Geothink Canada Newsletter

January 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue

by Peck Sangiambut

This is the second issue of the Geothink newsletter. I would like to start off by apologizing for the delay in bringing this out – we felt it would be better to delay until after the holiday season. The newsletter is primarily designed to provide updates to everyone involved in Geothink, such as what progress there has been in different research projects, but also to introduce and provide news on the activities of other members. At this point in time we are, in general, formulating research and looking at literature. As highlighted previously, we have a number of students in the beginning of their graduate degrees, at both the Masters and PhD levels. More student introductions will be made below. In the future, important announcements such as upcoming events will be on the front page here, while a summary of future events will be on the back.

Reminder for next AGM

We have our upcoming AGM this summer: **12-13 June** in **Ottawa**. Note that this will be held in conjunction with MISA (Municipal Information Systems Association of Canada) Ontario Annual Conference. Stay tuned for venue confirmation.

SKI and AAG

Some of you may also be attending the Spatial Knowledge and Information, Canada (SKI) and the Association of American Geographers (AAG) conferences.

SKI: 7-9 February in Banff. There is a Geothink-meet the day before (6 Feb).

AAG 2014: 8-12 April in Tampa Bay, Florida

The back page also contains a list of future events

What's going on right now?

by Peck Sangiambut

Co-applicants teleconferenced in November 2013 to discuss research and other issues. Below are selections of what researchers are working on. In general, researchers are focusing on their environmental scans and literature reviews to map out the current socio-political and technical environment of the geoweb, from the point of view of their respective disciplines.

Theme 1: Anywhere, Anyone, Anytime

Geoweb and Open Data in Canada: Mapping the Terrain
Daniel Paré, Dept. of Communication, U. Ottawa and Leslie Shade, Faculty of Information, U. Toronto

Collaborating with colleagues from the Faculty of Information (iSchool) at the University of Toronto to begin "mapping" the socio-political and economic terrain within which policy decisions about open data are made. There are two principle objectives:

1. Identify key stakeholders in open data in Canada at federal, provincial and municipal levels
2. Create an electronic depository of policy documents, company reports, and NGO reports relating to open data in Canada

Theme 2: Spatial Authenticity, Accuracy, and Standards

From Crowdsourcing to Open Data, a Survey of Canadian Local and Provincial Governments
Rob Feick, School of Planning, U. Waterloo and Stéphane Roche, Dept. of Geomatics, U. Laval

Assembling a literature review and survey government partners at local, provincial and national levels to:

1. Identify and characterize the main current open data initiatives and what standards are used
2. Identify existing as well as potential practices for using and validating crowdsourced data
3. Explore linkages between open data and crowdsourcing at the municipal and provincial levels

Where we are currently in the process: We have begun to assess recent work on point #1 above (open data) in light of feedback through the project listserv and other sources and are using this to inform the survey and shift the focus somewhat more toward points 2 and 3 than point 1.

Where we could use partner help: Input and suggestions on your questions and current practices regarding crowdsourced data (generally) and especially crowdsourced or volunteered geo-referenced data. If you have any specific questions or concerns relating to incorporating or evaluating citizen-generated geodata, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Mobile Feedback Applications for Collaborative Base Map Editing
Peter Johnson, Dept. of Geography, U. Waterloo and Rob Feick, School of Planning, U. Waterloo

This project asks how mobile device technology can allow citizens to contribute to the updating and editing of official maps of their home city.

Where we are currently in the process: We have a co-op student on this starting in January 2014. We have had many meetings with partners at ESRI Canada and look forward to working with them to further develop the prototype application.

Where we could use partner help: The second phase of this project will look to deploy a base map editing mobile application within a 'live' context with a municipality (as yet to be determined). Interested? Let us know!

Theme 3: Law and Policy Dimensions

A Comparative Study of Copyright Licensing Practices for Large-Scale Publicly Funded Datasets
Cheryl Power, PhD Student, Faculty of Law, U. Ottawa (supervisor: Elizabeth Judge)
Three areas being looked at for comparative review:

1. Review of legislative provisions dealing with federally owned data in Canada and the US
2. Review of copyright licensing procedures for selections or compilations of federally funded data
3. Review of copyright licensing procedures resulting from government open data policies

Theme 4: Open Everything

Participatory Geoweb Tools and Open Data
Claus Rinner, Dept. of Geography, Ryerson University

Claus Rinner has an undergraduate student (Edgar Baculi) doing analysis of the contents of open data catalogues with attention to the availability of data formats and data types, starting with the City of Toronto's open data portal, but moving towards other sources as well. Additionally, the demand side of open data will be explored, through its uses in the news media and in the academic/teaching setting in Ryerson.

