

Astun News

Welcome

As 2016 draws to a close many of us can look back and think what an incredible year it has been. Despite Brexit life goes on and the sun still rises in the east and we at Astun are busier than ever. In this issue there's news of new iShare deployments, QGIS in the Cloud and Ant Scott working in

Haiti for MapAction. We would also like to welcome the Planning Inspectorate as a new customer.

With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2017.

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Recent Go Lives

Two customers have recently gone live with their iShare Maps deployment and you can take a look here:

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council: <http://mapping.dudley.gov.uk/atMyDudley.aspx?tab=0>

Central Bedfordshire: <http://>

my.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/mycentralbeds.aspx

The Scottish Government's Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) Metadata portal mentioned in the last issue of Astun News is also live and you can take a look here:

<https://www.spatialdata.gov.scot/>

Planning Inspectorate

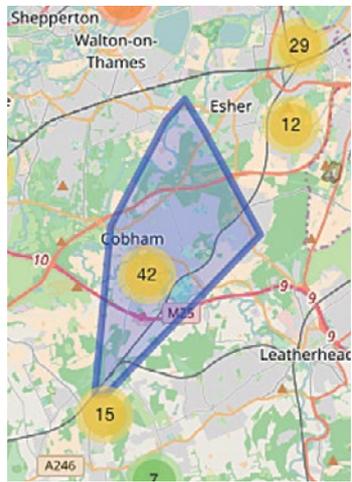
We have recently won a contract to supply the Planning Inspectorate with a fully hosted and managed GIS system.

The system will replace an existing hosted GIS solution (PINS) which is used to produce reports which identify the relevant consultees for planning applications on NSIPS (Nationally Significant

Infrastructure Projects). NSIPS are large scale developments such as new harbours, power generating stations, wind farms, and electricity transmission lines, which require 'development consent' governed by the Planning Act. The project was procured under the Local Authority Software (LASA) framework.

iNetwork Awards

Surrey Digital Services (SDS) won the iStandUK award for the creation of the Surrey Planning Hub at the iNetwork awards event held in Manchester on 17th November. Astun provided the partner local authorities in Surrey with the open source infrastructure and API to aggregate and then publish live planning application data for the whole of Surrey via the web. Astun's Moira Livesey picked up the award on behalf of the winners. A case study is available on the Astun website. You can see the SDS Award submission here: <http://annualconference.inetwork.org.uk/surrey-digital-services/>



Running the mouse over the circles highlights the area polygon – in this polygon there are 42 applications

This video outlines how it works and why it was built: <http://digitalservices.surreyi.gov.uk>

QGIS... in the Cloud



Over the last year we have had a number of requests to provide QGIS as a service hosted in the Cloud. What's the point of that you may ask?

Well primarily it is about the move to managed services and taking a complex spatial data infrastructure off site. Central Bedfordshire will be the first Astun client to roll it out across their organisation.

Astun can now offer QGIS as a service, in other words a cloud hosted version of QGIS.

It works seamlessly with the other managed elements of a cloud based spatial data infrastructure, namely ADS (Aston Data Services) for base mapping and the iShare SDW (spatial data warehouse).

The key features and benefits of QGIS in the Cloud as supplied by Astun are as follows:

- Hosted in the Cloud
- Automatically upgraded to the latest long term release versions of QGIS with full support
- Reduced desktop management and support costs (ICT)

- Delivered via a desktop browser or via a lightweight enterprise desktop clients so less specialist hardware is required
- Reduced Citrix or equivalent costs
- Standard QGIS profile which includes background maps from ADS
- Integration with the iShare SDW
- Custom print templates, and sample layers
- Access from tablet devices
- Single user authentication
- Licensed for a number of named users
- Various options for training and support

Astun User Group Conference

A date for your diaries

We'll be hosting the Astun User Group Conference at the Aston Business School on the Aston University Campus in Birmingham on the 20th June 2017.





Ant in Haiti – MapAction



In October Ant Scott deployed to Haiti for two weeks with MapAction as part of the UN response to Hurricane Matthew, which swept through the Caribbean and the south eastern United States causing widespread damage and loss of life.

