



Sensor web services

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Abstract:

The deliverable EnviroGRIDS_D2-12 describes the implementation of Sensor Observation Services in the frame of EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee. It describes full chain of actions for integration of sensor observations into SDI in the frame of GEOSS and GMES. The deliverable is focused not only on the implementation of standard sensors, but also on concept Human as a Sensor.



1 Executive Summary

The EnviroGRIDS_D2-12 deliverable describes the implementation of Sensor Observation Services within the EnviroGRids@BlackSee project. The deliverable starts with the explanation of the role of sensors in the frame of GEOSS and GMES activities.

The deliverable defines the following use cases:

- Alert system in case of excess drawing of ground water,
- Testing of concept Human Sensors using Android based technologies.

The implementation is tested using these use cases.

In next chapter defines the architecture, which includes not only SOS implementation but also full chain of actions for accessing sensors measurements. The chain includes:

- Sensors and Sensors Networks;
- Hardware gate for accessing sensors measurements (Mort and Android based);
- Software gate (daemon) for storing data into a database;
- Database structure for the SOS implementation;
- Implementation of the SOS server for accessing sensor observations in the standardised form;
- Integration with the Micka catalogue;
- Integration with the analytical tools (LernSens, PyWPS);
- Visualisation client for SOS in HSlayers.

There are two possibilities for the integration of SOS with the rest of the EnviroGrids infrastructure; either to integrate accessing client for SOS in the Grid environment and use sensor observation for GRID analytical computing or to use SOS service for collecting data in pilots on the principle Human as a Service.

The recommendations of the deliverable for the next period are:

- technological recommendations
 - To develop client side for accessing sensor measurement from the side of GRID;
 - To integrate the import of metadata into the Micka catalogue from SOS GetCapabilities;
 - To integrate catalogue client into the SOS embedded client;
 - To extend the metadata profile for sensors;
 - To integrate the SOS client into the WPS client embedded into Hslayers;
- organisational recommendations
 - To organise a large testbed inside of EnviroGrids@BlackSee with Android technology for Human as a Sensor;
 - To implement the SOS server on the EnviroGrids@BlackSee pilot side;
 - To provide a test with accessibility of sensor measurement in the Grid environment;

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- To provide a test with the LernSens technology on the pilot area Litovelske Pomoravi;
 - To implement Alert Services in Litovelske Pomoravi.



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4 Introduction

4.1 Purpose and scope

4.1.1 Scope and purpose of Task 2.3

Task 2.3 is focused on the implementation of interfaces to enable any kind of sensor to publish its data as a part of EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee as well as providing EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee tools to access sensors measurement in a standardised form, and finally to store the gathered data on the imide of the EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee repositories. The integration of the data generated by active sensors with the EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee environment is a prerequisite for the handling of this data imide of EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee.

For the integration of the Sensor environment within the Web Environment the Web Interface as defined by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) initiative is used. It is called Sensor Web Enablement (SWE), mainly Sensor Observation Services. This allows:

- to describe the sensors in a standardised way;
- to standardise the access to observed data;
- building a framework and encoding for measurements and observations.

4.1.2 Scope and purpose of Deliverable 2.12

The scope of Deliverable D2.12 is not only to describe the implementation of Sensor Observation Standard (SOS), but also to describe the implementation of this standard in relation to GEOSS and GMES on concrete use cases. It also demonstrates how SOS can be integrated in the overall infrastructure. The document describes also the pilot use cases, different sensors used, the integration of sensor measurement with the Web environment, the possibilities of analyzing the measurements and tools for visualization of measurements.

4.2 Document structure

The document is structured into the following chapters:

- In situ measurement in the frame of GEOSS and GMES;
- Basic description of EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee sensor measurement chain;
- Definition of Testing Use Cases;
- Hardware technologies for Sensor Measurement;
- Software Sensor Architecture components used inside of EnviroGrids@BlackSee;
- Status of the pilot implementations;
- Sensors and EnviroGrids@BlackSee;
- Conclusions and recommendations.

5 In situ observation as a support for GEOSS and GMESS

5.1 GEOSS

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has built the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The GEOSS is focused on user needs and aims to support better utilisation of environmental data and decision-support tools by users. GEOSS is focused on the global infrastructure supplying near-real-time environmental data, information and analyses. GEOSS supports the utilisation of information by wide range of users. There are nine areas in GEOSS: disasters, health, energy, climate, **water**, weather, **ecosystems**, **agriculture** and **biodiversity** [1].

The GEOSS Architecture Implementation Pilot (AIP) defined reference architecture for the implementation of GEOSS services. The integration of sensors is a part of this architecture. The basic architecture scheme defined by Architecture Implementation Pilot (AIP) is depicted in Figure 1.

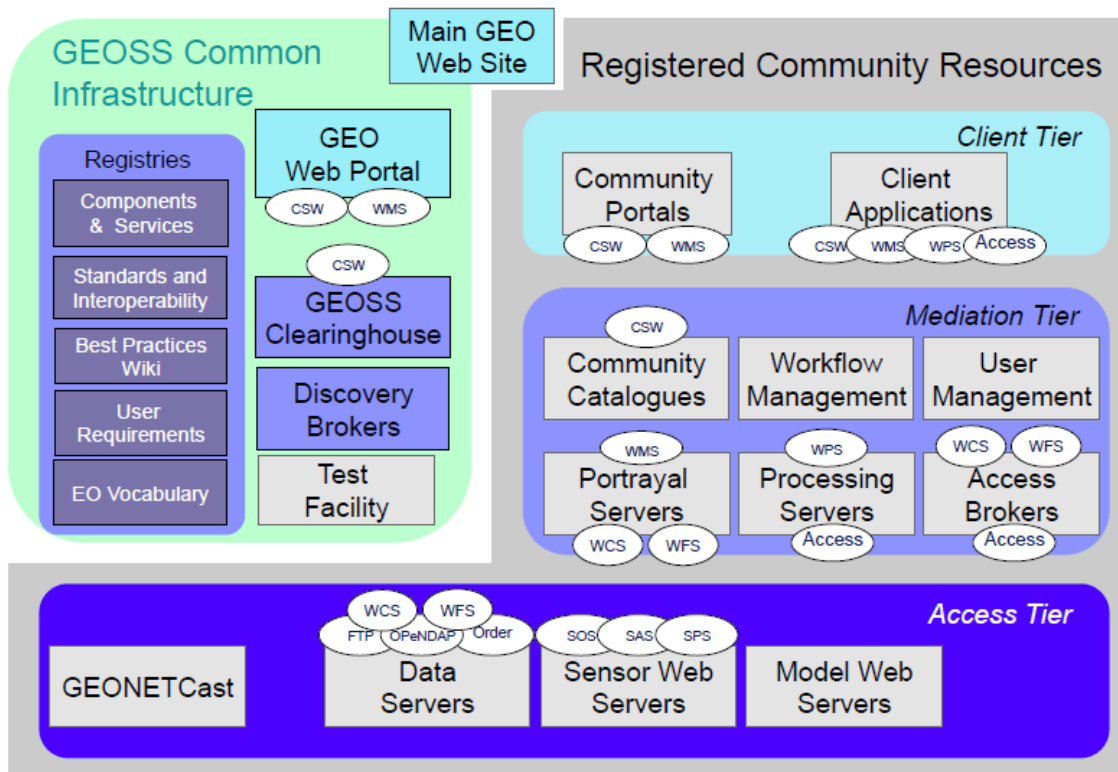


Figure 1 GEOSS AIP Engineering Components with Services [2]

The GEOSS architecture is based on the OGC specifications (SWE). Sensor Web Servers has to offer Services in order to access sensors and sensor networks like ground stations and in-situ networks of sensors.

5.2 In situ monitoring in the frame of GMES

GMES expects that basic components of GMES will be given on the base of the schema showed in Figure 2.

