



NATIONAL STATES GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL

NSGIC News - Winter 2008



From the Desk of Your President....

At least once a week, my son and I share a meal at a local restaurant, his choice. He nearly always chooses Chinese. You know, one of the places where they have an all-you-can-eat buffet. That wasn't as much of a problem for me in years past, but now... well, I make a few less trips through the buffet line these days.

At the end of the meal, they bring the obligatory bill and a little black plastic tray with two fortune cookies wrapped in cellophane. Usually, the message inside is anything but a fortune. Most often, it reads more like an advice column. Apparently, whoever writes these things is from someplace other than China. I guess they are all busy making Nike products over there. But every great once in a while, I get a fortune that actually speaks to me, and I tuck those away in my wallet for future reference. A few months ago, I got just such a fortune. It said, "You are more influential than you think."

As with astrological predictions, fortune cookies can be

interpreted in many different ways. I interpreted this one in the broadest possible sense -- not just about me, but about all of us. We are all more influential than we think. Well, alright, maybe a few of us already think a little too highly of ourselves. But for the most part, we tend to influence many people in many ways that we don't even recognize.

That little scrap of paper in my wallet popped out recently while I was digging around in there for something else, and it made me think about what I said at the Annual Conference in Madison last year. For those of you that don't recall, and for those that weren't there, I talked about the necessity of a unified vision for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and how that unified vision would guide the entire geospatial community

to complete the NSDI in the next few years.

A unified vision for the NSDI, shared by everyone in the geospatial community, will enable each of us to make the best possible use of our individual influence to move the NSDI objectives forward in our own state. It will also provide the platform for all in the geospatial community to

act collectively and collaboratively in ways that will have a tremendous influence on national policy.

The Federal Geographic Data Committee has made several very good attempts to develop a vision for the NSDI, but so far, progress on

the ground to complete the NSDI has been very slow. I believe we're rapidly approaching the time when the concept of the NSDI will be redefined to mean something far less than what we all know

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## From the Desk of Your President.... (Continued)

to be necessary for good government and good decision-making. I'm already seeing some of that redefinition beginning to happen, and without a unified vision and the collective influence of all in the geo-spatial community, we will be powerless to keep that lesser vision from becoming predominant.

The NSGIC white paper, *A Strategic Framework*

for the NSDI, is the vehicle the NSGIC Board intends to use to develop a unified NSDI vision. There are a couple things that will make this vision a bit different than earlier visions of the NSDI.

One of those differences is the concept of developing State Spatial Data Infrastructures that can be stitched together to form a National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The relevance of each of the NSDI components at the state and local level and a plan for integrating these at the national level has not been articulated previously.

The Vision Statement from NSGIC's Statement of Purpose in our Bylaws is: "...to encourage effective and efficient government through the coordinated development of geographic information and technologies to ensure that information may be inte-

grated at all levels of government." The white paper uses this idea as the foundation for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

**Pecha Kucha (pronounced peh-chak-cha), from the Japanese idiom for "chit-chat," provides for lots of presentations, but all of them very short, to generate lots of ideas. Rather like the NSGIC roll call of the states.**

Another key difference is the concept of an NSDI governance structure that includes equitable membership for all sectors of the geo-spatial community and a level of accountability appropriate to the tasks at hand. In

addition, it will be necessary to have a sustainable funding model to finance NSDI development at all levels of government. The cost must be equitably shared by all.

You'll see and hear more about the working draft of this document at the 2008 Midyear meeting in the State Caucus. We want all the State Reps to help us craft the initial version of this NSDI vision, then we'll all need to

work together to make it a unified vision shared by the entire community.

Finally, I want to leave you with a cool new concept in presenting ideas that I think you can use to great effect in some of your local efforts. Mr. Zsolt Nagy turned me on to this. It's called pecha kucha, and it's a way to present ideas in a very short time-frame, aligned with people's somewhat diminished ability to focus for long periods of time these days. Wikipedia (Add grain of salt here) [has more information](#).

There are pecha kucha events happening all over the world. There are even competing forms of it. There was [a newspaper article in Portland, Oregon](#) last week about something called "Ignite Portland 2" that has a slightly different twist on the pecha kucha concept. Check it out and I hope to see you all at the MidYear.