Theme 6: Political Economy of the Geoweb

The Role of Standards in Lending Value to Unstructured Data
Renee Sieber, Dept. of Geography, McGill University

What role do standards/schema such as GTFS have in creating value for data? Rather than take a political economy approach, I am interested in a social construction/Science and Technology Studies approach.

Where we are currently in the process: I've been talking to Open North about developing a survey of municipalities who've adopted standards. We've got a preliminary bibliography.
Where we could use partner help: Any ideas are welcome, especially in identifying standards, standards users are using and standards users (firms, non-profits, cities) have created. Might be interesting to work with partners like OpenStreetMap (OSM) to see if there are proto-standards (folksonomic standards?) emerging, like metadata or labels.

Political Economy of Open Data
Suthee (Peck) Sangiambut, Masters Student, Dept. of Geography, McGill University
Peck is still in his first year of his Masters. He has done an initial look at the literature on the political economy of the geoweb. He is still aiming to frame the geoweb and open data in terms of political economy, but has also shifted towards Theme 4, and will also be investigating indicators to measure the effects (economic and social) of open data consumption.

Where we currently are in the process: Peck is at the very beginning of the research and is currently reviewing literature on political economy.
Where we could use help: Any discussion on how to track data consumption, as well as tertiary effects of data consumption would be welcome.

Themes of GeoThink

Here is a reminder of our six research themes.

Theme 1: Anywhere, Anyone, Anytime

We believe that Web 2.0 and its associated technologies will dramatically shift the way cities talk to their constituents and others. People can communicate with cities from anywhere, outside of a jurisdiction, and at any time, for example, which means outside formal venues like city council meetings. Anonymity implies that you do not know the identity of the contributor. It challenges our traditional definitions of community, citizen, and participation. We will evaluate the processes of technology development and that impact on the city and the citizen.

Theme 2: Spatial Authenticity, Accuracy, and Standards

The moment you bring up volunteered geographic information (VGI) (e.g., with Open 311), you worry about the quality of data. This theme considers questions of data structures, standards, and documentation practices used by public agencies. The research produced by this theme also will affect consensus on terminology, data standards, and dissemination regarding opening up government data and accepting VGI.

Theme 3: Law and Policy Dimensions

Data related to governance is not simply a technical matter. Issues that are policy and legal in nature will be a primary focus as we try to understand the way Geoweb 1) fits in existing law and policy, and 2) shapes new policies and law. Specific legal domains of interest are privacy, intellectual property, access to information, access to justice, and the interplay between norms, codes and technology with regards to governance.

Theme 4: Open Everything

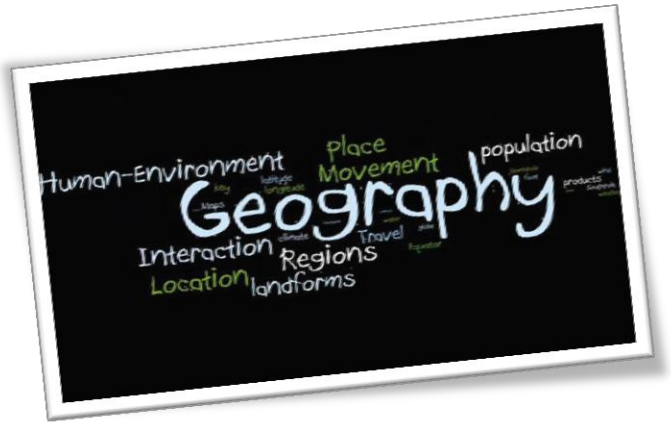
We will track municipal open data engagement over time, theorize about the impacts of open data on governance, and from a practical perspective understand and develop best practices. We also have the opportunity to document best practices and track the evolution of open data practices over time.

