



Collaborative Project

GeoKnow - Making the Web an Exploratory for Geospatial Knowledge

Project Number: 318159

Start Date of Project: 2012/12/01

Duration: 36 months

Deliverable 8.4.1 Online Collaboration Platform

Dissemination Level	Public
Due Date of Deliverable	Month 1, 31/12/2012
Actual Submission Date	31/12/2012
Work Package	WP 8, Project Management
Task	Task 8.4
Type	Report
Approval Status	Approved
Version	1.0
Number of Pages	11
Filename	D8.4.1_Online_Collaboration_Platform.pdf

Abstract: This report gives an overview of the GeoKnow online collaboration platform. For efficient project collaboration the GeoKnow project management team aims to provide the best suited tools depending on the project task. The GeoKnow collaboration tool suite comprises the MediaWiki as well as a Subversion version control repository.

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History

Version	Date	Reason	Revised by
0.1	08/12/2012	template	Jens Lehmann
0.1	10/12/2012	deliverable draft	Konrad Höffner
0.6	16/12/2012	several smaller improvements	Jens Lehmann
0.7	18/12/2012	management	Sandra Prätor
0.8	21/12/2012	peer review comments	Konrad Höffner
0.9	29/12/2012	addition to executive summary	Sandra Prätor
1.0	31/12/2012	final proof reading	Jens Lehmann
1.1	07/01/2012	moved management to its own section and added <i>Events and Communication</i>	Konrad Höffner

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Executive Summary

This report gives an overview of the GeoKnow online collaboration platform. For efficient project collaboration the GeoKnow project management team aims to provide the best suited tools depending on the project task. The GeoKnow collaboration tool suit comprises the MediaWiki as well as a Subversion version control repository. The target audience is everyone involved in the execution of the GeoKnow project.

Tool	Purpose	Address
Wordpress Weblog	Dissemination	http://blog.geoknow.eu
MediaWiki	Wiki	http://wiki.geoknow.eu
Subversion	Version control system	http://svn.aksw.org/projects/GeoKnow
LDAP	Access management	http://ldap.aksw.org
Internal Mailing List	Internal Communication	geoknow@lists.informatik.uni-leipzig.de
W3C Community Group	External Communication	http://www.w3.org/community/geosemweb

Abbreviations and Acronyms

Acronym or Abbreviation	Explanation
LOD	Linked Open Data
SVN	Subversion Versioning Control System
LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
Blog	Weblog
W3C	World Wide Web Consortium

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1 Wordpress Weblog

In order to publish news about the GeoKnow project the GeoKnow Website comprises a Weblog system, which employs the Wordpress Weblog software as basis. All project members can use their LDAP accounts to edit and create blog posts. The blog entries are automatically syndicated with the project homepage at <http://geoknow.eu>, as well as other relevant channels (such as project partner homepages etc.).

HOME



What is GeoKnow about?

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Spatial dimensions of information have high relevance for everyday problems. A typical example is knowing the locations of the closest stores which have a specific product in stock and are currently open. This geographic dimension information is normally available, but dispersed among a multiplicity of information sources such as isolated Geographic Information Systems, enterprise warehouses, proprietary data formats such as Excel sheets or simple web pages.

The aim of the GeoKnow project is to make information seeking easier by allowing exploration, editing and interlinking of heterogeneous information sources with a spatial dimension. Complex scenarios such as the logistical status of a product within a supply chain and data warehouses of e-commerce systems are also dealt with in the Geoknow project.

RECENT POSTS

[What is GeoKnow about?](#)

RECENT COMMENTS

ARCHIVES

[December 2012](#)

Figure 1: Screenshot of the GeoKnow Wordpress Blog

2 MediaWiki

In order to easily share and collaboratively edit information about work packages, tasks, deliverables, calls, meetings and administrative details, the GeoKnow consortium decided to use a Wiki. An installation of the Wikimedia Foundation MediaWiki was chosen because it is used by Wikipedia and many other Wikis and is thus thoroughly tested, optimized and provides an easily extendable and stable platform. All GeoKnow partners can view, edit and create all pages by using their LDAP account. The MediaWiki is provided and hosted by GeoKnow partner InfAI and is available at <http://wiki.geoknow.eu>. It is divided into a publicly visible and an internal area.

