



FOSS4G2006 - Free And Open Source Software

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Geospatial Virtual Appliance - MapSnack

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Virtualisation is an emerging technology on x86 platform simplifying deployment and configuration of complex information technologies. In free and open source software for geoinformatics area, however, this trend is not yet fully reflected or leveraged. Paper introduce results and experiences with FOSS geospatial virtual appliance called 'MapSnack'. MapSnack is fully pre-installed and pre-configured geospatial web server that runs on any standard x86 machine in a self-contained, isolated environment.

Penetration of FOSS for geoinformatics can be speeded up with use of standard virtual appliances thus minimizing time for installation and basic configurations and maximizing focus on building up FOSS geospatial web solutions, related workflows and integration with ERP systems. Moreover abstraction from particular virtualisation platform can be achieved with universal small boot CD with compressed file system installation on chosen virtual platform. MapSnack high availability might be used together with appropriate tutorials as educational package for learning OGC standards and related geospatial products such as UMN Mapserver, GRASS, GDAL, etc)

Primary authors : Dr. SUMBERA, Stanislav (Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry)

Co-authors :

Presenter : Dr. SUMBERA, Stanislav (Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry)

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