Theme 5: Social Justice

We will explore aspects of Geoweb - Society relationships as they pertain to social justice. We will identify the success and failures of Geoweb for community development. Using a case study approach we will use participatory research to identify emerging concepts of place, the intersection of community, engagement and social justice, and the accessibility to Geoweb.

Theme 6: Geoweb Political Economy

This theme will focus on understanding the political economy of the Geoweb as it concerns ownership structures, institutions, and policies. Power relationships between actors and processes of inclusion and exclusion among social media owners and users also will be our focus.



Student Spotlight: PhD Student Harrison Smith

Although I consider myself more of a sociologist at heart, and certainly my research is much more theoretical than applied, I became interested in the geoweb through my ongoing research in surveillance studies and mobility where I have broadly been researching how notions of access and social exclusion are constituted by the ways databases construct understandings of identity and spatiality. How people and place are rendered knowable in many respects tells us a lot about ongoing socio-economic inequalities. My belief is that it has become increasingly necessary to situate the production of geospatial information within a larger theoretical context of mobilities, and in particular the way this epistemological production is mediated through surveillance. Mobile digital culture in many respects convergences around the production of spatial knowledge; where the movement of people and things becomes increasingly dependent on the way space is made knowable. We can understand this as a co-dependent relationship where the production of knowledge becomes much more situated and contextualized in geographically specific places. I find this one of the more fascinating observations we can make about digital culture, where despite the rhetoric of networked societies and globalization, locality has not ceased to be important, and indeed we see the social, political and economic investment in place becoming a major focus. Things like the movement towards local forms of governance, a renewed interest in municipal administration, buying from local producers—all of these things tell us about the importance of understanding place. I think this is where the geoweb will really take off in the next decade, and it will be really interesting to see how, through practices such as VGI, people will increasingly take on an interest in producing knowledge about their local environment for a variety of reasons. I am a PhD student at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information, working with David J. Phillips, Leslie Regan Shade, and Rhonda McEwen. My thesis investigates the production of mobile geodemographic knowledge through location based services in order to theorize the mediation of lifestyle and taste within mobile digital culture, and in this respect it incorporates political economy and sociology to study geospatial media. For the geoweb research partnership, Prof. Leslie Regan Shade and I will focus our attention on the political economy of the geoweb, where we will broadly look at the processes of commercialization and commodification; examining the role of the private sector, its relationship with the state, and the always important role of the public in this new form of spatial knowledge production.

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Student Spotlight: Master's Student Andrea Minano

My name is Andrea Minano, I am 23 years old and I am Peruvian-Canadian. I was born and raised in Lima, Peru until about age twelve. Back then, my main interests where fine arts and sciences. My family immigrated to Mississauga, Ontario in 2002, where I continued to pursue fine arts; yet, I was drawn to computer science in my early high school years. At 17, I was accepted at the University of Waterloo, and subsequently moved to Waterloo, Ontario to pursue my Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Geomatics. This program allowed me to be creative while continue to learn about computer science, and emerging technologies in remote sensing and geographic information systems. Meanwhile, I received thorough work experience through many co-op placements in my field, ranging from municipal to federal government ministries. In June 2013, I completed my BES degree with honours, a computer science minor, and a diploma of excellence in geographic information systems. At around the same time, I was accepted in the Master of Science program focusing in Geography at the University of Waterloo. Here, I am concentrating on some of my main interests which include web based geographic information systems, and the links between the natural systems and social aspects with regards to climate change.

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Student Spotlight: Master's Student Michael Markieta

Michael Markieta is a Master of Spatial Analysis candidate at Ryerson University and is currently studying under the supervision of Dr. Claus Rinner. His current focus is on completing graduate studies and presenting at events and conferences.

Outside of university research, and before finishing undergraduate studies at Ryerson University, Michael started his own GIS consultancy and has been self-employed for the last two years.

Michael also has on-going relationships with not-for-profits such as the Neptis Foundation and engineering and design firm, Arup.

Michael has been immersed in GIS since his senior years in secondary school, where he was first introduced to the domain through a course in geomatics.

Winning a gold-medal in the Skills Ontario GIS competition while in secondary school set the stage for a chain of events that led to Michael's successful academic career choice in GIS and geography. Aside from his research goals at the university, Michael is a self-motivated blogger on topics of GIS methods, cartography and geovisualization.