-Cy

## 2007 On the NSGIC Blog

NSGIC's Blog ([www.nsgic.org/blog](http://www.nsgic.org/blog)) received 5,401 visits and 8,107 "page views" in 2007, according to data collected via Google Analytics. There were 75 different posts covering topics ranging from NSGIC meetings and business to the latest on-line map mash-ups. More than half of the page views were of the blog's main page. Most visitors read the top few blog

posts that were available at the time of their visit. Among individual posts viewed directly, some the most visited were on the resignation of former NSGIC keynote Matt Miszewski, on the relative remoteness of "sensed data," on the role of Google maps in GIS, and an overview of Transportation for the Nation. The full report is available... on the Blog.

# NSGIC Presents 2007 Outstanding Service Awards

NSGIC's 2006-2007 President, Stu Davis (Ohio), presented Outstanding Service Awards for 2007 at the Annual Conference to David Brotzman (Vermont), Will Craig (Minnesota), Kenny Miller (Maryland), Miki Schmidt (NOAA), Anne Hale Miglarese (Fugro EarthData), and Fred Stringfellow (NSGIC).

The Outstanding Service Award is presented to individuals in a leadership position who have advanced the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and promoted NSGIC's goal of efficient and effective government through prudent implementation of geospatial technologies. This is one of NSGIC's highest service awards. It recognizes long-term service to the organization.

advocacy efforts in Washington, DC. His aggressive efforts in support of Imagery for the Nation will be largely responsible for any success NSGIC achieves in finding funding for this initiative.



Anne Hale Miglarese has readily offered her unique perspective to NSGIC's leadership on many important issues. Her depth of experience, including state and federal service as well as a leadership role in the private sector, adds valuable advice and input to the organization.



Kenny Miller has for many years been an active participant on NSGIC's Conference Committee. His steadfast reliability and diligence have been central to the success of NSGIC's mid-year and annual conferences.



Fred Stringfellow serves as chief staff officer for NSGIC at its Maryland headquarters. As Association Manager, Stringfellow is a valued part of NSGIC's leadership and part of the formula that has made NSGIC successful over his tenure.



David Brotzman has served on the NSGIC Board of Directors and has helped to steer the organization through several complicated initiatives as Chairman of the Technical Issues Committee.



Miki Schmidt has provided leadership at the NOAA Coastal Services Center and led the Center's many contributions to the states. The Center has been a valued partner to NSGIC for many years, providing an example of the validity of NSGIC's 2007 Conference theme: "Locally Grown, Nationally Organized."



Will Craig has served on the NSGIC Board of Directors and has provided valuable input in NSGIC's

A special Dedicated Service Award was presented in recognition of the devoted lifetime of service of Carol Brandt (USDOT), who recently passed away after a battle against cancer. The award was accepted by Mark Bradford of the USDOT on behalf of Carol and her family.

## NSGIC is Rigging for Action!

By Diane  
Vaughnley  
NSGIC

NSGIC members, partners, colleagues and friends will join together for the 2008 NSGIC Midyear Conference from March 9 through March 12 at the Doubletree Annapolis Hotel in Maryland.

The theme for this year's gathering is **"Rigging for Action"** and conference planners will keep the focus squarely on taking action with an extended State Caucus designed to continue open discussion among states as they work together to create a national vision of geospatial information.

Themed panel discussions will replace the typical federal update sessions of past Conferences. These will include several topics of particular interest to NSGIC members, including

### Getting There

Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI) is approximately 30 minutes from the Doubletree Hotel Annapolis.

Transportation may be arranged through Super Shuttle (found on the lower level of the airport between baggage claim areas 6 and 7). The ticket counter is open between 6:00 am and 2:00 am. During other times, please call 800-258-3826 to arrange service.

Link: [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)

Geospatial Preparedness, Transportation & Addressing, Imagery, and GIS in Healthcare.

