

Time Stamped Observations
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In a static world, “time stamped” observations may enjoy a long life. But, given the pace of technological developments, the circumstance of current observations may be temporary and ill-suited for future applications. Existing policies, although now prudent, are subject to revisions driven by disruptive innovation. What works now may soon become obsolete. Endearing value is realized by exploiting reliable consequences derived from fundamental principles as opposed to status quo “this is how we do it.” That means the views expressed here may be irrelevant in some circumstances, but it is believed that a time stamp will help us understand “how we got to where we are.” With that said, the goal is to adopt the long view and avoid obsolescence to the extent possible. Admittedly, practice in the real world will continue to evolve and “perfection” never will be achieved, but that is no excuse for not trying!

Here is the point – the digital revolution has driven innovation in many areas of society. Among others, the evolution of spatial data applications has been very dramatic as witnessed by a myriad of sensors used to generate digital spatial data and the use of computers which underwrites knowledge of location for everything. In keeping with good science, a spatial data model serves both those who generate spatial data and those who use spatial data.

Here is the rub – for whatever reason, maybe it is too simple or maybe it is too obvious, spatial data users worldwide have yet to agree on a simple, rigorous, common spatial data model that equally serves both generators and users of spatial data. The global spatial data model (GSDM) meets those criteria ([Part I](#)) and should be adopted as a worldwide standard.

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Talented people in many disciplines are contributing to technological developments underwriting beneficial use of spatial data. Likewise, many in the user community have participated by developing a never ending list of beneficial applications. Not surprising, collectively, we are where we are because of where we came from - no apology necessary. And it would be inappropriate to suggest that professionals and users alike are unmindful of beneficial collaboration. But given inertia and built in reluctance to change, progress toward worldwide adoption of a standard spatial data model is proceeding rather slowly.

On the other hand, changes in policy and practice will undoubtedly be a consequence of recent disruption of the status quo by the current U.S. administration. This time stamp view is to acknowledge where we are. Looking ahead, the aspiration is for both professionals and users to stay engaged in the process to avoid “throwing the baby out with the bath water.” Hopefully, and we must insist on it, the political process will accommodate the consensus of knowledgeable professionals, bureaucrats, and users.

Two examples of future use include Item 11.f of <http://www.globalcogo.com/Building.pdf> and <http://www.tru3d.xyz/catch.pdf>. Since then, booster “catches” have become routine.

Additional data and arguments are included in links posted at <http://www.tru3d.xyz>.