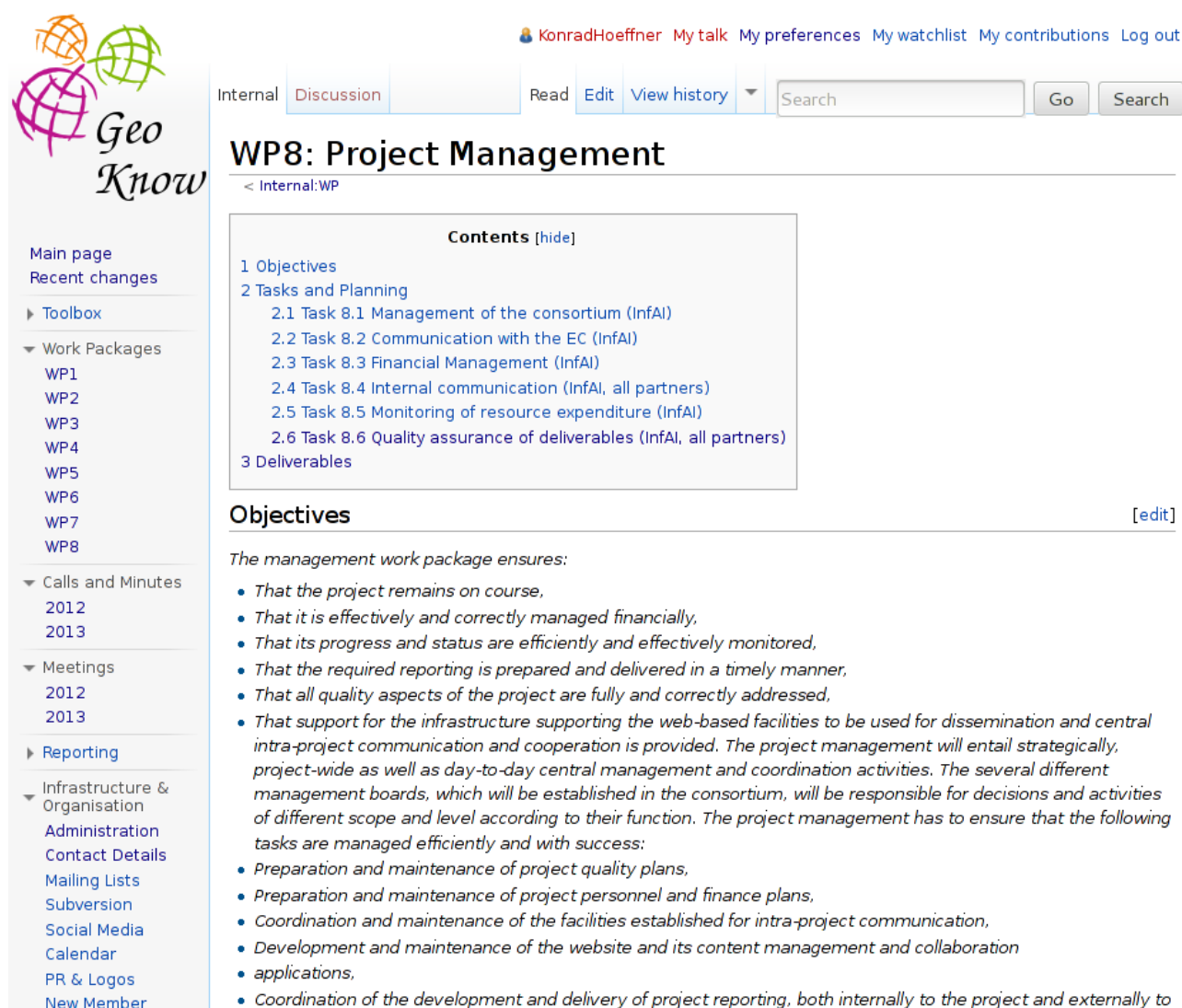


Figure 2: Screenshot of the GeoKnow MediaWiki

3 Subversion Version Control System

Results of the GeoKnow project are primarily software artefact and reports. In order to support the production of both in the distributed environment, document versioning, software versioning as well as bugtracking and feature request system are setup.

The document versioning was set up on a server of the coordinator running the subversion versioning system¹. The Subversion service is available at <http://svn.aksw.org/projects/GeoKnow>. For Linux and Mac OS X operating systems support for accessing Subversion repositories is built in. For Windows, the TortoiseSVN Explorer shell extension provides a comfortable way of accessing and working with Subversion repositories (see Figure 4).