In 2014, Michael will have started his part-time practicum placement as required for the Master of Spatial Analysis with Esri Canada, where he hopes to work on 3D geovisualizations and decision support using the CityEngine software. His research direction has encompassed multi-criteria decision analysis and web-mapping, which is shaping his current research motivation into analytic-deliberative decision support.

Michael enjoys his summers as a road cyclist, escaping north of the City into rural southern Ontario on trips upwards of 150km. The Michael of tomorrow wants to champion open-source projects and build GIS tools for the future of spatial analytics.

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Partner Spotlight: Open North and Open511

by Peck Sangiambut

In this issue we will highlight the development of an open data standard and API for road networks, called Open511 (open511.org). Stéphane Guidoin and the folks at Open North (one of our partner organisations) has been working on developing Open511 for over a year now, and they recently reached v0.9 of the standard, which means it has reached implementation status. Open511 as a standard hopes to help governments publish road event data (for example, various road closures and accidents). Similar to the effect GTFS (General Transit Feed Specification) has had on public transit data, Open511 looks to help standardise road event data and publishing, thereby allowing Canadian government at all levels to benefit by sharing information. With funding from GeoConnections, the development of the Open511

specification has been done in collaboration with government from the provincial (British Columbia's Transportation Ministry) as well as city level (City of Montreal as well as San Francisco). After a conversation with M. Guidoin, it was clear that they have been attempting to incorporate the best elements of other standards such as (GTFS, Open311, GML) while also taking into consideration both the needs of governments (of all sizes) as well as those of consumers (who tend to prefer consumer data in different formats). Currently, there are two partner organisations that are working on executing the first implementation of the Open511 standard. Much like Open311 and GTFS, Open511 is an open standard, meaning that organisations can freely use and even fork it according to their own needs. It outputs in XMl and JSON (using GML and GeoJSON for reference), with support for numerous geographic features and is REST compatible.

If you are interested in the idea of standardisation of road network data in Canada, please check out the links below to get further details on the specifications of Open511 and their development roadmap. Contributions are also welcomed by the developers.

OpenNorth Make democracy better

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OPEN 511

http://open511.org/

http://blog.opennorth.ca/opening-new-roads-with-open511/

Partner Spotlight: Prof. Andrew Clement at KMDI

by Prof. Leslie Regan Shade and Harrison Smith

The following is an abridged transcript of an interview with Professor Andrew Clement at the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, and partner through KMDI (Knowledge Media Design Institute), which is also part of the Faculty of Information. The interview was conducted by Harrison Smith and Leslie Regan Shade, and concerns Clement's development of IXmaps, a geo-spatial crowdsourced mapping application which traces the geographical path internet packets take in order to highlight potential NSA surveillance and the politics of internet routing and trans-border data flows more generally.

Let's first talk very broadly about IX maps. Could you please explain what it is and why you chose to develop it?

IXmaps, as the name suggests, is about mapping internet exchanges. We (Nancy Paterson, an artist at OCAD, and I) got the idea of looking at where our internet traffic passes through the sites where the NSA has splitter operations, or surveillance points. These were revealed by the whistleblower Mark Klein in 2006, notably the AT&T's regional switching centre in San Francisco at 611 Folsom Street.

In his book, Klein cites about half a dozen other places… so we thought it would be interesting to be able to show a person using the internet where their packets go and where they would be subject to suspected NSA surveillance sites.

That required two things: One is being able to locate these likely sites… so we came up with a rough rule of thumb to judge the major centres… and produced a list of about 18 of them and so we can map those.

The harder part was how to tell whether your data passes through those particular sites or even through cities they're suspected of being in. And that uses a program called TraceRoute, which has been around for a long time. Your computer comes with a version of TraceRoute. You give it an IP address or URL and it pings that site and tells you the IP addresses of the various routers your packets are routed through to its destination, and it tells you how long this takes.

The mapping between the IP addresses of these routers and their physical location is a bit murky. It's basically an unsolved problem, particularly in the question of backbone routers rather than, say home machines, because the latter are of wide commercial interest and you can tell reasonably accurately within a postal code, but the backbone routers are harder to find so we developed various ways to figure out from the host name of the router, or how long it takes for the packets to reach the router, what city it was likely in. So with that geolocation, plus the location of the suspected NSA sites, we could show maps of data paths overlaid with NSA surveillance.

