

International Working Group on Satellite-based Emergency Mapping (IWG-SEM)



Minutes of the teleconference on GeoRSS feed held on Tuesday, 30 October 2014, 14 UTC

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
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3	Fabio	Tonolo	ITHACA
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6	Brian	Tomaszewski	RIT
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9	Brenda	Jones	USGS
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Main Outcomes

The teleconference was devoted to finalization of the GeoRSS feeds. The main focus was on the GeoRSS feed on "Activations". The discussion on GeoRSS feed used for communicating details within a specific e activation (details on AOIs, satellite data or mapping products) was postponed.

The GeoRSS feed for all activations will contain the basic metadata about an activation of one EM organization. It serves to get basic information about the starting activation. It should be made available as soon as possible after the emergency mapping organization is activated to allow fast and near-real time information sharing.

During the teleconference, the feed fields and their priority were modified as bellow:

Field	Priority	Explanation	Notes
Type of event	Mandatory	Type of natural or humanitarian disaster. The use of the following list (following glide specs) is encouraged: flood, fire...., other	The list of the elements should be defined. With other element.
Date and time of event (UTC)	Optional	Date of the event as precisely as possible. Whenever possible use the information coming from the authorities (civil protections) at the first place, the online media and reports as second. Must be in local time	The date is optional, because it is not always known or available (especially slow onset or long lasting disasters)
Event Description	Optional	Short description of the event taken from the activator and other sources (media etc).	It might be difficult to provide this.
Activation	Mandatory,	Date and time of activation in UTC. It is	

date and time (UTC)	but as attribute to the actual GeoRSS feed (item).	the same as the time when the RSS feed was issued so it is automatic.	
Activation Location (point) specified by coordinates	Mandatory	The point should be placed in the “middle” of the expected mapping exercise. This serves as a rough indicator for the location. This field will not be visible on text part of the feed, it is used to display the location on the map. It can be also the circle, in that case the optional radius must be provided in xml of the feed.	
Affected Countries	Mandatory	Name of the country(ies) which were affected.	More localization (on province level) can be specified in optional Event Description. This is necessary to allow reading/understanding of the GeoRSS even without any geographic visualization.
Affected Area	Optional	Verbose description of the area within the country.	
GLIDE number	Optional	If known, is should be used	
Dedicated mechanism (for example DLR-ZKI, EMS, Sent. Asia,)	Mandatory	The name of the mechanism which was activated.	A list of registered mechanism could be maintained to allow the use of a pull-down menu. A field “other” should be available.
Links	Optional		
Activation Page		Link to the activation where the other information and products are/will be available.	
Activation GeoRSS		Link to the “Feed with further details on the starting activation”. The users can subscribe it to get information during the activation evolution (e.g. details on AOs, satellite data or mapping products).	

Two examples of the feeds will be prepared and send around before the next teleconference. The first example will contain only mandatory fields, the second one both mandatory and optional fields. These examples should be discussed during next teleconference on RSS feeds.

In the end of the teleconference the little survey was done on what tools are used to digest/visualize and to generate the GeoRSS. Following tools are used by the participants:

RSS readers: Mozilla Thunderbird, Microsoft Outlook, RSS Feed Reader (Google Chrome extension)

GeoRSS visualization: ArcGIS online, ArcGIS, QGIS

Feed generation: Content Management Systems (CMS): Drupal,

The next teleconference on GeoRSS feeds will be held on 13.11 at 14:00 UTC. In addition to finalization of the "Activations" feed, the ways of sharing more detailed information (AOIs) shall be discussed.

The teleconference call ended at 16:00 UTC.