

Suggested Projects: Presidential Innovation Fellows

24 - EZ-GPS (Global)

It would be exciting (and create new fast-growth business applications and public benefit) to extend the EZ-GPS project that I suggested into EZ-GPS (Global). The federal government acquires directly (e.g., satellite data) or indirectly (from foreign government publications and organizations like the World Bank, World Health Organization, and FAO) huge quantities of global data that also can be available.

The same vision applies: Input any GPS coordinate (in the world) and receive a full inventory of all US government data relevant to that location. The inventory can be refined by search terms that are interpreted by sophisticated (Google-type) algorithms. All data can be downloaded in standard formats for easy statistical use and integration in map overlays.

- If the US government creates a standard/basic release for EZ-GPS (Domestic + Global), US companies have a commercial lead in developing their Apps for global markets. And governments, worldwide, and international organizations have an incentive to adopt the US-created standards and formats for public release of data.

All New Federal Data Beginning in 2013?

Thinking about my original proposal: The most doable project would implement EZ-GPS (Domestic) for all of the new data that the federal government collects beginning in 2013. Thus, Federal agencies can have up to a six month warning about the new requirements. Also, President Obama can announce EZ-GPS this fall, with assurance to the private sector that they can begin to write code and Applications for flows that will begin with January 1, 2013.

One of the key tasks and contributions of Innovation Fellows will be to interface with the private sector re data and map overlay standards. In addition to adjudicating standards and formats across government agencies, the Innovation Fellows solutions should be an EZ-GPS system that is easy for the private sector to use at minimal extra expense.

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