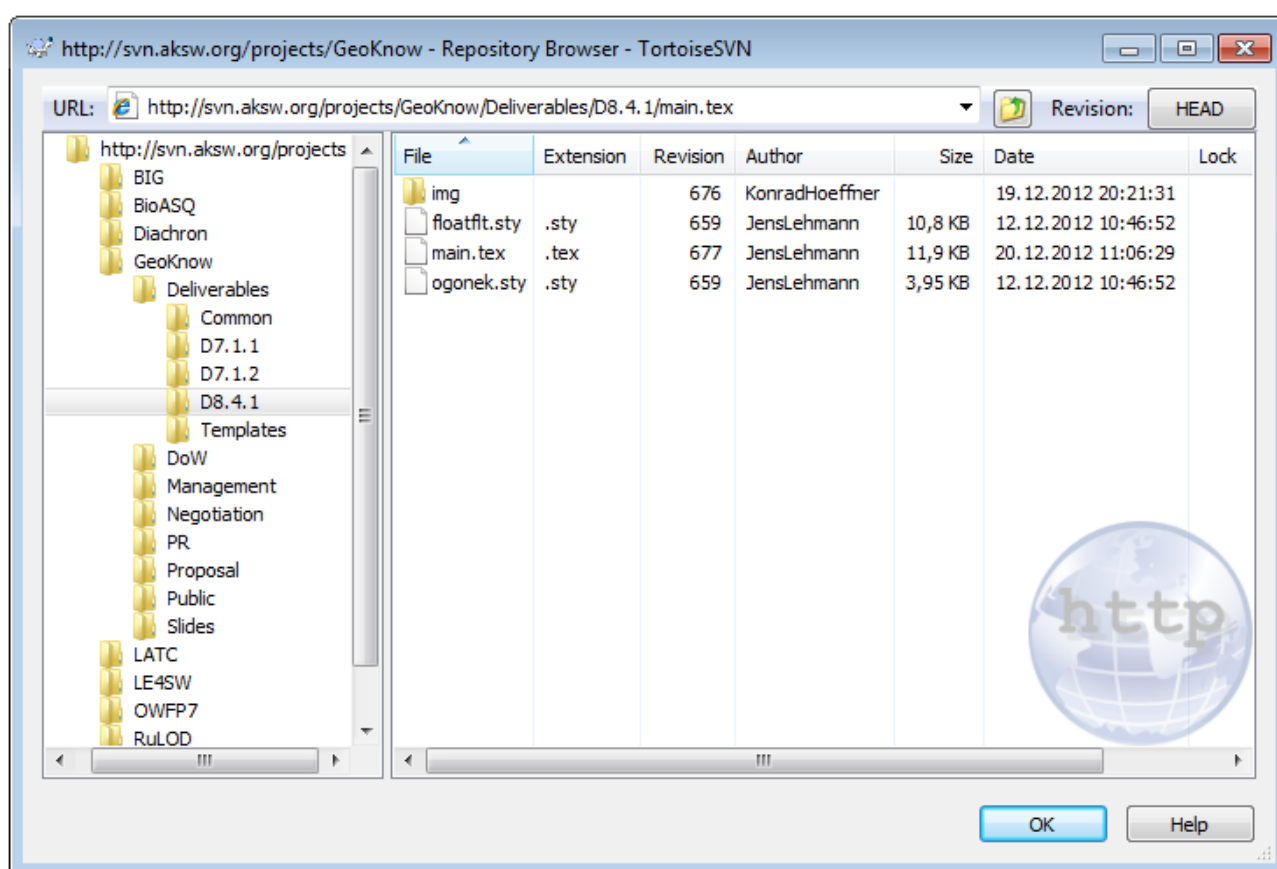


Figure 3: Screenshot of TortoiseSVN

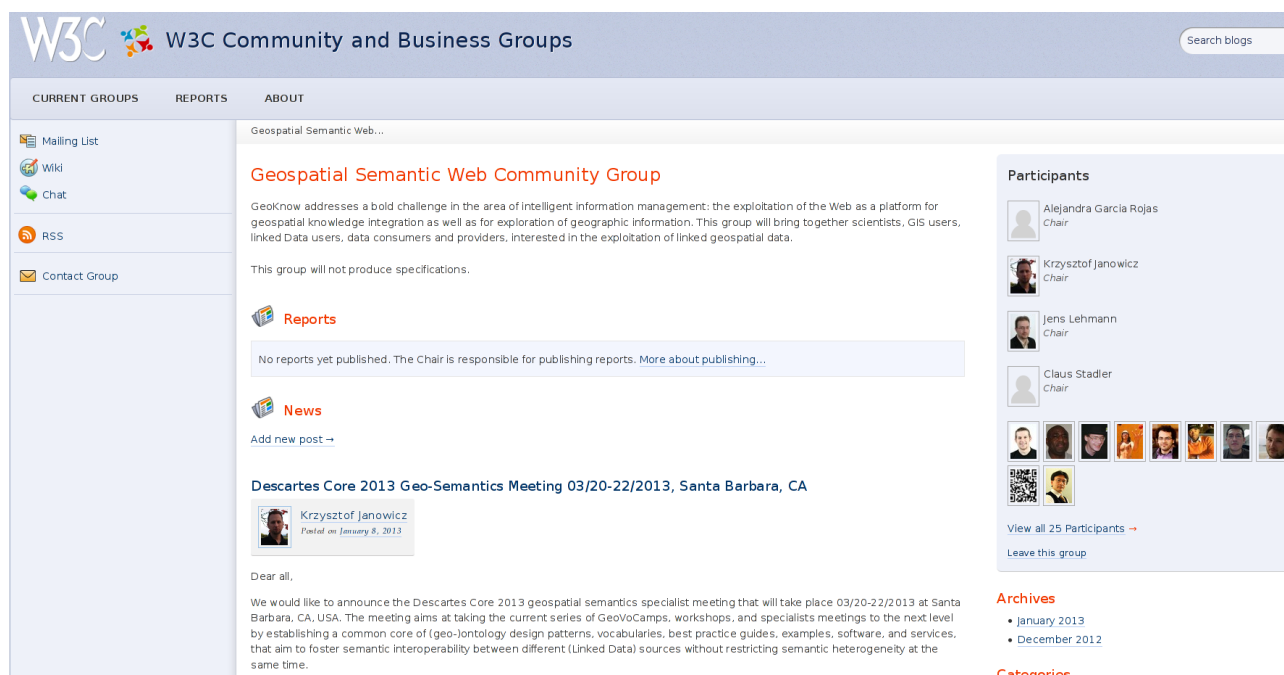
¹<http://subversion.tigris.org>

4 LDAP

In order to facilitate access to all components of the Online Collaboration Platform, an LDAP access management system is used that is hosted and provided by InfAI. Each member of a project partner can request an LDAP account from the coordinator and then write blog posts, create wiki articles or use the Subversion repository with the same identity. The single identity allows for fast access for new members, a lower management overhead and higher security, because it reduces the risk of leftover accounts for persons who leave the project.

5 Events and Communication

Invitations to Events are distributed by the Google-Calendar web application which is used for time-management. Detailed information about the Meetings as well as the Participants, the Agenda and the minutes of the calls are available in internal area of the MediaWiki. Communication and discussion which concern all partners are held on an internal mailing list. External collaborators can join the W3C *Geospatial Semantic Web Community Group*.



The screenshot shows the W3C Community and Business Groups page for the Geospatial Semantic Web Community Group. The page features a navigation menu with 'CURRENT GROUPS', 'REPORTS', and 'ABOUT'. On the left, there are links for 'Mailing List', 'Wiki', 'Chat', 'RSS', and 'Contact Group'. The main content area is titled 'Geospatial Semantic Web Community Group' and includes a description