QGIS WMS server - QGIS goes web

INSTITUTE of CARTOGRAPHY



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Overview



- Motivation
- The ORCHESTRA project
- Current design and implementation
- Implemented features
- Outlook

Motivation



- Increasing demand for internet based GIS solutions
- Desire to exchange geoinformation between different systems
- Interoperability increased by use of open standards
- Need for an open service architecture for risk management







- Aims to improve the efficiency in dealing with risks by developing an open serviceoriented architecture
- The main goal is to improve the interoperability among actors involved in Multi-Risk Management
- Funded by the European Commissions 6th framework program
- Some of ORCHESTRA results offered as input to the INSPIRE and GMES initiatives.

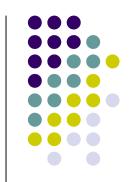






- ORCHESTRA architecture defines abstract and implementation specifications for geospatial services
- ORCHESTRA specifications have roots in open standards (e.g. OGC/ISO)
- QGIS WMS is a part of the ORCHESTRA Map and Diagram Service implementation
- Most service implementations under an open source license

How to transform an existing GIS into a web map server



- Get the service specifications
- Write a server application which parses the requests according to the specs
- Link the server application to the GIS libraries
- Map the request parameters to objects already defined in the linked libraries
- Use the libraries to generate maps from the created objects (without opening any GUI!)
- Send the map content back to the client
- Test and debug ... a lot!

Current design and implementation (1)



- CGI executable written in platform independent C++ based on the Qt library
- Could be used together with other server technologies (e.g. Apache dso, FastCGI)
- Uses QGIS libraries and classes for GIS logic and map rendering
- The QGIS WMS classes parse the WMS requests and map them to QGIS objects
- QGIS classes render the map image

Current design and implementation (2)



- SLD is used as configuration file (similar in purpose to a mapfile)
- SLD is also accepted to allow for userdefined styles

Current design and implementation (3)



- Main QGIS classes used and their roles
 - QgsMapLayer
 - QgsRasterLayer
 - QgsVectorLayer
 - QgsRenderer
 - QgsMapRender
- QGIS libraries:
 - libqgis_core
 - libqgis_gui
 - libqgis_raster

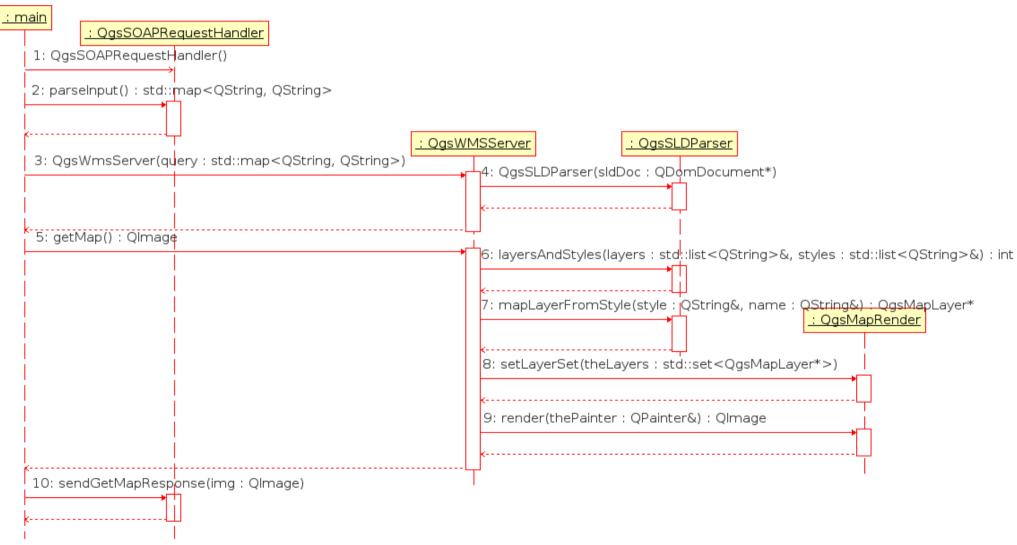
Current design and implementation (4)

- Main QGIS WMS classes
 - QgsWMSRequestHandler
 - QgsGetRequestHandler
 - QgsSOAPRequestHandler
 - QgsSLDParser
 - QgsWMSServer



Current design an implementation(5)





Implemented features



- Full implementation of a basic WMS (ISO/DIS 19128 – WMS 1.3)
 - GetCapabilities and GetMap operations
- SLD support (not yet all elements)
- Supports a large variety of data formats (shp, GRASS, GML, PostGIS, Interlis, WFS, ...)
- Accepts SOAP requests (specifications developed for the ORCHESTRA project)
- Accepts GML included in a SOAP (or GET) request message as data source

Outlook



- Why another map server?
- New features:
 - SOAP binding
 - Support for thematic mapping (various diagram types, choroplets)
 - Basic user access control with HTTPS
 - Upload layers and styles to the server
 - Share layers and styles with other users
 - Use of cartographic ontologies to make cartographic knowledge available for normal users