We wanted people to be able to see where their own data goes, and we also wanted to be able to pin down the location of these routers from different directions, partly through this timing. So we have a crowdsourced approach to collecting this data. If you install our software on your machine, you can run it with your URL of your choice. We also developed some pre-defined sets of URLs, so you can run the software against the destination URLs in a batch and all that traceroute data would get stored in our database. And now we've got about 30,000 traceroutes in our database, initiated from over 250 different locations, by more than 200 contributors, and so at least in North America we have a pretty good set, so you can see where your own data goes or other people's traceroutes. You can see the routes handled by Bell or ones that originate from a particular city, and so on.

IXmaps relies on voluntary contributions to its database. Could you explain how this works, what the role of the volunteer is for IX maps and why you chose to make volunteer contributions a key part of the platform?

Using a triangulation approach, based on latencies (the time packets take to reach a given router) we look for traceroutes from different directions and locations that share common routers, in order to help with the geo-location of routers. The other point of crowdsourcing was a pedagogical interest, because this project and a number of my others in the surveillance area take a 'probe' approach. The idea is that in using the device (e.g. IXmaps) I want to help people understand the phenomena they're dealing with and to also learn something about the issues that are at stake. In particular, I wanted to help people understand two main things: one is on conceptions of the internet; I think the idea that it's a cloud is actually very misleading, particularly from some important policy issues: that it's not ethereal — borders, physical locations, actual routes, ownership — these matter.

And then, in particular, I wanted to draw attention to NSA [National Security Agency] surveillance. Right after Klein blew the whistle it was big news, and then it died down. It came up again in 2008 when the US government passed the FISAA [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act)] but it died down again. So I thought that if this was a way, a modest way, of keeping the issue alive or helping people understand this form of surveillance which is built right into the core of the internet; by crowdsourcing it…by being curious about your own data, it exposes you to

these questions. Who's looking at it? Is the NSA looking at it?

Why did you choose to make IX maps a cartographic map? Why not just use text? Did you feel there was a particular advantage to mapping as a form of knowledge production?

From quite an early age I've just been fascinated by maps. I did my Master's degree in 1973 on interactive mapping systems, one of the first called Inturmap, it was about interactive urban mapping. So we mapped urban census data….

We started using this [IXmaps] on Google Earth… It seemed that it had an easier interface. I recall the KML programming language was better developed for Google Earth at the time (2009), and also it was just really cool to be able to fly around so you could imagine flying around with your packets… Google Maps is now much more familiar and it's easier for doing overlays.

I suppose if I were to do it again, I would give Open Maps more serious thought for obvious good principled reasons.

How has IX maps been received by public or private institutions? Has IX maps been featured in any popular media, or contributed in any policy or legal settings?

It comes and goes. People, when they hear about it seem interested. It's gotten a bit of press coverage although we haven't tried to do very much publicity. The latest thing we're working on is to create a data privacy transparency report on Canadian carriers, where we use the model of the EFF's (Electronic Frontier Foundation's) "Who's got your back campaign." The EFF rates ISPs more generally, but we're rating telecom carriers that service Canadians… and we look at their websites and analyze them from the point of view of transparency about key privacy issues. Another one that we're interested in… is keeping traffic in Canada, to minimize what we call the Boomerang effect. So there's been a bit of pick up on that. The biggest hit on our website was when Jacob Appelbaum mentioned it on *Democracy Now!* in April 2012.

So why is it so easy for our data to travel into the United States and create this "boomerang effect?" Especially in some of your case studies such as the traceroute from U of T to OSAP, why does it end up moving across borders? Has IX maps helped you develop any theories about this?

One of the things that we're interested to discover in our data, and we had some prior idea this might be happening, is a lot of traffic that goes from a Canadian computer to another Canadian computer gets routed through the US. We are interested in how often this happens and where the traffic gets routed.

Contrary to the popular view that each data packet in a message is typically routed through different paths, there's considerable consistency to the routing patterns. We've been looking at the routing between the University of Toronto and OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program, also in Toronto) for four years now. For years, every time we run it, it makes the same route: it goes to New York, Chicago, and back. The university deals with Cogent, which is a big US ISP, the provincial government deals with Telus. Telus and Cogent both operate in Toronto, but don't meet each other in Canada. Why are our provincial institutions not as a matter of their procurement policies, insisting that their carriers route to promote Canadian routing and infrastructure?