The final day of the Conference will again be a day in Washington for NSGIC State Representatives and invited guests. The morning will begin with a joint breakfast meeting with NSGIC and

MAPPS. Afterward, State Representatives will be free to schedule appointments on Capitol Hill with Congressional staff. More details on this portion of the event will follow in coming weeks.

A new feature of the 2008 Midyear will be an offsite dinner event at Paul's on the South River. The restaurant is just a few minutes from the conference hotel and offers panoramic views of the river and a regional menu full of

items from the Chesapeake Bay area.

Attendees should register prior to February 15 to save \$50 via the early registration rate. On-line registration is available at [www.nsgic.org](http://www.nsgic.org). And attendees should reserve rooms at the Doubletree Annapolis Hotel prior to February 15 to get the special NSGIC rate of \$123 (approved Federal Rate). Hotel reservations can be made by calling (410) 224-3150.



## Sponsorship Packages Are Still Available!

NSGIC attracts the top geographic information executives in state government. Become a sponsor in 2008 to reach these top decision makers. Save time and money with one of the 2008 sponsorship packages, which include NSGIC membership, Midyear Conference Sponsorship and Annual Conference Sponsorship.

Please note: Payment must be received by January 31, 2008 to take advantage of sponsorship packages.

And we say "Thank you!" to our current 2008 sponsors:

**Platinum Sponsor:**  
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**Gold Sponsors:**  
3001 Inc.  
Fugro Earthdata, Inc.  
Surdex Corporation  
Sanborn

**Silver Sponsors:**  
Woolpert, Inc.  
Applied Geographics  
DigitalGlobe  
USGS

**Bronze Sponsor:**  
TerraGo

# An Historical Spatial Data Infrastructure?

By Zsolt Nagy,  
North Carolina

While state GIS coordinators and their partners work feverishly toward a continually up-to-date Spatial Data Infrastructure, it is equally important to insure that plans are in place to preserve historic geospatial content as well. Indeed, those old digitally-born files may be the only source of information characterizing the conditions of their times. Strategies must be developed to ensure that we'll have an accessible collection of those e-records into the future.

That's the goal of the Library of Congress' National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP), which has recently added 21 states as partners in preserving digital government records.

The new partners will tackle several important digital preservation challenges, organized into four multi-state projects. One of the demon-

stration and learning projects -- involving North Carolina, Kentucky, and Utah -- will promote preservation of and long term access to geospatial content through a geographically dispersed content exchange network.

Under the leadership of the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, partners from the

archives, library, and geospatial communities in each state will explore ways to inventory and identify "at-risk" content, find and deploy best practices to preserve that data, and build multi-state data exchange networks such as through spatial data infrastructures.

The Library of Congress has learned that many of the states are not all fully prepared for the challenges of archiving valuable digital records. The Library held a series of workshops in 2005 and found that many records that are only produced in digital form -- legislative records, court case files and executive agency records -- are at risk of loss in some areas.

**NSGIC folks are used to insisting on the latest and greatest geospatial data. But that old data gathering dust in a dark corner of your state network may be just as valuable.**

"The records of state government are of keen interest to Congress as well as to the states themselves, and it is critical that we work with state

archives and libraries in their efforts to ensure that this information remains available and accessible," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "I am committed to having the Library play a leadership role in encouraging the preservation of these important resources."

There are important lessons in this work for geospatial



**NATIONAL DIGITAL  
INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

professionals and state GIS coordinators. Not least of which is the growing importance of access to historic geospatial data in many applications. In the quest to preserve content, for example, partners will likely discover the value that a preservation strategy holds when those historic records are well documented (metadata), accessible (spatial data infrastructure), and easily applied in business processes.

The geo-community is, for the most part, "temporally challenged." The multi-state effort is expected to help further the ease and frequency with which "old data" is inventoried and appropriately "recycled" to support temporal analysis. When you bring in the preservation element, it gives even more meaning to the popular NSGIC adage "collect it once, use it a bunch."

The Library of Congress has encouraged the involvement of national, regional and professional associations in the multi-state projects, including NASCIO, NSGIC, and the Council of State Archivists, among others.

A list of all partners and background on the NDIIPP is at [www.digitalpreservation.gov](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov).