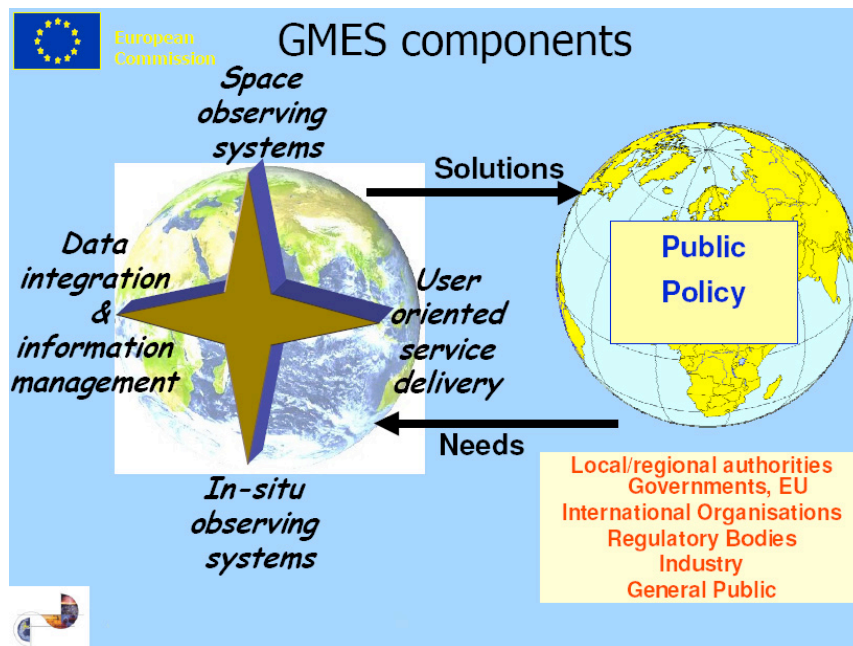


Figure 2 GMES architecture (source EC)

The in situ component in GMES will be based on an observation infrastructure, which is expected to be owned and operated by large number of stakeholders. There will be necessity to coordinate such infrastructure as a part of the global infrastructure. In situ observation activities and associated infrastructures will be derived from a range of national, EU and international regulatory requirements and agreements or from part of research processes [3],[4].

One example of pilot GMES implementation was released inside of the Earthlook.cz project. This concept and the implementation are also used for the EnviroGrid@BlackSee architecture. The basic schema is in Figure 3.

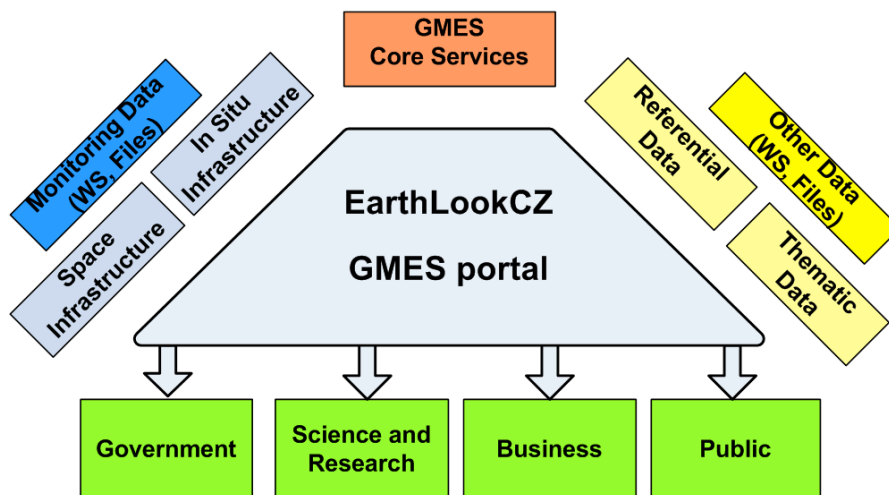


Figure 3 Data source sharing and new services creation

A part of the solution was a GMES data management allowing registered users are to import their own data onto the portal, create new map compositions, integrate external GMES sources through web services and to make them available to other users as a new web service [5].

6 Description of demonstration use case for EnviroGrids

To test the different possibilities of sensor integration and also to demonstrate the usability of the Sensor observation services implementation, two different demonstration scenarios were selected, on which different technologies are tested. They include:

- Alert system in case of excess drawing of ground water;
- Testing of concept Human Sensors using Android based technologies.

These two pilots demonstrate different technological possibilities of the implementation of the SWE environment and different types of scenarios and demonstrate the possibilities of static and dynamic systems.

6.1 Alert system in case of excess drawing of ground water

The pilot is implemented in the protected area *Litovelské Pomoraví* (Litovelske Pomoravi PLA) (www.litovelskepomoravi.nature.cz), which belongs to the Black Sea catchment. The scenario can be easily used in all regions of the Black Sea catchment.

NCA Litovelské Pomoraví is a bottomland forests conservation area and it is also the source of drinking water from surrounding cities and towns. During the summer, when there is a rainfall deficit, demand for drinking water consumption increases and at the same time, it is necessary to actively protect the cover of bottomland forests, so that they are not damaged irreversibly. For the bottomland forest, the biggest danger is the fall of the ground water level to a critical limit, when the water column to the root system of the forest is interrupted.



Figure 4 Pilot area



Figure 5 Demonstration photos of the protected area Litovelské Pomoraví

Another particular local problem is the drying up of the Benkovský brook spring and watercourse. Consequences can be seen in the village Střeň (located further on the Benkovský brook watercourse), where waters drained out of the local sewage treatment plant led to Benkovský brook and, in the case of low level of water or drying up of the brook, water from the sewage treatment plant is not diluted sufficiently.

The use case aims to create a system, which would independently monitor the ground water level and thereby enable the optimisation of drawing the ground water from individual pump wells in order to comply with the demand of consumers and at the same time ensure the protection of the bottomland forest.

The testing pilot runs with 22 drills

Identification		
HV 101	49°43'46"N	17°09'02"E
HV 102	49°43'44"N	17°08'59"E
HV 103	49°43'42"N	17°08'56"E
HV 104	49°43'39"N	17°08'52"E

HV 105	49°43'34"N	17°08'45"E
HV 106	49°43'31"N	17°08'42"E
HV 207	49°43'19"N	17°08'47"E
HV 208	49°43'16"N	17°08'45"E
HV 209	49°43'12"N	17°08'44"E
HV 210	49°43'06"N	17°08'41"E
HV 211	49°43'00"N	17°08'39"E
HV 212	49°42'51"N	17°08'32"E
HV 213	49°42'48"N	17°08'25"E
HV 214	49°42'42"N	17°08'18"E
HV 315	49°42'37"N	17°08'10"E
HV 316	49°42'38"N	17°07'57"E
HV 317	49°42'45"N	17°07'47"E
HV 418	49°42'29"N	17°07'35"E
HV 419	49°42'25"N	17°07'30"E
HV 420	49°42'22"N	17°07'25"E
HV 421	49°42'19"N	17°07'22"E
HV 422	49°42'13"N	17°07'12"E

Table 1 22 monitoring/pump wells, the mutual distance is 100 to 300 meters, an electrified railway line and road leads across the measurement line

6.2 Human sensors technology

Currently the principle of “People as Sensors” (also “human sensors”) is more often used. This means that “human observations” can be part of real-time Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) and serve as an input into spatial decision-making processes. Such type of observations can be a part of the GEOSS and GMES infrastructures. As an example the activities of the GENESIS project can be mentioned [6]: using human observation as part of flood protection system [7], using humans for observation in Urban Environment [8], using human observation for monitoring of water availability [9] or example of Waze [10].

In the pilot implementation of the project we decided to include human observations using Android operating system integrating different sensing possibilities like photos or measurements as part of the

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Sensor Enablement Infrastructure to support operations including semi-automated quality assurance, sensor fusion, standardised alerting (including Complex Processing) and integration of different Volunteered Geographic Information as part of the EnviroGrids infrastructure.

The pilot implementation demonstrates data collection coming from smart phones and tablets with the Android operation system and their accessibility using Sensor Observation Interfaces. This could be used for water monitoring, waste management, but also for collection of observations, which can be used for calibration of remote sensing tasks.

7 EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee Sensor Solution

7.1 Generic architecture

The main focus of the EnviroGrids@BlackSee sensor development was the implementation of Sensor Observation Services (SOS) accessing data stored in a database. In order to understand and also to implement the full chain of actions for utilisation of sensor observations into an SDI, there was a modular scalable architecture defined. It can be easily modified or extended.

In the description not only components directly related to the SOS implementation will be included, but also the description of possible sensor technology or analytical technologies. Some parts of the solution including VLIT sensor network technology, Mort Gateway, Software daemon on server, Catalogue, or WPS server, analytical technology or Learnses were developed as parts of other projects, but currently were implemented as parts of the modular solution and can be used for concrete tasks.

The basic architectural components are depicted in Figure 6.

