

How to Fit 5 kg of Software Into a 1.3 kg Box



Allan Doyle 2006-09-14 FOSS4G2006



Vision: Geospatial Server Appliance

- Small, easy to manage box
- As easy as plugging in a router (or maybe easier?)
- Works with or without Internet connection
- Can be used in an office LAN or standalone
- Provides a means of organizing geospatial data
- Enables geo-collaboration with others

(An extension of the binary stack idea)



Users

- Small NGOs.
- NGO field offices.
- Other places where there might not be geographic experts around.



Some things it should do

- Be able to crawl local disks to find geodata
- Generate metadata automatically
- Generate mapfiles or SLDs automatically
- Generate initial views of data files
- Publish metadata and other geo information to a wider audience (assuming it's connected)
- Allow users to create simple features & publish them



Crawl Local Disks

- Scripts that can find data files
 - ogrinfo + gdalinfo + Python
- Store the results
 - Generate initial 19115 metadata
 - 19115 XML template + local configuration
 + per-file data



Manage Downloaded Data

- Scripts that can find data files
 - ogrinfo + gdalinfo + Python
- Store the results
 - Generate initial 19115 metadata
 - 19115 XML template + local configuration
 + per-file data

(Yes, basically the same as with local data...)



Store metadata

- And share it if possible!
- Use GeoNetwork to harvest locally generated metadata
- GeoNetwork also provides ability to edit metadata via Web interface
- Store bboxes, etc. in local inventory



Develop Mapfiles and/or SLD

- Use results from ogrinfo/gdalinfo scripts to generate mapfiles or SLD
- Use SLD editor (Geoserver?) or Mapfile editor (MapStorer?) to allow users to edit maps
- (QGIS WMS project seems very promising!)



Provide initial views of data

- "Quicklooks" use OpenLayers to generate initial views
- Generate a tree of "static" web pages with results of ogrinfo/gdlainfo/19115/etc.
 - --> could be crawlable by Google if connected



Preloaded data

- Before delivery to end users:
 - Load up useful global data sets
 - World boundaries, GTOPOxx, etc.
 - Load useful regional data sets
 - Landsat, higher-resolution data, perhaps
 (!) non-free data (at least for now)



Data bundles

- Something for the OSGeo GeoData activity:
- Think about not just "data sharing", but also about how to package the metadata, mapfiles, SLDs, etc. that make the data <u>usable</u>



Data creation & Collaboration

- Allow creation of simple feature data (points, lines, polygons with attributes)
 - MapBuilder
- Produce GeoRSS feeds describing data as it is loaded or changed



1.3 kg Box

Mac Mini - 1.3 kg





LaCie 250 GB Drives (x2) - somewhat heavier



5 kg of Software

- Mac OS X Software
 - Apache-1.3 (comes with Mac OS X)
 - MacPython (Python 2.4.3)
 - OSXvnc
- Python packages
 - ElementTree
 - EasyInstall
 - Atomixlib
- DarwinPorts based packages
 - DarwinPorts
 - Apache-2.2
 - Subversion
 - vncserver
- Plone and its packages
 - Plone
 - Zope
 - ZWiki



Geo packages

Server-side packages

- GeoNetwork
- GeoServer
- KyngChaos versions of the following
 - GraphicsLibs
 - GisLibs
 - PHP4
 - PostgreSQL + PostGIS
 - MapServer

