



iShare NEWS

36 live sites 56 systems integrated

ISSUE FOURTEEN - SUMMER 2012

Happy Jubilee!

Just as this edition of iShare News was going to press the inaugural meeting of the iShare User Group took place. For me at least it was an opportunity to meet some of the people I have only spoken to on the phone before and a chance to meet up with some old friends.

For Astun this is a bit of a landmark, signalling the fact that there is now an established and thriving community of iShare users together with a growing realisation that the platform has grown

far beyond its humble beginnings providing the foundation for wider collaboration, data publishing and ultimately 'Shared Services.'

News too in this issue of a new application of our technology for tracking specialists Exactrak. This is another great example of Open Source technology working at the heart of a really innovative hybrid solution.

Enjoy the summer!

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Quick News from iShare

South Norfolk goes live

The latest iShare go live is at South Norfolk Council. One interesting feature of this instance of iShare is that the Ordnance Survey base maps are all hosted using Astun Data Services. It is well worth a visit to see how snappy the performance can be. Imagine it... no more map updates...it's all taken care of! We have national coverage so you might like to consider this option too.
<http://my.south-norfolk.gov.uk>



Simon Chapman



Simon joined us recently as a Product Support Specialist and part of the Astun consultancy team. Before joining Astun Simon spent

11 years with the ROMANSE (ROAd MANagement Systems for Europe) office at Southampton City Council, working with Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). These included traffic management and public transport tracking systems with time spent supporting control room operations and undertaking website maintenance.

Simon recently graduated with an MSc (with distinction) in Information Systems from Portsmouth University.

OEAs

An Open Enterprise Agreement (OEA) is our way of supporting iShare deployments across the enterprise. We now have 13 Open Enterprise Agreements in place.

Want to know more about how an OEA can help your organisation? Then please contact Mike Smith: mikesmith@astuntechnology.com

It is also worth reading the short piece about Bolton Council who have recently benefitted from an OEA.



Once in a while we get heavily involved in a project that doesn't strictly conform to our normal scope of work but nevertheless benefits from our core expertise and technology.

Exactrak is the leading supplier of web-based tracking and monitoring systems for specialist local authority highways maintenance vehicles, including gritters, gully cleaners, road sweepers, refuse trucks and white van fleets. In 2011 Exactrak was looking to update its core system architecture to deliver improved system performance together with enhanced capabilities and efficiencies for both itself and its customers. The core system provides a unique realtime tracking monitoring and reporting solution that improves the operational efficiency of vehicle fleets. It also helps to defend against insurance claims by automatically recording the status and location of events without driver intervention. The system also sports additional features such as:

- Pre-programmed route navigation
- Automated control of gritting
- Enhanced user interface with realtime mapping and reporting

There are wholesale changes to the core web application and in the provision of OS Mapping which is now entirely hosted in the Cloud using Astun Data Services. The old Flash based UI has been replaced by one, designed by Astun and which is HTML5 compliant. Astun worked closely with Ordnance Survey to enable a 'Cloud' based hosting solution including the development of a special loader to enable a range

of PSMA and Open Data to be loaded into a PostGIS database. Maps are delivered to Exactrak's core application using a range of Open Source technologies including tilecaching for optimum performance. Under previous arrangements the mapping element took several weeks each year to update. Now this is entirely handled by Astun.

As well as delivering much improved performance there is no longer any need to load maps for specific customers. All have access to the core set of OS Mapping products specified by Exactrak. Maps are updated centrally by Astun. Open Source technology means a saving in software license fees and the Cloud hosting solution is both scalable and resilient.

Over the next year Exactrak will introduce further features including:

- Routebuilder, a tool to enable customers to design and create their own routes complete with turn-by-turn route navigation
- Met Office route based forecasting so that vehicles and salting are deployed with much greater precision
- Full vehicle telemetry including steering, braking and acceleration, to improve driving and fuel efficiency and vehicle wear and tear
- Vehicle 'geofencing' to ensure vehicles go where they are supposed to.



