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Leveraging Web Services in a Portal Environment

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Contents

- NIDIS Background
- NIDIS USDP Requirements and technical evaluations
- USDP infrastructure web services
- Content aggregation through web services
- Data Visualizations using web services
- Summary



Societal Challenges and Climate

Increased vulnerability

 Society is changing increasing urbanization, aging populations, overdevelopment in coastal regions, and regions with limited water supply







What is NIDIS?

National Integrated Drought Information System: An integrated, interagency national drought monitoring and forecasting system that provides:

- An early warning & forecast system for drought.
- Drought impact and causation education.
- Information for drought mitigation.
- An interactive, web-based drought portal.
- Improved observational capabilities.



NIDIS Builds Upon Collaborative Successes!



NIDIS Authority





Grand Challens

"(We) contend that we can reduce this nation's vulnerability to the impacts of drought by making preparedness— especially drought planning, plan implementation, and proactive mitigation— the cornerstone of national drought policy.."

- National Drought Policy Commission Report, May 2000

'NIDIS should improve and expand the compilation of <u>reliable data</u> on the various indicators of droughts, and it should integrate and interpret that data with easily <u>accessible and</u> <u>understandable tools</u>, which provide timely and useful information to decision-makers and the general public. Western Governors believe <u>NOAA should be designated as</u> <u>the federal lead</u> for NIDIS.

- Western Governor's Association Report, June 2004

"Characteristics of disaster-resilient communities:

- Relevant hazards are recognized and understood.
- Communities at risk know when a hazard event is imminent.
- Individuals at risk are safe from hazards in their homes and places of work.
- Communities experience minimum disruption ... after a hazard event has passed."

— National Science and Technology Council, June 2005

- U.S. Group on Earth Observations, September 2006

"Near-term opportunities identify observing systems or **integration of components** that meet high priority societal needs, and make improvements to inadequate existing systems that can be completed within 5 years and have tangible, measurable results.

- Improved Observations for Disaster Warnings
- Global Land Observation System
- □ Sea Level Observation System
- <u>National Integrated Drought Information System</u>
- Air Quality Assessment and Forecast System
- □ Architecture and Data Management."

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Timeline

2004 Western Governors' Association Recommendations for NIDIS

2006 Legislation requiring NIDIS

2007 USGEO Near-term opportunity

2007 Initial Portal accessible

2008 Third incarnation

2009 Regional & International focus







NIDIS US Drought Portal Requirements

- Provide one-stop shop for up-to-date drought information
- Establish clearinghouse for drought data from multiple agencies and partners
- Facilitate NIDIS Pilots:
 - Create on-line communities for various stakeholder groups
 - Establish collaborative workspace to enhance research and creation of new data sets and tools
- Develop and enhance GIS resources in support of NIDIS mission
- NIDIS Technical team evaluated a number of solutions
 - Liferay, Oracle Portal, BEA Aqualogic



Oracle's Web Center Interaction

- Commercial Off-The-Shelf software package – formerly BEA's Aqualogic

- Follows SOA model

- Able to render anything that responds to an HTTP request in a portlet

- Offers value added services:
 - Collaboration
 - Notification (Email, RSS, etc)
 - Web crawling
 - Search
 - API Service

- Components communicate via SOAP web services





Oracle's WCI – Web Service for Remote Portlet

- Select Remote Server or Remote Host
 - Define page/content/application endpoint
 - Configure web service options:
 - Gateway concept
 - In-line refresh
 - Transform javascript/css
 - Hosted display mode
 - Apply Security settings
 - Preferences
 - Caching



USDP - Content Aggregation

- USDP leverages a number of different technologies

- JSR standards for portals
 - Not mature enough
 - Scope is at the portlet level, not page or page group

- Future Trends point toward Gadgets and RESTful Web Services to produce Mash Ups





USDP Web Services examples

- Drought Monitor Graphics:

- RESTful Web Service that exposes Drought Monitor Data Archive

- Used to serve up images in several different contexts throughout the portal (img src references REST endpoint)

- Can be used to produce presentation style graphics on demand

- More recently developed user interface for the service



USDP Web Service examples – cont.

- NWS Drought Information Statements:

- Exposing data source only available on a NWS web page – and NCDC archive

- Setup an ArcGIS REST web service to facilitate an Interactive Mapping application





USDP Web Service examples – cont.

- GIS - Mapping and Visualizations:

- Data from disparate sources, but useful for a scientist to pull into a tool together to visualize or perform simple analysis on data

- Supports/utilizes OGC Services

- ESRI ArcGIS REST implementation
- Services created to expose and/or format data from:
 - Relational Databases
 - HTTP/FTP Web Servers
 - ASCII tab delimited data



USDP Map Viewer



Drought Monitor from Fall 2007



Carolinas, Fall 2007



Map Controls – Layer Selector



Zoom In and PanTools



Map Controls – Transparency

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Zoom in, add map layers



Zoom to West

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View VegDRI – remote sensing product



27

ArcGIS REST Web Mapping Services



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Summary

- NIDIS identified the need for leveraging web services early on
- It was reflected in the COTS solution acquired
- NIDIS utilizes existing web services to access relevant data
- NIDIS continues to develop web services in support of ongoing content and data integration
- NIDIS will be working with other upcoming projects to help them leverage work done and lessons learned i.e. NCS

