is a place on the wiki to add any ideas and materials relevant to this:
<http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/wiki/GeographicComponents#TheINSPIREDirective>