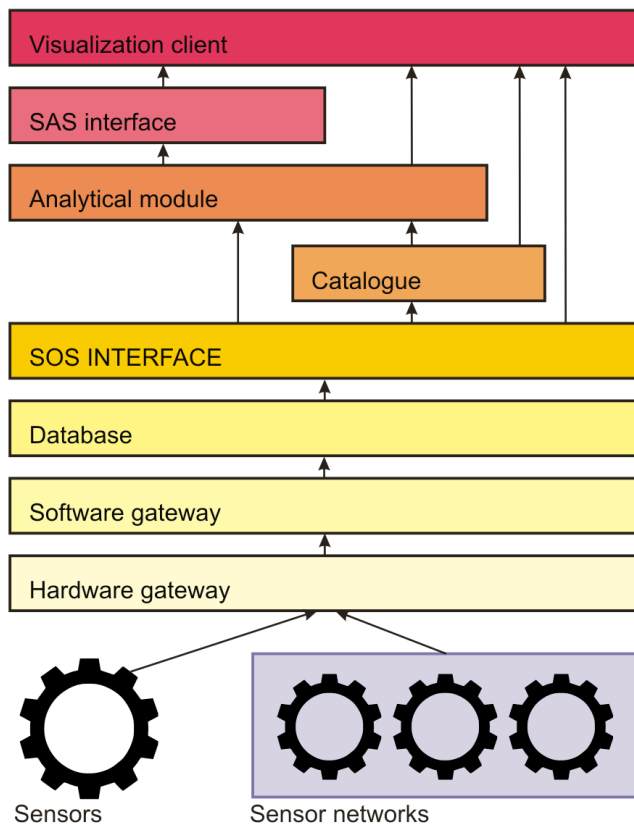


Figure 6 EnviroGrids@BlackSee sensor architecture



7.2 Components description

7.2.1 Sensor technologies

In the EnviroGRIDS@BlackSee project we are providing a test with two types of sensor technology. The first type is a specific solution developed directly for the purpose of pilot Litovelské Pomoraví supporting measurement of height of water column. The second technology is more generic and it is new generation of Wireless Sensors Network technology called VLITE node. This technological solution was developed as part of the VLIT Node project with financial support from state resources provided by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic for support of project of the program “TIP-2009” with registration number FR—TI1/523 and we only integrated this technology within the EnviroGrids@BlackSee infrastructure. We are testing both technologies in pilot areas of Litovelske Pomoravi. The data collection is provided by two methods:

- Single drills – use a separate sensor node with GPRS data transmission to the Internet. To save power, the data are scanned every hour, but sent in batches with every 24 hours. The system is battery powered and has a lifetime of several years.
- Group of drills - individual sensor nodes are interconnected by wireless sensor communications (VLITE technology). Measured data transmission between the measuring nodes using multichip on the gateway, which serves to control the sensor network and data transmission to the Internet. Nodes are battery powered and have a lifetime of several years. The Gateway Energy intensity is higher; it is necessary to charge with a minimum of solar cells.

7.2.1.1 Sensors technology used for groundwater measurement in the EnviroGrids@BlackSee project

A sensor is a device that measures a physical quantity and converts it into a signal which can be read by an observer or by an instrument. Groundwater level is measured by determining the height of water column above the pressure sensor. Pressure sensor is equipped with temperature compensation and compensation for changes in atmospheric pressure. The measured values are transmitted using GPRS.



Figure 7 Installation of pressure sensor for single drill

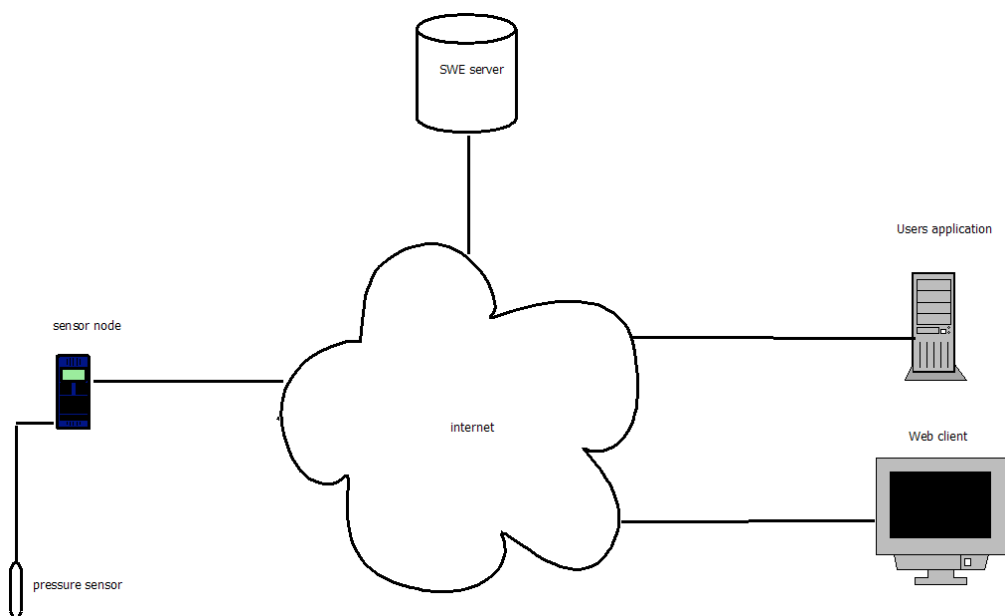


Figure 8 Scheme of the measurement architecture



7.2.1.2 Wireless Sensor Network and VliteNod technology

The future utilization of sensors technologies will be mainly based on Wireless Sensors Network, which is an emerging technology, made up from tiny, wireless sensors or “motes.” Sensor Network Systems provide a novel paradigm for managing, modeling and supporting complex systems requiring massive data gathering, with pervasive and persistent detection/monitoring capabilities.

The main features that a sensor network should have are:

- each node should have a very low power consumption, the capability of recharging its battery or scavenging energy from the environment, and very limited processing capabilities;
- each node should be allowed to go in stand-by mode (to save as much battery as possible) without severely degrading the connectivity of the whole network and without requiring complicated re-routing strategies;
- the estimation/measurement capabilities of the system as a whole should significantly outperform the capabilities of each sensor and the performance should improve as the number of sensors increases, with no mandatory requirement on the transmission of the data of each single sensor toward a centralized control/processing unit; in other words, the network must be scalable and self-organizing, i.e. capable of maintaining its functionality (although modifying the performance) when the number of sensor is increased;
- a sensor network is ultimately an event-driven system, so that what it is really necessary to guarantee is that the information about events of interest reach the appropriate control nodes, possibly through the simplest propagation mechanism, not necessarily bounded to the common OSI protocol stack layer;
- Congestion around the sink nodes should be avoided by introducing some form of distributed processing;
- the information should flow through the network in the simplest way, not necessarily relying on sophisticated modulation or multiplexing techniques.

Summarizing, the fundamental requirements of a sensor network are:

- Very low complexity of elementary sensors, associated with a low power consumption and low-cost;
- High reliability of the decision/estimation/measurement of the network as a whole;
- Long network life-time for low maintenance and stand-alone operation;
- High scalability; [11]

Currently, there are a number of technologies, protocols and standards for building wireless sensor networks. Sensor networks are generally seen as cloud of mutually communicating measurement units that are capable of measuring one or more physical parameters. Each measuring unit consists of a communication node ensuring the communication with other units of measurement and its own sensor. The communication nodes are built on different platforms. Their drawback is that they are able to guarantee the communication between sensors of only tens of meters. This reduces the network ranges and the networks are not affordable.

The development of the second generation RFID offers the possibility to create a new generation communication nodes using RFID technology. In VlitNod project Cominfo ltd. Together with CCSS developed RFID technology with unique properties based on long-range communication and cost-effectiveness. The technology known as Very Long Range Identification Tag is characterized by a working frequency of 868 MHz and protocol that supports communication in Point-to-Point, Point-to-MultiPoint and retranslation of the large distance across multiple devices. In combination with the mobile unit and the software interface is generated by Research Centre CCSS. vLite NODE represents a completely new and unique solution for the construction of mobile sensor networks.



The node consists of two parts. The first is the host board for connecting the communication module and pour connectivity for data line sensors. The second part is the electronics that provides controlled power sensors and the module itself to achieve minimum energy consumption.

When the measured data are transferred with standard data packet the information about the signal strength (RSSI) and the voltage level of node are also carried. Receiving of data in the observation area provides the network access point that deals with other communication and data transfer.

