FOSS4G 2006 - Free And Open Source Softwa

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It's About Time for Time
Friday 15 Sep 2006 at 11:00 (00h30')

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"The weakness of current cartography is its poor representation of time. The surface
of the earth is treated as a static thing." (Anselm Hook)

As the world accelerates towards an uncertain future, and gathers more and more data
in its past, the tools for visualising space AND time are in short supply. There are
numerous experiments, but little solid support in tools or data structures for
representing the 4th dimension (when we're still getting used to the 3rd dimension in
GIS).

We should be able to rewind continental drift to Pangea, track shifting political
boundaries, monitor rapid environmental change and urban sprawl.

I will survey the current state of support for Time in Geo (from WMS Time Series
Support in Mapbuilder, to GeoRSS time navigation in worldKit, to BBC Interactive Time
Maps, and hacks morphing the London Tube Map to journey duration, to .. research in
progress), sketch out the possibilities, and put forward that the built-in temporal
aspects of GeoRSS may be the key to wider application of Time to GIS.
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