Automated control of gritting

New Product

iShare GIS v5



In the last three years iShare GIS has grown in popularity. There are three reasons for this. First it can help an authority save money by reducing desktop licenses. Second it can provide easy access to spatial data right across the enterprise and thirdly it can integrate with key systems such as CRM. Take it on as part of an OEA and it makes even more sense.

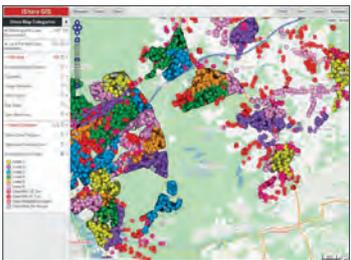
In its latest iteration iShare GIS (v5) has had a complete overhaul, being rebuilt from the ground up with a underlying extendable framework (plugin architecture) and a complete interface refresh. Here are some of the highlights:

- Improved security through Windows Authentication
- Tile based map interface (à la Google)
- Base Map picker
- Full layer control
- Template picker with auto legend
- NLPG based address search
- Find Features/Nearest
- Measure distance, area
- Polygon or Circle selection tools
- Powerful information/layer browser
- Sharable drawing layers
- Annotations - vector, node etc.
- Simple SQL queries
- Enhanced printing
- Thematics - point/polygon
- Custom plugins

This short description does not really do this upgrade justice so if you want to know more please arrange for a demonstration. Here are a few screen shots courtesy James Rutter, Surrey Heath Borough Council.



Local Development Framework



Waste collection points by crew



Scanned in planning history cards

In the Spotlight

Bolton's Open Enterprise Agreement

They say every cloud has a silver lining. The cloud in this case was government cuts and the silver lining was the new PSMA (Public Sector Mapping Agreement). At Bolton Council the PSMA released some budget money previously spent on the provision of OS licenses. Some of this money was used to upgrade Professional GIS licenses and some on an Astun Technology Open Enterprise Agreement (OEA).

The OEA secures the future of the council's public facing iShare deployment, for three years. It also covers the whole iShare suite including enterprise deployment of iShare GIS.

This achieves two things, first it provides an alternative to Professional GIS applications for those users who don't require the extra functionality as only a small number of these licenses

will be maintained moving forwards. Second it provides access to Council held spatial data to over 4,500 users.

Extending GIS across the authority has many benefits. CRM users particularly in the One-Stop-Shop will soon be able to use iShare GIS to do simple things like check to see if a property is Council owned when enquiries come in. But as Moira Livesey Spatial Data (Team Leader) at Bolton Council points out, "The main advantage is that we get support and advice/ consultancy as part of the package. We know that it is part of the agreement so there is certainty for the next three years. The OEA is a away of securing the future of GIS within the authority with an ongoing strategy using Astun's consultancy. We have also saved money and improved the service we provide to users."

User Group News

iShare User Group

The inaugural meeting of the recently formed iShare User Group was held on 30th May in the Civic Suite at Huntingdonshire District Council. There were 22 attendees coming from as far afield as Norfolk, Bolton, Surrey and South Wales. The meeting was chaired by Richard Lewis from Newport City Council.

In the morning there were a number of very interesting presentations from iShare users. oe Beddingfield (Huntingdonshire DC), talked about Dashboard and website integration while Denis Payne talked about how Cambridgeshire CC had used iShare to publish property asset data from local authorities across the county. James Rutter (Surrey Heath BC) talked about Publisher and much more. Of particular interest was his diagram which showed how iShare has become deeply embedded in Surrey Heath's infrastructure. James also demonstrated how Surrey Heath's new

waste collection contract together with it's 35,000 collection point data is now managed using solely Open Source GIS products. This helped secure Surrey Heath £340K worth of recycling credits from Surrey County Council.

The afternoon session included a detailed presentation by Mike Saunt on the iShare Roadmap followed later on by a discussion with users about their own expectations for new functionality and features. Mike Smith provided a hands on demonstration of iShare GIS v5 and its new plugin architecture and Matt Walker led a 'Tips and Tricks' session which most agreed was a virtuoso performance!

Any iShare user interested in joining the group should contact Richard Lewis at Newport City Council: Richard.Lewis@newport.gov.uk



The inaugural iShare User Group meeting at Huntingdonshire District Council.

Life's too short...

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