Knock! Knock! We are Open

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Outline

• History of co-operation
• Prerequisites of successful co-operation
• Benefits of OS
• Challenges of OS
• How we work together
• Currently running projects
• Next steps
NOSIN – Nordic Open Source Initiative

• Started in 2010 by Director Generals
  • There was general agreement to use Open Source as basis of collaborative development
  • The directors wanted concrete results – not just another discussion forum

• Collaboration was started with national metadata catalogues
  • DK, SV, FI and NO were all planning to use GeoNetwork as their catalogue solution
  • The need for a valid CSW interface with regard to INSPIRE regulation was a common driver for co-operation
  • Also e.g. the Dutch Cadastre and the Scottish government worked closely with the Nordic countries on GN development and testing
What do you need to work together successfully?

- Mutual trust  “We work towards a common goal”
- Commitment  “I’ll do what I promised”
- Positive attitude  “It’s possible”
- Reach consensus  “Sure we can agree upon this”
- Openness  “Sharing information : 1+1+1+1 is 10”
  “We need something similar - let’s do it together and share results!”
Open Source – Pros

• Mostly free of charge
• Modifications and further development easier
• No vendor lock-in
• Sharing of results
• Collaborative development possible
• Faster bug fixes and improvements
• The community of an established project constantly improves the software

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Open Source – Concerns

• The maturity of the software?
• Broad or small developer/user community?
• There are often dependencies of other OS software projects
• Isolated branches: If you do further developments to the software without integrating into the main project, there is extra work involved in keeping up with main version releases

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Setting the Agenda

• Plan of activities is prepared by the group
  • The plan can be adjusted if a new co-operation item arises
• The plan is presented to Director Generals each year
• Director Generals are committed to NOSIN goals
  • Commitment = resources
• Reporting of activities on a yearly basis
Coordination of Work

• A country coordinates the NOSIN activity for one year
  • As of 2014, for a two-year period
• Coordinator has the responsibility to make sure that
  • Regular telecons/web meetings are arranged
  • At least one face-to-face meeting per year is arranged
  • Planning and reporting is taken care of
Organisation of Work

• Subgroups
  • Are formed around co-operation topics, at least two countries
  • Have a person responsible for the activity
  • Can arrange their work as they see fit and have webmeetings/telecons of their own
  • Report on their progress to the whole group on a regular basis
  • Have their own Wiki space (editable by everyone in NOSIN)

• Funding on collaborative basis
  • Participants’ work is in-kind
  • If purchasing of work is needed, the organisations agree on the items or amount of work hours to be purchased
  • Each organisation makes a purchase agreement of their own
Currently active subgroups

• GeoNetwork
  • Further development regarding e.g. OpenSearch
• Metadata editor webforms development
  • Usability of entering metadata
• INSPIRE service validation
  • Evaluation of validation options
• Authentication and Authorisation
  • Nordic test federation
• Download service client software
  • Investigation of options, e.g. using the Oskari software

• Additionally, the Nordic countries are working together in international projects such as E.L.F. and Arctic SDI
Experiences

• It is not always easy to stick to the “ideal” way of working – but it has to be the goal
• Working together facilitates mutual understanding and knowledge exchange
• Aligning the countries’ needs and developing the required functionalities together saves both time and money
• 😊 It’s good fun to work together! 😊
The Next steps?

• Collaborative development between National Land Surveys

• First attempt to be made within the E.L.F. project
  • Use GitHub repositories for shared development
  • The SLD Editor component is to be developed in co-operation with NLS FI and Lantmäteriet
  • Kartverket and GST to follow and support development

• Instant messaging solution to facilitate better and more frequent communication

• How to handle bid procedures and purchase agreements if development is outsourced?
Thank You!

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