It's not about geography. I can see that from Vancouver to Halifax there's a lot more capacity south of the border… So in that case it may make some sense… But why when the traffic starts and ends in the same city?

It's not about geography nearly as much as it's about who the providers are.

The UofT/ OSAP packets coming and going almost certainly go through 151 Front Street [in Toronto], which is the major internet exchange point in Canada, and there's a huge amount of fibre coming into that building. And the Toronto Internet Exchange (Torix) is there, which is a co-op of many internet carriers. They're very proud that in 2012 they hit 100 gigabits per second traffic through their switches, so it's not insignificant. Cogent and Telus have fibre into that building, but they don't want to trade with each other there. We haven't gotten to the bottom of this. I was just talking to somebody from CIRA [Canadian Internet Registration Authority], who said of the big carriers like Bell "it's so cheap because they built such capacity in New York." I don't fully believe that. There's reasonable evidence that they play the oligopolistic game.

The business strategy is to peer, to exchange traffic at no cost with each other, with companies that are bigger than you or around the same size, but charge smaller ones. And in particular, from the point of view of Bell and so on, they don't want to make it easy for their competitors to use their infrastructure. We see this over physical landlines, but that's regulated; there's all kinds of regulation about interconnection, poles, rights of way, and they're trying to make a competitive market place that isn't just dominated by the ones that own all the physical plant. In the area of the internet, they don't have any similar regulation as far as I can tell, it's just a free for all. And so you see this pattern that is arguably bad for the Canadian internet industry, and also bad from the point of view of exposure of citizen and corporate data to state surveillance and NSA surveillance.

The government, at least the law enforcement and security side, wants to get its hands on the data that's going through the networks; the ISP owners need the government for favourable rulings on things like spectrum and regulatory rules. There's a long history of collaboration between Government and Canadian telecom providers… going back to the First World War, of getting the telecom providers to hand over lots of data, and this is what Bill C-30 (Lawful Access, or officially The Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act) was about, and some people suggest it was to legalize the informal practices

that were already there. In broad terms I think it's fair to say that there's a bit of an unholy alliance here between the large telecom carriers and the government around facilitating mass surveillance. Also, I suppose, keeping off their backs around regulation of things that are accepted in the more conventional infrastructure; such as regulations about promoting common carriage and those sorts of things that haven't been applied to the internet. These are oligopolies, at least in terms of internet backbone and major routing — it's dominated by the usual suspects here — and we have very little idea about what they're doing. All of these peering agreements are secret and covered by non-disclosure agreements. The CRTC should be opening up some of this. How can we exercise effective control over our infrastructure when we don't know a lot of the basic things about it: about capacities, rates, and these sorts of things? What I'm trying to do is render the invisible infrastructure visible for public accountability… and that's I think why mapping is particularly useful when you're talking about networks.

I think of this invisibility in three dimensions. One is infrastructure ideally, and this is from (Geoff) Bowker and (Susan Leigh) Star; infrastructures should be invisible in the sense that we can take it for granted so we can easily use it without having to concern ourselves about it… Then there's the physical invisibility, because its miniaturized, it's behind the walls…. And then there's deliberate invisibility, or secrecy… Our governments have the technical capacity, the network experts, who if given the mandate to do this, could actually inform people better, but it's not part of the mindset. I think it requires activist interventions. I think the best chances are breakdowns in the sort of general sense, and we see this with the Snowden revelations where a crack has opened and we see into this dark world, and I think a lot will depend on how we deal with this moment. If we basically say, "well we can't deal with it", or "we're just going to smooth the more odious parts off", like the Feinstein proposal in Congress, or Obama's proposed reforms, this is just going to basically normalize the NSA transactions. We will then have not just missed an opportunity, but we'll have embedded in our laws, our expectations and public imaginaries that basically, this form of mass state surveillance comes with the network. That I think that would be a huge tragedy. On the other hand it's an opportunity to say "look at what's going on here, this is not acceptable," and now we start focusing on these issues.