of the group's mission, a note that it will not produce specifications, and sections for 'Reports' and 'News'. A recent news item titled 'Descartes Core 2013 Geo-Semantics Meeting 03/20-22/2013, Santa Barbara, CA' is displayed, dated January 8, 2013. On the right, a 'Participants' section lists several individuals, including Alejandra Garcia Rojas, Krzysztof Janowicz, Jens Lehmann, and Claus Stadler, all designated as 'Chair'. Below the participants list, there are links to 'View all 25 Participants' and 'Leave this group'. At the bottom right, there are sections for 'Archives' (listing January 2013 and December 2012) and 'Categories'.

Figure 4: Screenshot of the W3C *Geospatial Semantic Web Community Group*

6 Management

Management activities within the GeoKnow-Project, such as interim and yearly project reporting, are administered within the GeoKnow-Internal Wiki and the Subversion Repository. The Wiki provides all partners with guidelines and structures (e.g. templates, schedules) to assure detailed and punctual reporting on the progress and the success of the project. The subversion repository is used for documentation. In order to ensure the quality of all GeoKnow deliverables, a clearly structured deliverable review-process will be coordinated via the GeoKnow-Internal Wiki and the Subversion Repository. This includes the provision of templates, guidelines and detailed information on the deliverable-review and -submission process in the Wiki. Time-sheets to document and report each partner's resources spent in the project are available in SVN.