One of the goals of the VLIT Node project is to build an extensive network of wireless sensors communicating with the MESH topology. MESH topology enables connection of nodes to any other node in the network. This connection can be established using one or more hops. As part of the MESH topology is provided automatic configuration of network structure, reliable routing between nodes and automatic access to new nodes in the network via the existing nodes. Hop identifies the network segment, where all participants can communicate to each other without the need for routing. Multi-hop network is a network composed of several such segments, where information could be routed among the nodes. In the area of wireless networks AH-HOC is used. AH-HOC is a network where actors do not require any pre-created infrastructure to be able to communicate with each other and it provides the necessary functionality for the network management.

The main benefit of using mesh topology is the possibility to form redundant links, due the nature of network topology guarantee transmission of information. Mesh topology is not restrictive in the network structure and therefore simplifies the automatic compilation of links and network recovery after failure. The connection between two points in a full mesh topology can be set up whenever they are able to communicate. Mesh topology can be set up almost always. Implementation of mesh networks in practice is highly dependent on the method of communication, the technical and application requirements. Mesh networks are divided according to whether they are mobile or stationary, wireless or wired, occasional or defined (e.g. sensory). Each type of MESH network can solve a specific protocol, which is mainly different algorithm to find and build paths from the data source to the destination.

Firmware microprocessor module VLIT can generally be divided into several general programmed blocks. Mesh networks are a way to transmit data, voice and commands between nodes. They allow continuous connections and reconfiguration around the fallen or blocked paths by jumping from node to node until it is achieved. MESH network whose nodes are all interconnected with other nodes is fully connected network. Mesh networks differ from other networks in the fact that the parts can all connect to each other. Each node MESH network can be a router. Mesh network can be viewed as a type of temporary or occasional (ad hoc) network. Mobile ad-hoc network (MANET) and mesh networks are thus closely linked, but pose problems of MANET nodes mobility.

Mesh networks are self-healing. The network can remain in operation whenever any node fails or drops the connection. The result is large network reliability. This concept is applicable to wireless networks, cable networks, and software interaction. Wireless Mesh Networks are the highest rank of MESH networks. They were originally developed for military applications but experienced great development. Design of Mesh networking nodes has become more modular - a single node can support multiple radio cards - each working on different frequencies.

Proactive algorithms require enough memory for routing tables. In these data are stored to reach any network node. The main problem of the algorithm is then given by constructing a routing table and its updates. Their main disadvantage is the memory consumption and slow reaction to changes in the network structure.

Reactive algorithms have low memory requirements, because they do not store routing algorithms for all network nodes, or even no routing information. Each connection is established just before the data transfer. Then the connection is terminated. The connection is omnidirectional. Their main disadvantages are large unexploited time in search of connection and network congestion at risk of broadcast queries.

Hybrid algorithms are used as the routing table establishing a connection before transferring data. These algorithms have been developed in a large amount of effort to optimize the memory requirements of nodes, the need for frequent updating of routing tables (optimization in time and space), minimizing broadcast queries to build path [12].

At least one node in network must act as so-called “concentrator”. This node collects all data from network and forwards them to the upstanding system (RS485 bus). Node also starts self-configuring of network and initializes transfers in the network upon request from up system (gateway) [13].

Node uses same hardware as others nodes, but with different software and has no sensors attached. It is powered from upstanding system (gateway).



Figure 9 Prototype PCB - sensor inputs, control of sensor power management of each sensor

7.3 Hardware gateway

Hardware gateway is collecting data from sensors or sensor networks and translates these data on Web server. For the purpose of EnviroGrids@BlackSee we are using two types of hardware gates:

- Mort Gateway – as industrial computer for professional applications;
- Android based Smartphones or Tablets as gateway for crowdsourcing applications.

7.3.1 Mort gateway

Gateway is a small computer kit based on modules compatible with industrial standard PC104. Boards (cpu or peripherals) are stack together like building blocks. Each board has mounting holes in the corners, which allow the boards to be fastened to each other with standoffs. Standard also defines electrical connections (parallel ISA like bus), which is in the Mort case supplemented by proprietary connectors providing specific buses (SPI, UART) and power connection. In the network gateway it creates main data collector, buffer and transmitter to the outer world.

In the case, gateway consists of power board (powering of other boards, battery handling), processor board (AVR Atmega with sram memory, flash), GPRS modem board (optionally with GPS module) and RS485 expansion board.

Gateway has a small four line alphanumerical display, used to show current status of the gateway and actually processed sensor measurement.

System uses modified open source real time operating system Ethernut (www.ethernut.de) with extensions respective to used peripherals and connected sensors. OS consists of several libraries and general API framework for user application with support of easy data acquisition via common API.

In the case of the VlitNode gateway uses one VlitNode connected through serial line as access point to the wireless vlit node network, issues data acquisition and receives measured data. Adds time stamp and sensor unique number to sensor data packet and stores in internal memory. System buffers acquired sensor data in its internal memory in ring buffer, in inbuilt flash memory or user CD micro card. Once buffer is full, the oldest data are deleted.

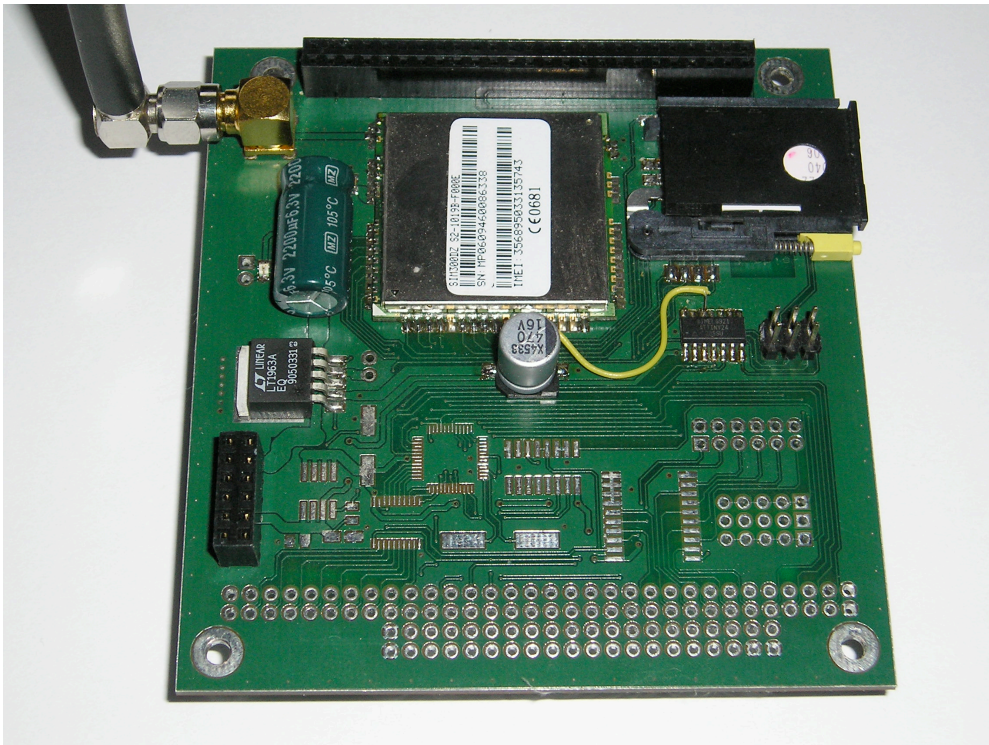


Figure 10 Mort Getaway

It can also do some data processing including averaging, maximum, minimum, sum, and more. To reach the Internet, the gateway uses GSM modem with GPRS capability. Modem firmware comprises its own



TCP/IP stack. The gateway sends data through GPRS channel in configured time intervals to the defined server. It uses proprietary binary protocol on UDP, which is byte saving with CRC and data acknowledgment system from server side. If needed, TCP can be also used. If it is possible (depends if wired Ethernet network is reachable in locality), gateway can use built in Ethernet controller instead of modem for data transport.

7.3.2 Android based SmartPhones or Tablets

For testing of the Human as a Sensor concept we selected Android operating system as a Linux-based operating system for mobile devices. The reason is that Android has a large community of developers and also possibilities of easy writing applications ("apps") that extend the functionality of the devices. It is one of the most popular systems and the community is growing fast. Smartphones and tablets with Androids allow connecting different sensors using Arduino ADK Mega board. This board integrates a USB host controller compatible with Google ADK. This is an interface for external sensors. Originally it is used for displaying measurements from sensor data on Smartphones.

We developed special apps for Android, which allows transferring position and measurement on the web. It can transfer measurements, but also text written by the users or videos and photos. The software interface on the side of Web is the same as for Mort.