## Upcoming GIS Events and Conferences

**Indiana GIS Conference**  
February 19-20, 2008  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
[www.in.gov/igic/conference](http://www.in.gov/igic/conference)

**2008 ESRI Federal User Conference**  
February 20-22, 2008  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.esri.com/events/feduc](http://www.esri.com/events/feduc)

**Integrating GIS & CAMA 2008**  
February 25-28, 2008  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
[www.urisa.org/conferences/cama/program](http://www.urisa.org/conferences/cama/program)

**TUGis, 2008**  
March 17-18, 2007  
Towson, Maryland  
[tugis.towson.edu](http://tugis.towson.edu)

**2008 AWRA Spring Specialty Conference: GIS and Water Resources V**  
March 17-19, 2008  
San Mateo, California  
[www.awra.org/meetings/San\\_Mateo2008](http://www.awra.org/meetings/San_Mateo2008)

**GIS-T 2008: Small Steps... GIANT Leaps**  
March 17-19, 2008  
Houston, Texas  
[www.gis-t.org](http://www.gis-t.org)

**URISA/NENA Addressing Conference**  
April 7-10, 2008  
Portland, Oregon  
[www.urisa.org/conferences/Addressing/Info](http://www.urisa.org/conferences/Addressing/Info)

**MAC/URISA Regional GIS Conference**  
April 7-9, 2008  
Mount Laurel, New Jersey  
[www.macurisa.org/conference.htm](http://www.macurisa.org/conference.htm)

**AAG Annual Meeting**  
April 15-19, 2008  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2008](http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2008)

**2008 MidAmerica GIS Symposium**  
April 20-24, 2008  
Kansas City, Missouri  
[magicweb.kgs.ku.edu](http://magicweb.kgs.ku.edu)

**Delaware GIS 2008: A Spatial Network**  
April 22-23, 2008  
Dover, Delaware  
[degis.org](http://degis.org)

**CalGIS Conference**  
April 23-25, 2008  
Modesto, California  
[www.calgis.org](http://www.calgis.org)

**Location Intelligence Conference**  
April 28-30, 2008  
Santa Clara, California  
[www.locationintelligence.net](http://www.locationintelligence.net)

**Pennsylvania GIS 2008**  
May 14-15, 2008  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania  
[cgis.hbg.psu.edu/conference](http://cgis.hbg.psu.edu/conference)

**Nevada GIS Conference: GIS-A Winning Hand**  
May 19-21, 2008  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
[www.ngis.org](http://www.ngis.org)

**GeoWeb 2008**  
July 21-25, 2008  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
[www.geowebconference.org](http://www.geowebconference.org)

**2008 ESRI International User Conference**  
August 2-8, 2008  
San Diego, California  
[www.esri.com/events/uc](http://www.esri.com/events/uc)

**New York State GIS Conference**  
October 6-7, 2008  
Syracuse, New York  
[www.esf.edu/nysgisconf](http://www.esf.edu/nysgisconf)

Don't see your conference listed here? You can fix that; send information to Mike Mahaffie, at [mike.mahaffie@state.de.us](mailto:mike.mahaffie@state.de.us).

## Future NSGIC Conferences

**2008 NSGIC Midyear Conference**  
March 9-12, 2008  
Doubletree Hotel Annapolis  
Annapolis, Maryland

**2008 NSGIC Annual Conference**  
September 7-11, 2008  
Keystone Conference Center  
Keystone, Colorado

**2009 NSGIC Midyear Conference**  
February 22-25, 2009  
Loews Annapolis Hotel  
Annapolis, Maryland

**2009 NSGIC Annual Conference**  
October 4-8, 2009  
Renaissance Cleveland Hotel  
Cleveland, Ohio

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**ABOUT NSGIC** — The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) is an organization of States committed to efficient and effective government through the prudent adoption of geospatial information technologies. Members of NSGIC include delegations of state GIS coordinators and senior state GIS managers from across the United States. Other members include representatives from Federal agencies, local government, the private sector, academia and other professional organizations. A rich and diverse group, the NSGIC membership includes nationally and internationally recognized experts in GIS, geospatial data production and management, and information technology policy.