I suppose if you look back historically at earlier times in the emergence of other potent infrastructures, the remedial actions could only be taken well after they got started, which of course as we know, are when things are really hard to change because they're built in, but only when you have a vivid enough idea of what can go wrong you're not going to regulate or maintain some sort of control over it. In STS [Science and Technology Studies] we talk about irreversibility and path dependency, you can't just wind it back and say, "oh let's go back to where we were 10 years ago and decide differently." So it's always about trying to steer things… We're in this formative period, and we've been in this for the last few decades and I expect it will go on. But we're making all kinds of lasting decisions now…

The idea of a sovereign national infrastructure that's somehow owned and controlled by Canadians, I am a bit uneasy about that, but… I think if we're going to create a sort of multi-lateral global governance, which I think is necessary for the internet — it's probably better to do that on the basis of national treaties and agreements than it is to let it emerge through the growth of private giants, which is what we're facing now. We need a national conversation, and we've been calling for that for 20 years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

IXmaps : www.ixmaps.ca

Prof. Andrew Clement :

http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/andrew-clement

see where your data packets go

Upcoming conferences: SKI

Which students are going to SKI?

We have most of our students attending the SKI conference as well as the pre-conference Geothink event.

We have 15 students attending, coming from 9 different universities, and three timezones.

Matt Tenney, Peck Sangiambut, Cheryl Power, Tenille Brown, Stephanie Piper, Andrea Minano, Harrison Smith, Andrew Barton, Teriitutea Quesnot, Victoria Fast, Edgar Baculi, Michael Markieta, Tayyab Shah, Lindsay Aspen, and possibly Rong Wang.

Reminder for RRTT

This is just a reminder about our Rapid Response Think Tank.

Our grant includes plans for a Rapid Response Think Tank (R2T2), which will assist in quickly connecting faculty and students with private, public, and civil society partners to answer short, immediate research questions.

Part of this connection is a response to real world needs in a constantly developing field of our partners.

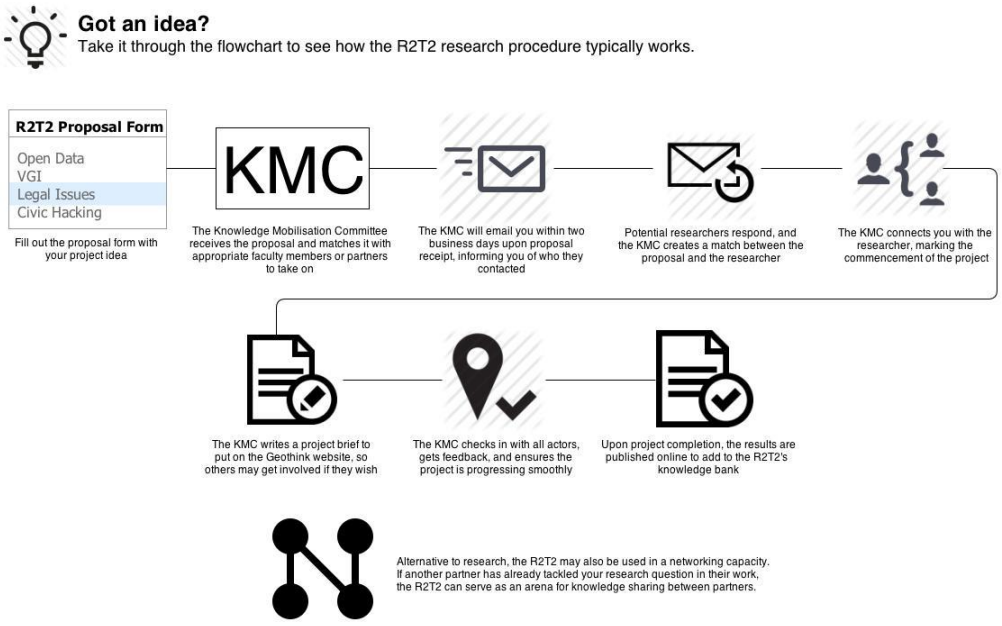
With a network of domain experts and front-line leaders, for example from cities, we hope R2T2 can aid in the development of more informed, effective, and participatory government-citizen relationships.

R2T2 will act as a bridge between partner and academic communities within Geothink, and will be a clearinghouse for ideas and experiences drawn from our co-applicants and collaborators, transferred directly to partners. It is a significant opportunity for communication within the project.