So far there has been a simple prototype application implemented for Android based smartphone (Nexus S). The main concept of sensor web is based on http communication that is easy implementable on Smartphones. Smartphones can also easily provide its position by using GPS or GSM network. Finally there exist many third party hardware devices that enable connection of Android based devices to any custom sensor device. As a particular example Arduino ADK can be used to integrate Nexus S (and many others Android devices) with any off the shelf custom sensor device. It is also worth to mention that the Android device as such can provide many sensor capacities, where the camera is probably one of the most useful.

In the scope of our prototype we used an Android based mobile phone that sends its position and measured temperature to the server side database. Such data are then accessible through SOS.

7.4 Software gateway

After the data reach the server by UDP or TCP protocol, they have to be stored into the database. For that propose we have designed several web services that can be called using HTTP GET or POST. Server side application then perform insertions of data to database (this is implemented as Java web application). Then a set request that is available as REST services has been implemented. These services enable client side application to query the database and retrieve output in JSON format. This format can be then easily used for AJAX based client application. The database design has been tested with special emphasis on performance and scalability.

7.5 Database

As the main data storage Postgres with PostGIS relation database management system is used. The database schema is shown below. Couple of functions and trigger functions has been implemented in Plpgsql to process and sort the data during insertion for improving the performance. The database schema is also designed for the case of moving sensors (attached to cars for example).

Important tables:

- **Units** - List of Mobile Units located in sensor network.
- **Sensors** - List of sensor types located in sensor network, sensors are attached to units (m:n)



- **Phenomenon** - Phenomenon of measured values
- **Observations** - particular sensor observations
- **Alert events** - Real events of alert situation (e.g. temperature is exceeding predefined threshold)
- **Alerts** - General description of alert situation that should be monitored

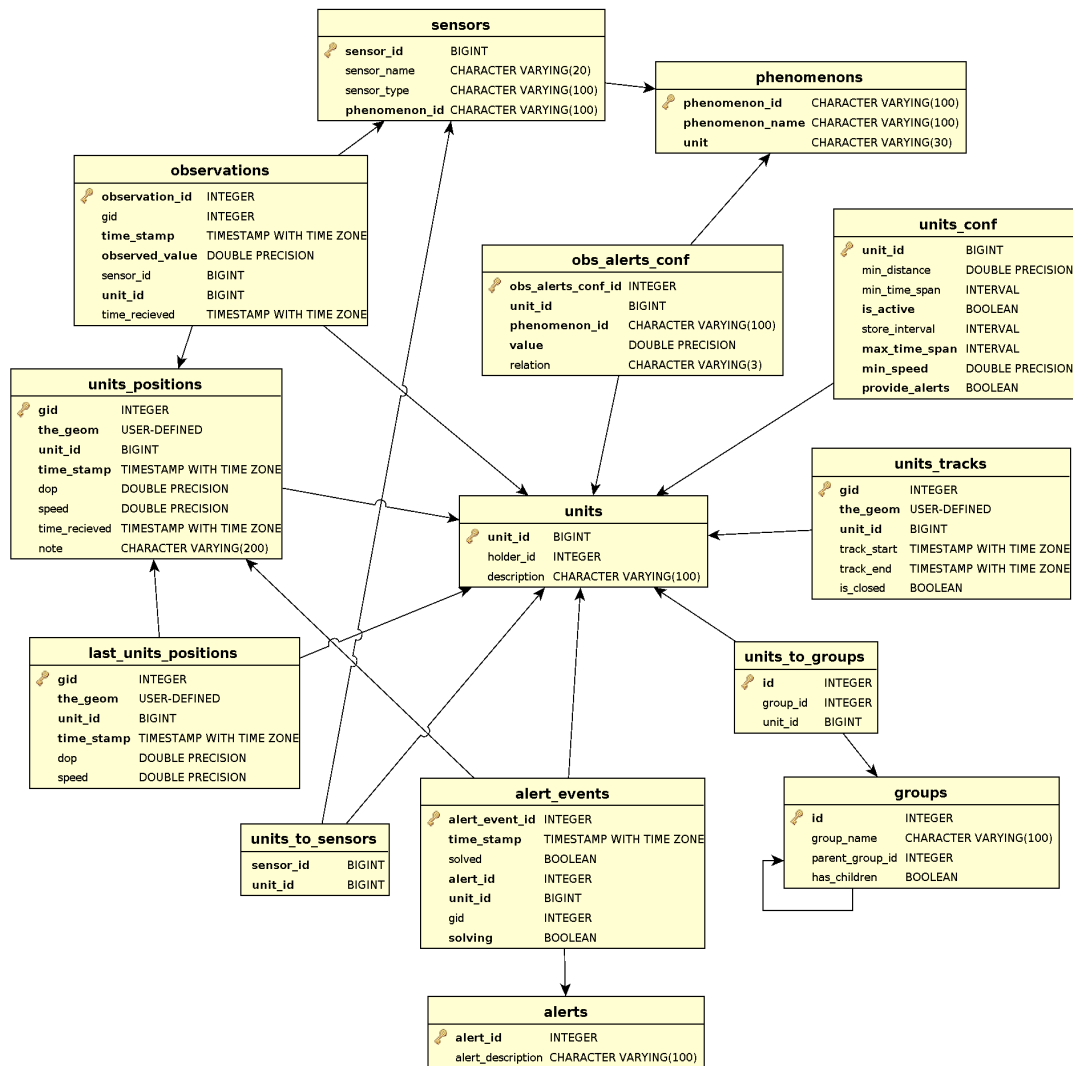


Figure 11 UML scheme for the database

As every software system, a DBMS for sensor data operates in a faulty computing environment. A failure can corrupt the respective database unless special measures are taken to prevent this.

In solution proposed for EnviroGrids we have to deal with scalability and high availability of data. We are proposing to use proper replication and clustering mechanism. For that propose, we are using pgpool-II. Pgpool-II is a middleware that works between PostgreSQL servers and a PostgreSQL database client. It provides the following features



- Connection Pooling

pgpool-II saves connections to the PostgreSQL servers, and reuse them whenever a new connection with the same properties (i.e. username, database, protocol version) comes in. It reduces connection overhead, and improves system's overall throughput.

- Replication

pgpool-II can manage multiple PostgreSQL servers. Using the replication function enables creating a real-time backup on 2 or more physical disks, so that the service can continue without stopping servers in case of a disk failure.

- Load Balance

If a database is replicated, executing a SELECT query on any server will return the same result. pgpool-II takes an advantage of the replication feature to reduce the load on each PostgreSQL server by distributing SELECT queries among multiple servers, improving system's overall throughput. At best, performance improves proportionally to the number of PostgreSQL servers. Load balance works best in a situation where there are a lot of users executing many queries at the same time.

- Limiting Exceeding Connections

There is a limit on the maximum number of concurrent connections with PostgreSQL, and connections are rejected after this many connections. Setting the maximum number of connections, however, increases resource consumption and affect system performance. pgpool-II also has a limit on the maximum number of connections, but extra connections will be queued instead of returning an error immediately.

- Parallel Query

Using the parallel query function, data can be divided among the multiple servers, so that a query can be executed on all the servers concurrently to reduce the overall execution time. Parallel query works the best when searching large-scale data. This software features are being extensively tested nowadays and will be used with respect to supposed amount of data and users. One of the other solutions that are being under research nowadays is a NoSQL distributed database such as Cassandra.

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) API for inserting measured data was made in Java programming-language. Therefore common users will not need to deal with the database itself. There are HTTP GET methods for inserting observations, positions and alert events. These services are based on simple but proprietary protocol. Another possibility of insertion is to utilize more complicated SOS transactional profile that is based on HTTP Post and XML based communication.

Main interface for client side application is designed as a set of web services written in Java that provides HTTP GET interface to retrieve data from database. These services provide users with particular data in JSON format. The services are using authentication so user can get just data that they have privileges to see. After authentication you can start to query the database using HTTP GET requests [14].

7.6 SOS interface

The SOS Senslog interface was the main part of the development inside of EnviroGrids@BlackSee. The idea of Sensor Webs was established just for these cases. OGC's Sensor Web Enablement (SWE) activities have established the interfaces and protocols that will enable Sensor Webs [15].

The most relevant standards from SWE are:



- Observations & Measurements (O&M) – The general models and XML encodings for sensor observations and measurements.
- Sensor Model Language (SensorML) – The general models and XML schema for describing sensors and processes associated with measurement.
- Transducer Markup Language (TML) – General characterizations of transducers, their data, the phenomenon, transporting the data, and any and all support data (metadata) necessary for later processing and understanding of the transducer data.
- Sensor Observation Service (SOS) – The service provides an API for managing deployed sensors and retrieving sensor data (observations).

