

Supporting the Lone GIS Professional

Discussion

(A Record of Audience Ideas)

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COMPLIANCE SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

Discussion Points

1. What's your current situation?
2. How do you get help?
3. What's missing?
4. What can we do about it?
5. Why should I care?
6. What shall we do next?

1. What's Your Current Situation?

- Looking for work
- Independent consultant
- Looking for team for collaboration
- Not aware of available capabilities
- Feeling isolated
- Faced with divided responsibilities and vision

2. How Do You Get Help?

- Tribal support network – email, meetings
- Local breakfast meeting
- On-line groups – especially for Open Source
- Contribute/establish presence, people then respond
- Email lists

3. What's Missing?

- Directory of capabilities
- Helps if you have an online presence
- Rating scheme

4. What Can We Do About It?

- Make capabilities available
- Establish credibility
- Set up a Google group
- Compile list of all other groups
- Tell each other about general concepts
- Set up meetings
- Keep each other informed about events
- Establish a code review pool
- Help each other get started

5. Why Should I Care?

- Don't have a professional organization
- Lack of professional classification
- Would like a way to know who to call (in a similar situation)
- Makes me you feel good
- Avoid reinventing the wheel
- Don't want to get into a rut (due to lack of time etc.)

6. What Shall We Do Next?

- Start a lone GIS pro user group
- Hold a Special Interest Group meeting
- Create an email list
- Build a multi-contributor blog
- Establish a blue sky question/answer area

What's In/Could Be The Works?

- Mailing list?
- Follow-up meeting?
- Website?
- Simple credit and rating scheme for helping each other out?
- Special Interest Group meeting at ESRI International User Conference?
- ESRI Developer Network Community sections (forums, chat rooms etc.)

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Conclusion

- What would you like it to be?
- See discussion slides (bullet points added during session from audience comments)