R2T2 will eventually become self-sustaining as non-partner requests are incorporated near the end of the partnership. Our hope is that it will continue after the grant is done.

The person currently heading our RRTT is Prof. Leslie Regan Shade at University of Toronto, with help from Peck Sangiambut. The primary point of contact is the Geothink account.

If you have any immediate, short-term research questions that need answering, run it by RRTT and we will try to connect you to an appropriate researcher.



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Centre for Public Involvement (University of Alberta)	Academic Institution	Edmonton	Alberta	Cavanagh/Fiona	fiona.cavanagh@ualberta.ca
City of Edmonton	Municipal Government	Edmonton	Alberta	Kershaw/Chris	chris.kershaw@edmonton.ca
City of Kitchener	Municipal Government	Kitchener	Ontario	Amaral/Nicole	Nicole.Amaral@kitchener.ca
City of Ottawa	Municipal Government	Ottawa	Ontario	Giggey/Robert	Robert.Giggey@ottawa.ca
City of Regina	Municipal Government	Regina	Saskatchewan	Leclerc/Philippe	PLECLERC@regina.ca
City of Toronto (Information & Technology Metro Hall)	Municipal Government	Toronto	Ontario	Garner/Trish	tgarner@toronto.ca
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City of Victoria	Municipal Government	Victoria	British Columbia	Josephson/Kathleen (Katie)	kjosephson@victoria.ca
City of Waterloo	Municipal Government	Waterloo	Ontario	Bezruki/Garry	garry.bezruki@waterloo.ca
Esri Canada	Private	Toronto	Ontario	Hall/Brent	bhall@esri.ca
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Knowledge Media Design Institute (University of Toronto)	Academic Institution	Toronto	Ontario	Clement/Andrew	andrew.clement@utoronto.ca
Microsoft Corporation	Public	Redmond	Washington	Xu/Yan	yanxu@microsoft.com
Montreal Ouvert	Association	Montreal	Quebec	Lenczner/Michael	michael@ajah.ca
Neptis Foundation (The)	Charitable	Toronto	Ontario	Burchfield/Marcy	mburchfield@neptis.org
Nova Scotia Community Counts (NSCC), Dept. of Finance	Provincial/Territorial Government	Halifax	Nova Scotia	Shookner/Malcolm	shooknmr@gov.ns.ca

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC)	Federal Government	Ottawa	Ontario	Millar-Chapman/Melanie	Melanie.Millar-Chapman@priv.gc.ca
Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB)	Municipal government	Kelowna	British Columbia	Sears/Anna	anna.warwick.sears@obwb.ca
Open North Inc.	Research	Montreal	Quebec	Guidoin/Stephane	stephane@opennorth.ca
OpenStreetMap - US Chapter	Foreign	Salt Lake City	Utah	Van Excel/Martijn	m@rtijn.org
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Ryerson University	Academic Institution	Toronto	Ontario	Laberge/Paule	paule.laberge@ryerson.ca
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Geothink Canada Newsletter

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Upcoming Events and a Call for Your Participation!

We are in the process of creating a series of webinar and workshops that we hope to hold bi-monthly. In addition to these regular events we are revamping the website www.geothink.ca

For us to have the broadest impact with the Geothink Project we would appreciate your input. This can mean providing monthly contributions to our social media outlets, writing blog posts, research updates, and being involved in future events.

EVENTS CALENDAR:

SKI: 6-9 February 2014

The Spatial Knowledge and Information (SKI), Canada conference is being held in Banff, Alberta between 7-9th February. We will be having a Geothink meeting at the same venue on the 6th February. For details of the programme, please go to http://rose.geog.mcgill.ca/ski/program2014. There will be activities the Students of Geothink as well. For those of you who are not attending, see you at the subsequent Geothink meet.

AAG: 8-12 April 2014

The annual conference of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) will be held between 8-12 April in Tampa Bay, Florida. Several Geothink researchers are attending, and there will be a chance to meet up for discussion.

AGM: 12-13 June 2014:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in the Ottawa between 12-13 June. This will be held in conjunction with the MISA (Municipal Information Systems Association of Canada) conference. We are still working on the details for the venue.

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