SOS provides access to observations from sensors and sensor systems in a standard. The same way is used for any type of sensor systems. It can be remote sensing, in-situ, fixed and mobile sensors. SOS leverages the O&M specification for modeling observations and the TML and SensorML specifications for modeling sensors and sensor systems. SOS is primarily designed to provide access to observations. SensLog prototype of SOS was implemented using data model from Figure 10.

In Senslog we are mainly focused on publication of observation in standard form for consumers of observation. It can be analytical modules, view client etc [16].

For every SOS implementation the three operations are mandatory:

- GetCapabilities – provides the means to access SOS service metadata.
- GetObservation – provides access to sensor observations and measurement data, a spatio-temporal query filtered by phenomena can be used.
- DescribeSensor – retrieves detailed information about the sensors and processes generating those measurements.

There exist also non-mandatory operations. Two are supporting transactions – RegisterSensor and InsertObservation. And there are also six enhanced operations – GetResult, GetFeatureOfInterest, GetFeatureOfInterestTime, DescribeFeatureOfInterest, DescribeObservationType, and DescribeResultModel.

All SOS requests and responses are in the form of XML encoded documents sent by HTTP POST method. The forms of requests and responses are provided in W3C XML Schema (XSD) language. These schemes are part of SOS Implementation standard. SOS is one of the SWE technologies builds the Sensor Webs. It uses partially components from other SWE standards. Figure 11 shows the SOS dependency on other OGC standards [17].

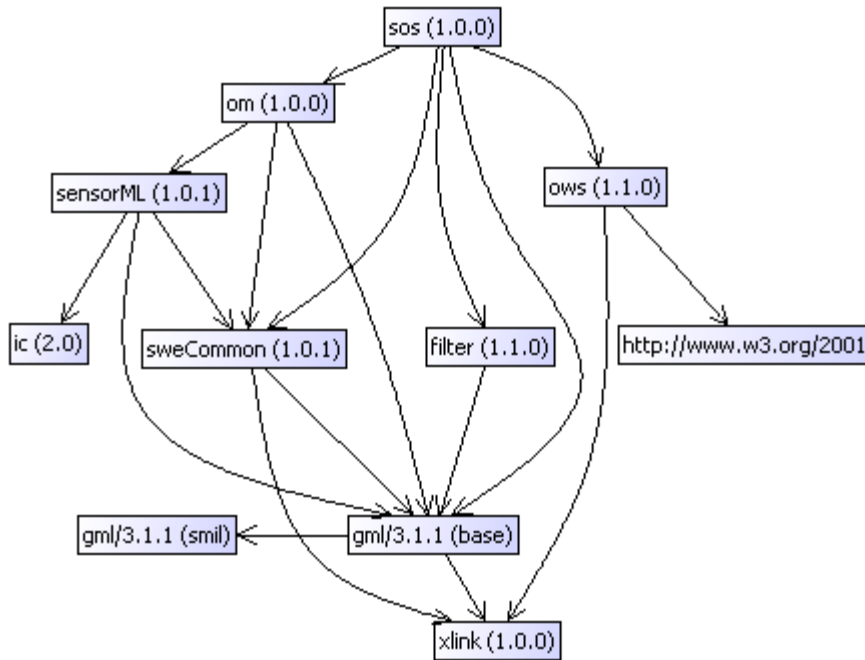


Figure 12 SOS dependencies

Figure 11 demonstrates that SOS uses a lot of other OGC standards. SOS is considered as a complex service for all possible observations. This makes SOS very complicated.

The implementation of SOS is a server-side application, which accepts request, collects data from database and compiles responses. The response sent by SOS can be a standard document with requested data or an exception when SOS encounters an error while performing the operation.

Senslog implemented SOS service [18] based on the technology of data binding. It means that classes and interfaces are derived from XML schemas by binding compiler. Java Architecture for XML Binding (JAXB) was used for our purposes [19]. They are used compiled schemes from the OGC Schemas and Tools Project at this time. The OGC Schemas project provides JAXB 2.x bindings for XML Schemas defined by OGC. Aleksei Valikov develops these compiled schemas under 3-clause BSD license [20]. Binding a schema means generating a set of Java classes that represents the schema. All JAXB implementations provide a tool called a binding compiler to bind a schema (XJC) [Lau08]. After binding we do not have to deal with XML documents ourselves, we deal with programming-language objects, in this case with Java classes. Reading an XML document in JAXB terminology is called unmarshalling. Unmarshalling an XML document means creating a tree of content objects that represents the content and organisation of the document. Writing an XML document is called marshalling, it creates a XML document from a content tree.

The implementation is a server-side application that includes core operations of SOS with mandatory parameters at this time.

Implemented operations and their parameters are:

- *GetCapabilities*
 - Request – GetCapabilities document with mandatory parameters *service* and *request*



- Response – Capabilities document with elements: *ServiceIdentification*, *ServiceProvider*, *OperationsMetadata*, *Filter_Capabilities* and *Contents*.
- *DescribeSensor*
 - Request – DescribeSensor document with mandatory parameters *service*, *procedure*, *outputFormat*, *version*
 - Response – SensorML document with elements: *identification*, *capabilities*, *outputs* and *positions*
- *GetObservations*
 - Request – GetObservation document with mandatory parameters and supported values:
 - service: SOS
 - version: 1.0.0
 - srsName: urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG:4326
 - offering: according to values in Capabilites document
 - eventTime: TM_During
 - procedure: according to values in Capabilites document
 - observedProperty: according to values in Capabilites document
 - responseFormat: text/xml; subtype="om/1.0.0"
 - resultModel: om:Observation
 - responseMode: inline
 - Response – ObservationCollection document with one element Observation with elements: *samplingTime*, *procedure*, *observedProperty*, *result*

There are few features that are not yet implemented like scalar or spatial filtering of observations. It might be worth to mention what term is in our data model (see Fig. 10) equivalent to term in SOS standard (see Tab. 2).

SOS standard	Data model
Observation offering	Group
Procedure	Unit
Observed property	Phenomenon
FeatureOfInterest	not in use yet

Table 2 Equivalent terms



There must be set a procedure and an observed property in GetObservations request for getting observations from particular sensor. Affiliation sensors with units can be found in DescribeSensor response.

Raw ObservationCollection document is shown in Figure 12.