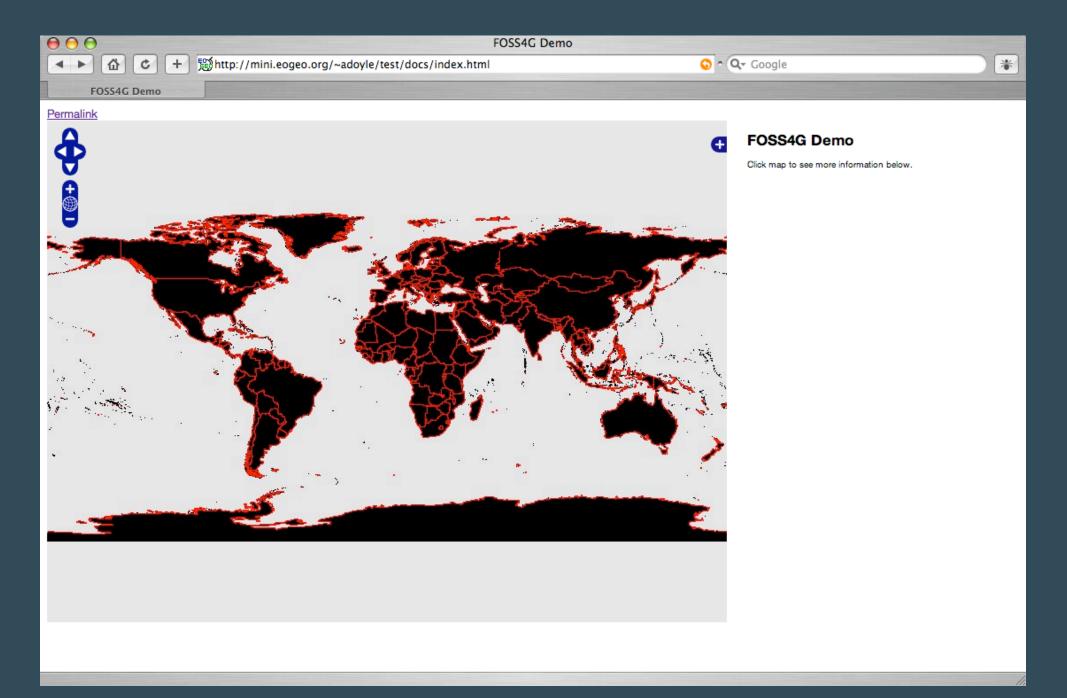
Client-side packages

- MapLab
- OpenLayers
- MapBuilder
- MapBender

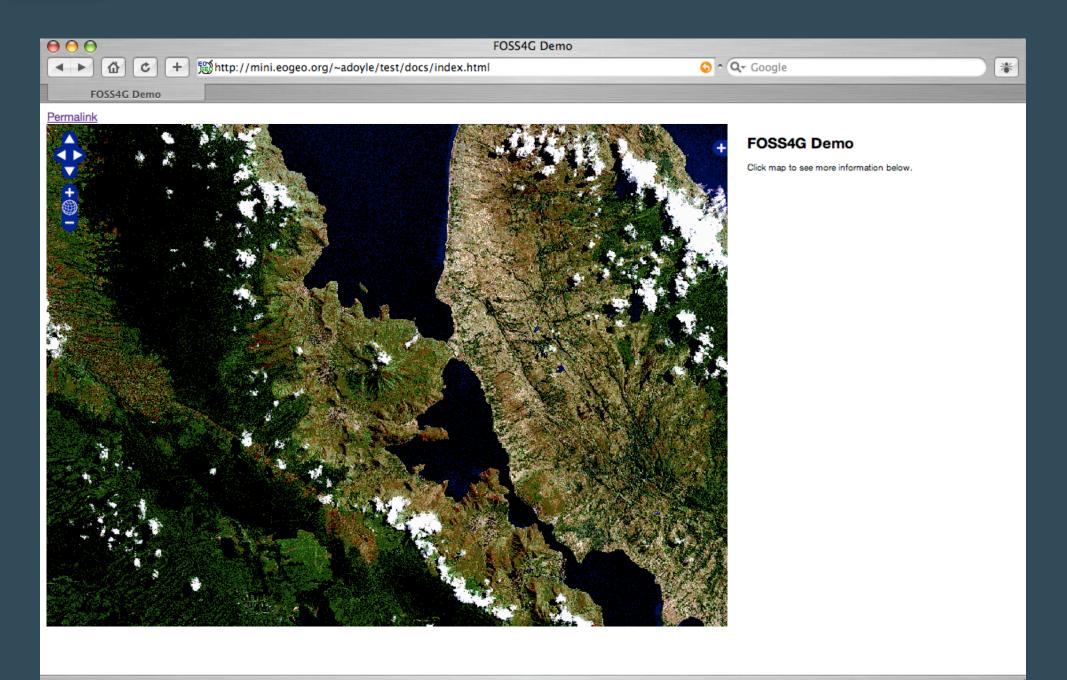
Desktop Clients

- QGIS
- uDig

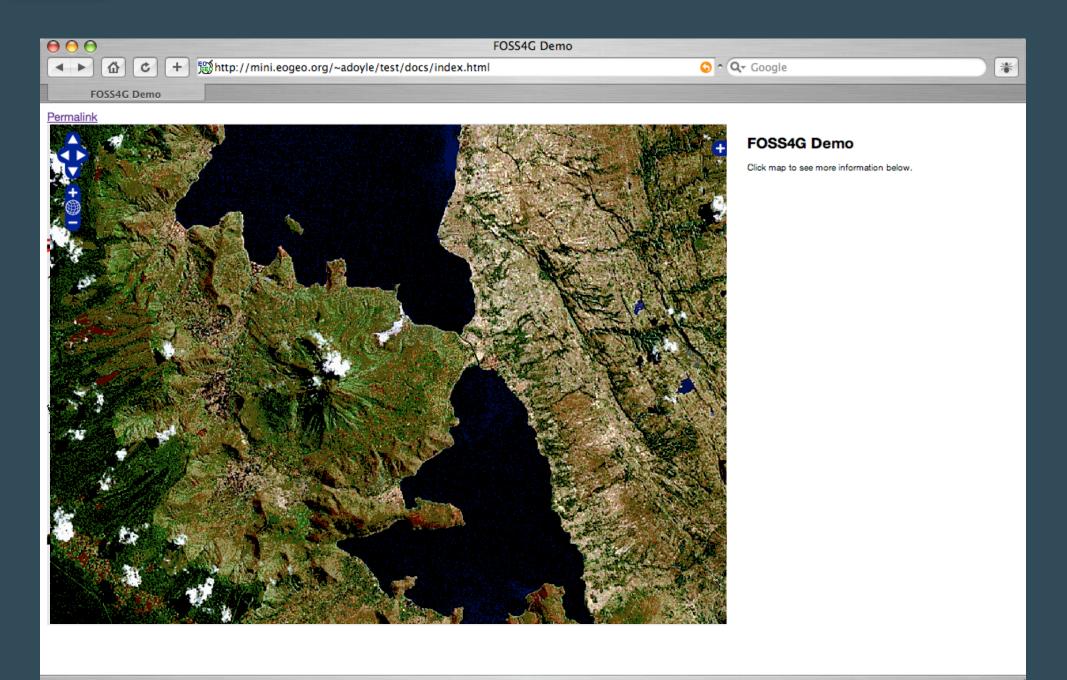




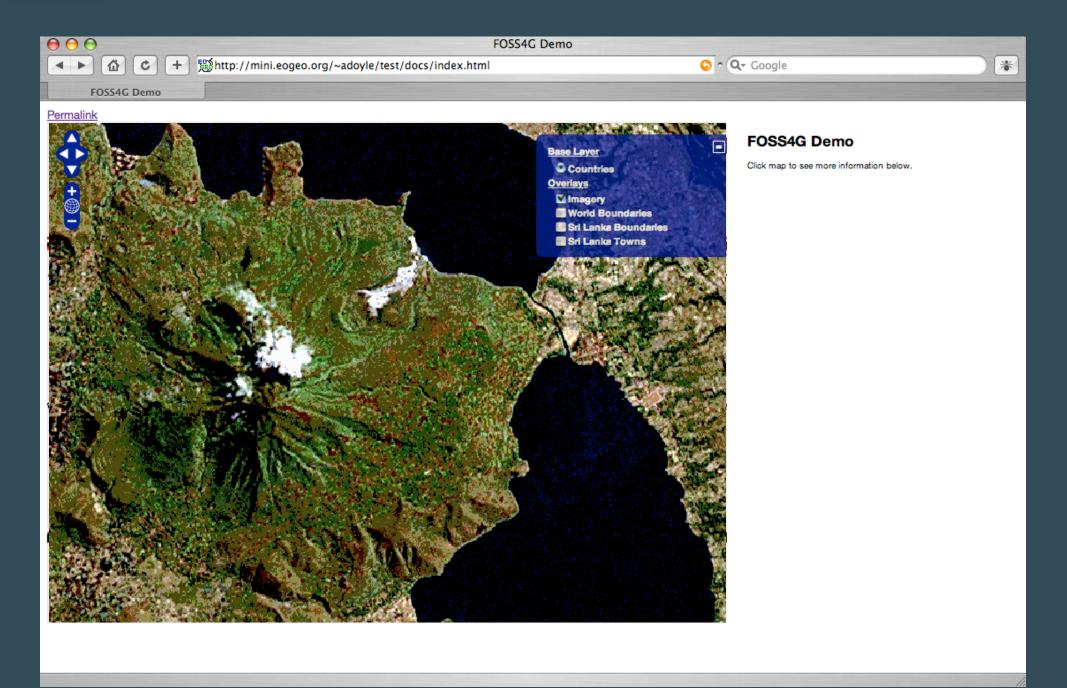




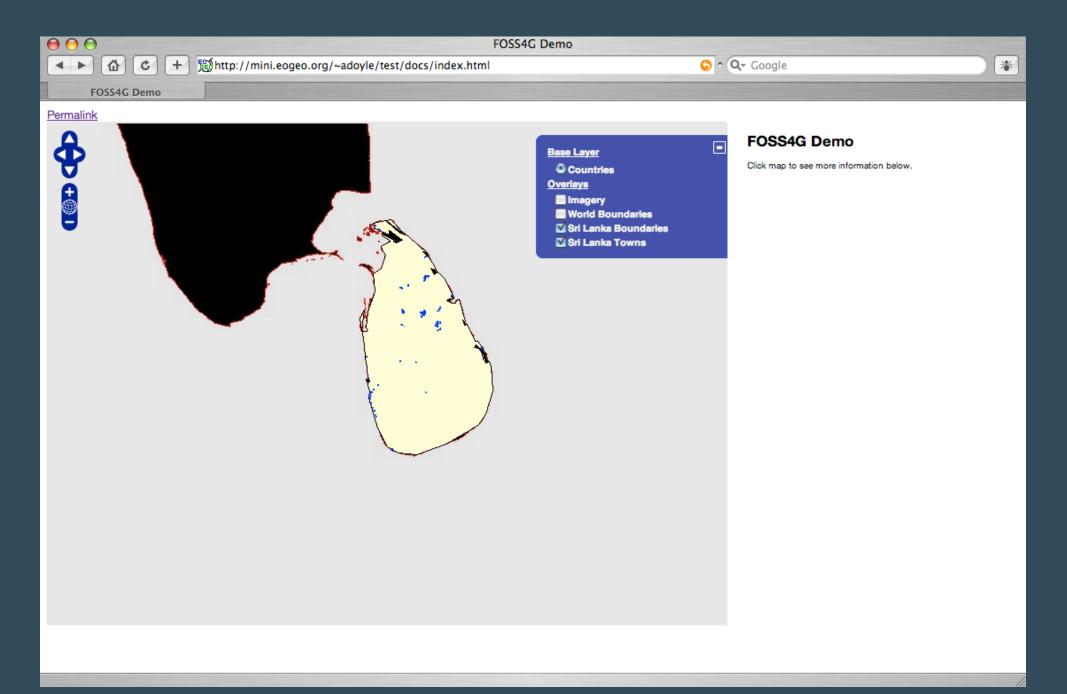




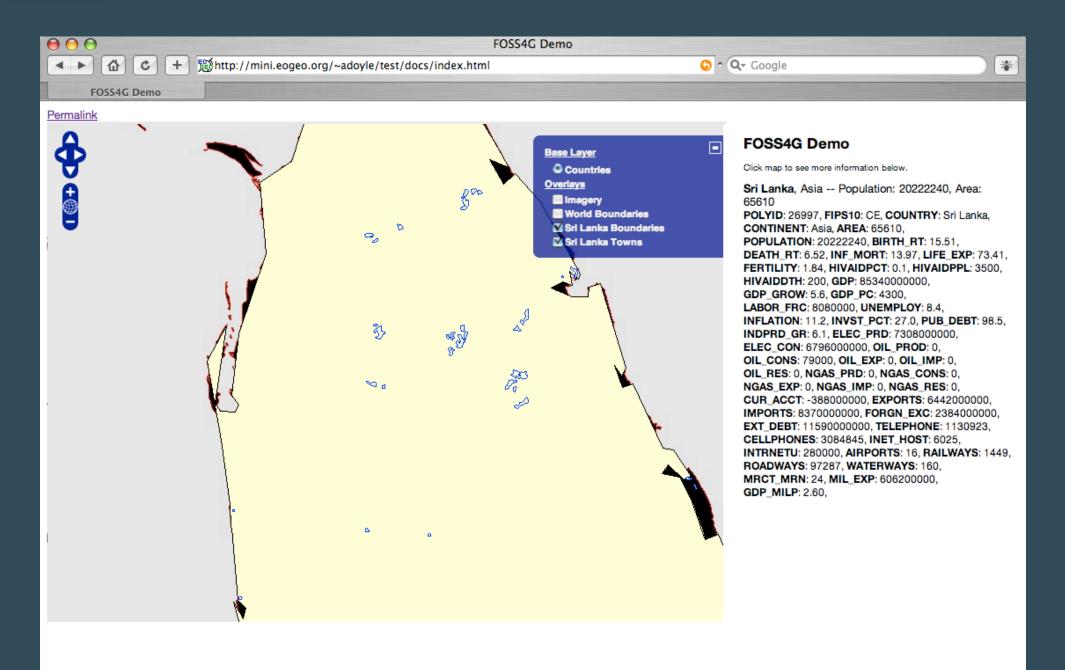














Current Status

- Many small things have been worked out.
 - Python scripts, mapfile templates,
 OpenLayers html templates, Plone as a (currently) non-Geographic collaboration system
- Generally, all the Geo FOSS packages just work on the Macintosh



Next Steps

- Turn the "little bits" into bigger chains that can be automated
- Work with GeoNetwork project to complete metadata harvesting
- Try out MapStorer for mapfile building
- Develop the global "base data" set
- Develop a regional example
- Work with UN, UNEP, or FAO to refine concept



Thanks so far to

- All the GeoFOSS developers, the unsung heros
- Chris Schmidt, Howard Butler, Steve Lime, Jeroen Ticheler for help
- Keio University for funding



Thank you!

adoyle@eogeo.org www.eogeo.org