

2018 Virginia GeoCon Lightning Talks

Thursday, April 5, 2018

5 minutes

Title: Campus Compass: A cross-platform app to navigate the VCU campus

Presenter: Colby Rogness

Abstract: Campus Compass is a cross-platform mobile app designed to enable new students, parents, and visitors to navigate the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) campus. Using Ionic and Google APIs, the app unites custom VCU waypoint data with a student's class schedule to provide maps, routes, and directions to navigate the campus. The lightning talk will incorporate a live demonstration, discussion of key technologies, and an overview of the design and development process. Campus Compass was produced by a team of 3 senior-level VCU students sponsored by WorldView Solutions as a part of their senior capstone project.

Title: Collector for ArcGIS: The East End Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia

Presenter: Ethan Boroughs

Abstract: The East End Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia is a historically African-American cemetery that has fallen into a state of neglect. Volunteers have collected GPS coordinates (using a GPS and the Collector for ArcGIS app) of the headstones at the cemetery, as well as collected personal attribute data from the gravestone inscriptions. Local volunteers working on the site submitted the data to Find A Grave, a website that helps people find their family members. Unfortunately, this site does not have options for spatial data, so volunteers also kept a separate spreadsheet in excel with the GPS coordinates. The Biology Department at the University of Richmond approached members of the Geography Department to create a database with spatial elements in order for them to store their data about the cemetery in a cleaner, more systematic way. The data collection and review process has been essential to building a database that will feed an interactive and searchable map in the future. Like East End Cemetery, many African-American cemeteries have been forgotten and lost in undergrowth, but this project for East End Cemetery is part of a larger movement in order to reintegrate African-American cemeteries into our history, and to stop such loss from reoccurring.

Title: Identifying and Remediating Data Errors in Emergency GIS

Presenter: Nicole Maus

Abstract: Errors in 911 routing data can cause first responders the inability to reach those in an emergency, which is why timely GIS data remediation on the local level is imperative. In response to the Next Generation 911 upgrade, many VA localities have begun to implement GIS data remediation to correct attribute, geometry, and schema errors in addressing, road centerlines, and any other pertinent emergency datasets being utilized by Law, Fire, and EMS responders. Having identified outdated and inconsistent features for a number of these localities, and correcting many of these datasets, we would like to share with the GIS community some of our unexpected and important findings, and how such data can be updated to ensure that information being shared across various systems is accurate and in agreeance when served to our 911 public safety centers.

Title: Value Stream Mapping and Its Adaptation to GIS

Presenter: Pravin Mathur

Abstract: With the explosion of WebGIS, we now find ourselves in a world of maps and apps. Data is the ingredient for both. As GIS professionals, we are good at mapping but do we excel in mapping the process from a requirement to delivery. Do we have a value map that presents a big picture view of GIS and not just a project or product? This is so relevant to make a GIS case to secure the funding needed to keep up with the fast pace of technology. Finding its origins in Toyota and referred to by other names like Process Mapping, Material and Information Flow, Value Stream Mapping can be applied to GIS service delivery as well. The author aims to create a basic understanding of the concept and methods to GIS users and highlight why it could be useful in an adaptive form in times when funding for GIS is a challenge

Title: The Use of Survey123 at HRSD

Presenter: Robert Bohon

Abstract: The GIS group at HRSD is a service oriented department that assists multiple departments with spatial analysis, data acquisition, and custom data applications. The typical request we receive concerning data collection involves spatial data, where a location element is required. A new application that we have started utilizing here at HRSD is Survey123, an ESRI product that allows for non-spatial data collection that meshes well within the ArcGIS environment. This product now allows us to branch out from spatial data collection and help departments migrate away from paper and pencil forms with redundant data entry processes. Survey123 allows us to generate surveys that contain the same content as pencil and paper forms and allows our technicians an easier process for data collection. Our managers can now use the Survey123 website to easily view and analyze data; reducing the time needed to compile data sources and the number of hands data passes through. Initial responses from using Survey123 have been positive and we are continuing to look for additional ways to utilize this product within HRSD.

Title: Spread the News: Lynchburg's GIS Newsletter

Presenters: Shaun Conway and Erin Jones

Abstract: Often when people think of GIS, they just think of a map and don't consider the potential benefits it offers across the organization, whether it be effective communication or operational efficiency. In an effort to bridge this gap, the City of Lynchburg GIS office publishes a quarterly newsletter highlighting success stories, new data, cool GIS tools, and how fellow employees are using GIS in unique ways. By getting our creative juices flowing and focusing on the success of others, we hope to get City employees thinking about how GIS makes their jobs more efficient, helps in the decision making process, and assists in their professional development.