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<ns6:ObservationCollection xmlns:ns1="http://www.opengis.net/ows/1.1"
  xmlns:ns2="http://www.opengis.net/sos/1.0" xmlns:ns3="http://www.opengis.net/ogc"
  xmlns:ns4="http://www.opengis.net/gml" xmlns:ns5="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink"
  xmlns:ns6="http://www.opengis.net/om/1.0" xmlns:ns7="http://www.opengis.net/swe/1.0.1"
  xmlns:ns8="http://www.opengis.net/sensorML/1.0.1" xmlns:ns9="urn:us:gov:ic:ism:v2"
  xmlns:ns10="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" xmlns:ns11="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.opengis.net/om/1.0
  http://schemas.opengis.net/om/1.0.0/om.xsd">
  <ns6:member ns5:type="simple">
    <ns6:Observation>
      <ns6:samplingTime ns5:type="simple">
        <ns4:TimePeriod>
          <ns4:beginPosition>2011-11-10T10:04:06+01:00</ns4:beginPosition>
          <ns4:endPosition>2011-11-10T11:54:06+01:00</ns4:endPosition>
        </ns4:TimePeriod>
      </ns6:samplingTime>
      <ns6:procedure ns5:href="3001" ns5:type="simple"/>
      <ns6:observedProperty ns5:type="simple"/>
      <ns6:featureOfInterest ns5:href="urn:ogc:def:feature:OGC-SWE:3:transient"/>
      <ns6:result>
        <swe:elementCount xmlns:swe="http://www.opengis.net/swe/1.0.1">
          <swe:Count>
            <swe:value>12</swe:value>
          </swe:Count>
        </swe:elementCount>
        <swe:elementType xmlns:swe="http://www.opengis.net/swe/1.0.1" name="Components">
          <swe:SimpleDataRecord>
            <swe:field name="Time">
              <swe:Time definition="urn:ogc:data:time:iso8601"/>
            </swe:field>
            <swe:field name="Mort int temp">
              <swe:Quantity definition="Temperature">
                <swe:uom code="C"/>
              </swe:Quantity>
            </swe:field>
          </swe:SimpleDataRecord>
        </swe:elementType>
        <swe:encoding xmlns:swe="http://www.opengis.net/swe/1.0.1">
          <swe:TextBlock blockSeparator="0" decimalSeparator="." tokenSeparator=" "/>
        </swe:encoding>
        <swe:values xmlns:swe="http://www.opengis.net/swe/1.0.1">
          2011-11-10T10:04:06+01:00;4.582011-11-10T10:14:06+01:00;4.562502011-11-
          10T10:24:06+01:00;4.687502011-11-10T10:34:06+01:00;4.87502011-11-10T10:44:06+01:00;5.062502011-
          11-10T10:54:06+01:00;5.2502011-11-10T11:04:06+01:00;5.37502011-11-10T11:14:06+01:00;5.502011-
          11-10T11:24:06+01:00;5.62502011-11-10T11:34:06+01:00;5.7502011-11-10T11:44:06+01:00;5.87502011-
          11-10T11:54:06+01:00;5.9375
        </swe:values>
      </ns6:result>
    </ns6:Observation>
  </ns6:member>
</ns6:ObservationCollection>
  
```

Figure 13 Observation Collection document

7.7 Catalogue for SOS

The catalogue allows describing SOS by metadata records and also supporting discovery of SOS from other applications (processing, visualisation). As a catalogue we use Mica components (Editor, Importer and Client) adding SOS metadata profile. The catalogue is a part of EnviroGrids Uniform Resource Management (URM). It supports easy integration of SOS with the rest of the platform.



7.8 Analytical modules

As analytical modules, could be used any services or applications, which are able to access observations using SOS services. This could be also different GRID solution accessing data through SOS. For practical testing we tried two possibilities:

- Using services based on WPS;
- LernSens application - is the solution, which was developed with financial support from state resources provided by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic for support of project of the program “TIP-2009” with registration number FR—TI1/332. [21]

7.8.1 PyWPS

Web Processing Service (WPS) is designed to standardize the way that GIS calculations are made available to the Internet. WPS can describe any calculation (i.e. process) including all of its inputs and outputs, and trigger its execution as a Web Service. WPS supports simultaneous exposure of processes via HTTP GET, HTTP POST, and SOAP, thus allowing the client to choose the most appropriate interface mechanism. The owner of that implementation defines the specific processes served up by a WPS implementation. Although WPS was designed to work with spatially referenced data, it can be used with any kind of data.

WPS makes it possible to publish, find, and bind to processes in a standardized and thus interoperable fashion. Theoretically it is transport/platform neutral (like SOAP), but in practice it has only been specified for HTTP.

PyWPS is project, which is developed since 2006, and tries to implement OGC WPS standard in its 0.4.0 version. It is written in Python programming language. The main goal of PyWPS is, that it has been written from the beginning, with direct support for GRASS GIS. So, PyWPS can be understand, as kind of translation library, which translates requests complain to WPS standard, overhands them to GRASS GIS or other command line tool (such as GDAL/OGR, PROJ.4 or R statistical package), monitors the calculation progress and informs the user and after the calculation is completed, it returns back it's result. PyWPS is part of EnviroGrids infrastructure, for sensor measurement PyWPS is using as input data SOS observation.

7.8.2 LernSens