MapAction’s job was to work with the assessment team to gain a quick understanding of where the damage was, how many people were affected, what the key needs were and how they could be met.

The UNDAC (United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination) team that Ant was part of carried out some early aerial assessments of the affected areas, showing a strongly demarcated line on the ground between major destruction and relatively little damage, corresponding closely to the line of the hurricane.

The team were able to get hold of some detailed wind speed data on the storm track, and overlay this on the population to get figures on the numbers of people affected, well over a million, more than half of whom were severely affected.



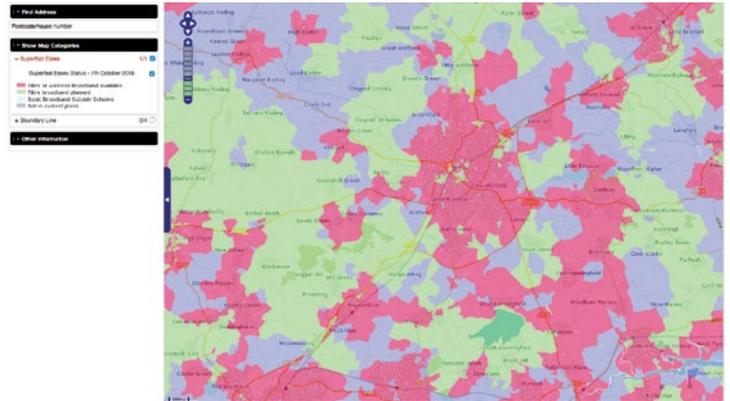
Most of the team’s time was spent on full-on map production - <http://mapaction.org>. The most well-used maps were the simple ones showing core reference data (settlements, roads, elevation) which help humanitarian responders to get to grips with where everything is.

Equally important were the ‘Who What Where’ maps (known as 3W), which provide a common picture of humanitarian activity in the affected communes. Ensuring the right aid gets to the right place is prerequisite for any successful humanitarian operation.

Life’s too short...



Essex County Council



Superfast Essex availability solo map

We have recently delivered two projects for Essex County Council (ECC) The first provides 3rd party partner organisations with access to the Council’s GIS platform. Initially this will be Essex Highways. Additional parties will include tier 2 local authorities within the Essex area. Changes to the server architecture ensure both adequate cloud security and extra capacity. The changes will not impact ECC GIS administrators because 3rd parties can self-administer their password registration and changes. 3rd party organisations will have access to metadata that

is associated with the data that they have permission to access.

The second project deals with the solo map functionality in Superfast Essex, ECC’s campaign website which promotes the uptake of superfast broadband. Astun has introduced a splash screen with terms and conditions before the map renders and new touch friendly zoom and pinch controls to improve access on mobile devices. Visit Superfast Essex and try it yourself here: <http://essex.astuntechnology.com/atsuperfastsolophase2.html>

Central Bedfordshire

When Astun were appointed by Central Bedfordshire earlier this year it was set to be our biggest project to date. In this deployment, as is fast becoming the norm, everything is entirely cloud hosted. We’ve already migrated 60 or so layers of data from an Oracle on-premise database for iShare Maps, and scripted the process of styling them based on reading Cadcorp XML files which is a new capability.

improvement project, QGIS in the Cloud, another first, and a flowline to integrate BLPD data between the Aligned Assets cloud gazetteer and the on-premise Idox planning system. Along with data migration, there’s the deployment of iShare GIS and iShare SDW, Get INSPIRED, and an open source training programme, all of which are at various stages of progress. You can view Central Bedfordshire’s iShare Maps deployment here: <http://my.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

Of course iShare Maps is just one of a number of projects at Central Beds. Others include a data quality

Support

Freshdesk, which we currently use for support, is in the process of upgrading its Transport Layer Security (TLS) encryption protocol. If you have an older browser this might be an issue. To check out whether your browser is compatible with the new protocol please point your browser here: <https://t1stest.freshdesk.com/>.

While Freshdesk is a great platform we have decided to move our support service to Jira Service Desk early in 2017. Astun uses Jira extensively in house and it makes sense to have everything on the same platform. Some customers are already trialling it and we are confident of a smooth transition.