The sensor networks are able to generate enormous amount of data for environment condition monitoring. A lot of effort is invested to perpetual collection. Till now the main effort is focused on data collection process to be cheap, robust and reliable. With growing amount of data it is necessary to be more focused on access to measured values, which has to offer permanent proactive monitoring. LernSens project implements such solution, which was integrated with the Senslog SOS implementation and also with visualisation client using possibilities to send alerts.

The LernSens concept is divided into four levels:

- Event collection as event or measurement collector;
- Event filtering and routing allow to filter collected measurements according to simple conditions (e.g. if temperature on sensor X is greater than 20 degrees) and to generate low level alerts;
- Situation prediction - based on event pattern detection and ability to create partially instantiated patterns. If pattern instantiation reach some threshold based on given metrics, system generate alert that given situation is nearly to come;
- Adaptation during monitoring system implementation or there it can be supported by some advanced techniques from domain of machine learning. Adaptation to specific environment is typically done by computing profiles of monitored objects typical behaviour. Advanced systems



are able to update profiles perpetually. It allows to smoothly adapting to changing conditions in monitored environment.

LernSens developed mature monitoring solution with the

- ability to process event based data (measurements, logs, alerts, ...) in real-time;
- ability to detect event patterns;
- ability to adapt the system to actual environment.

It is based on Complex Event Processing (CEP) - technology designed for processing huge event streams in real-time [22]. It offers a lot of useful techniques to fulfil the mentioned requirements.

It is independent component, which is possible to integrate with Senslog and, which could be used for controlling of monitoring chain.

7.9 Alert systems

Both PyWPS and LernSens are able to generate alerts in the form of SMS.

7.10 Visualisation client

The SOS client in HSLayers is a component, which can be used for browsing data from any OpenGIS Sensor Observation Service (OGC SOS) compliant services. The component can be used together with map application based on HSLayers, or independently with any non-map application.

The actual version of component supports only operations from OGC SOS Core Profile, which must be implemented in every OGC SOS compliant services.

Operations supported in the actual version are:

- GetCapabilities - returns a service description containing information about the service interface and the available sensor data;
- DescribeSensor - returns a description of one specific sensor, sensor system or data producing procedure;
- GetObservation - provides pull-based access to sensor observations and measurement-data via a spatio-temporal query that can be filtered by phenomena and value constraints.

Future versions of the components will contain also operations from OGC SOS Enhanced Profile and will offer more functionality for working with data from OGC SOS services.

- User invokes HSLayers SOS Client UI dialog;
- User inputs URL of required OGC SOS;
- HSLayers SOS Client sends GetCapabilities request to OGC SOS, parses its response and displays available information about OGC Service (name, abstract) in UI;
- User selects offering and all parameters for required observations (procedure, observed property, date-time interval);
- User invokes getting observations;
- HSLayers SOS Client sends GetObservation request with all passed parameters to OGC SOS, parses its response and display all obtained data in table and chart;

- If the HSLayers SOS Client is used within map application based on HSLayers, user can display location of obtained observations in map.

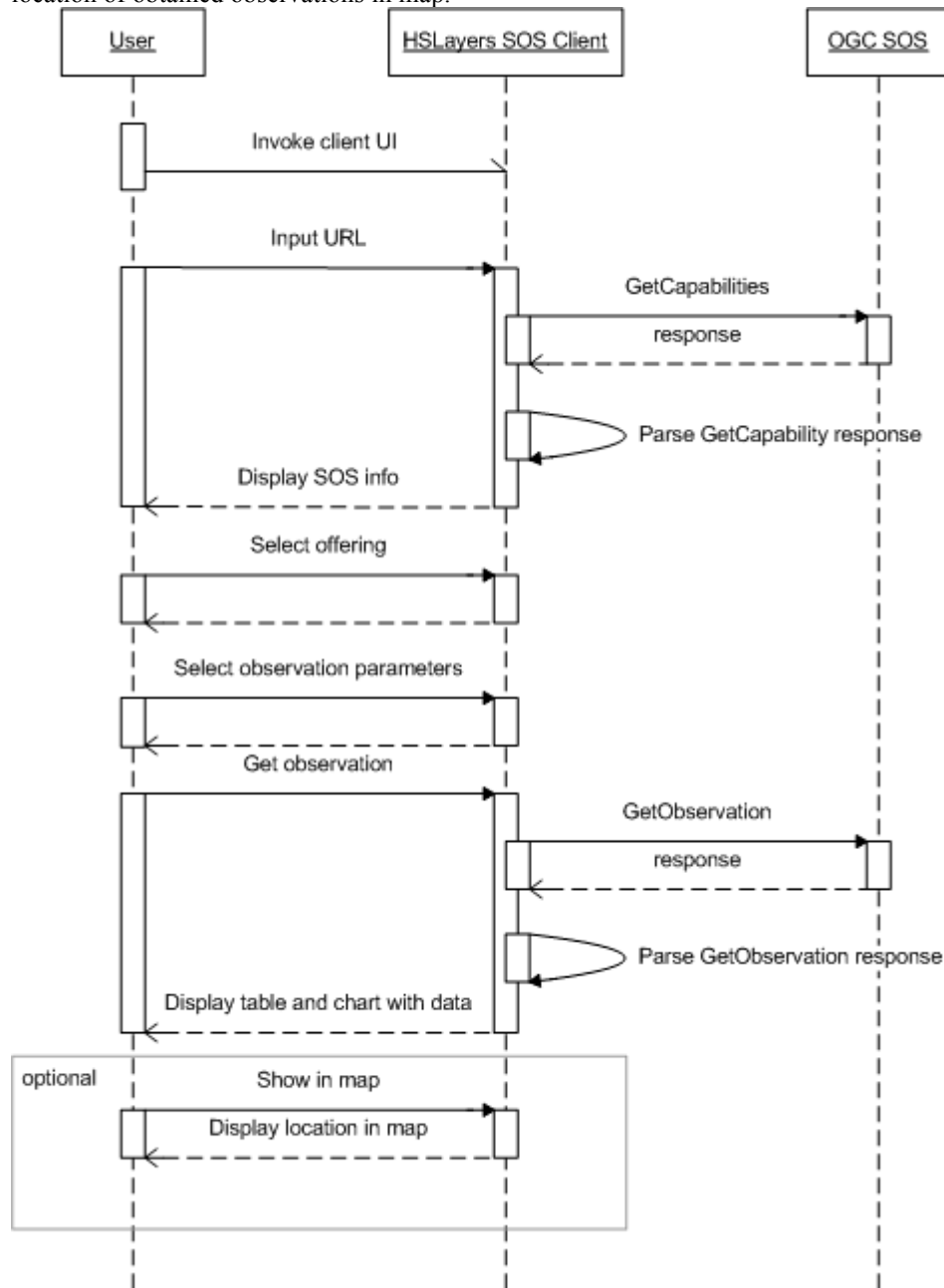


Figure 14 HSLayers UML schema

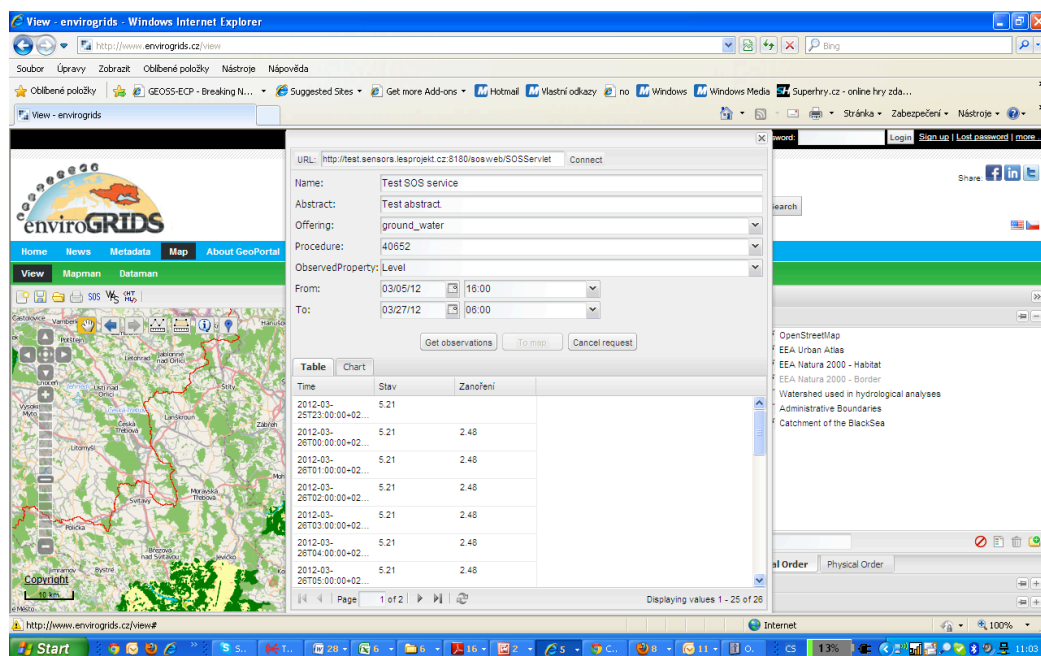


Figure 15 HSlayers SOS client

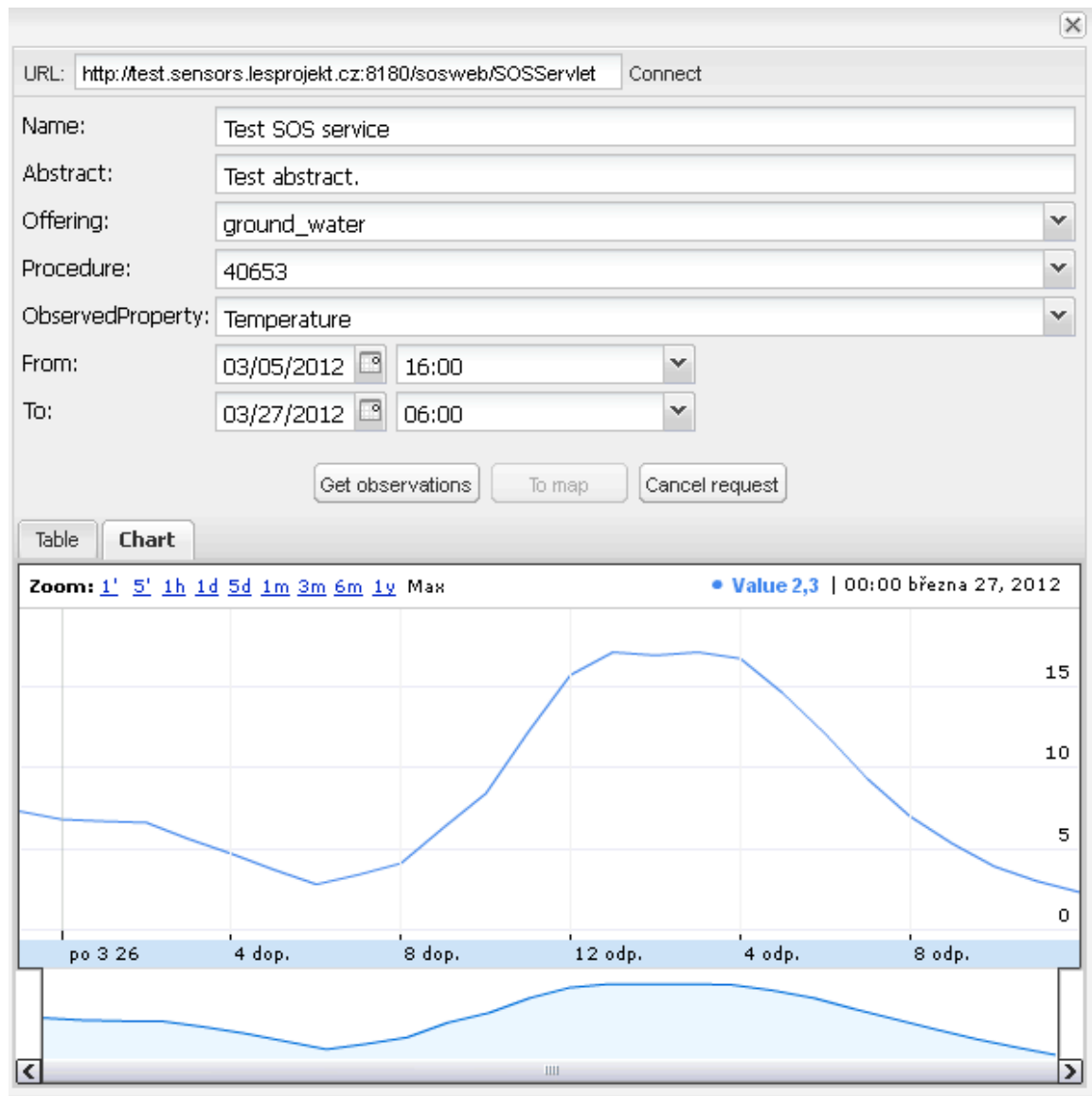


Figure 16 Graf of measurement

8 How to use sensors observation by rest of the EnviroGRIDS services

The implementation of sensors environment in EnviroGRIDS can be viewed from two points:

- Poor implementation of Sensor Observation Server and client for Sensor Observation, which are now two independent components. The first is published as Open Source under name Senslog, the second is part of HSlayers (also Open Source product). This allows integration of both components with other modules. Senslong is able to transform heterogeneous observation (including human observation) into interoperable form of SOS. It allows access heterogeneous



measurement by analytical modules including GRID application through SOS. The condition is including SOS client as part of this solution. SOS client is the first example of the client allowing visualisation of sensors measurements including dynamic graphs.

- Implementation of a complex solution as part of URM. It could demonstrate with heterogeneous sensors possibility of accessibility of sensors measurement based on given requirements, their analysis and visualisation. There are implemented two concrete pilot cases as examples. Both pilot cases could be extended to any regions of project, but could be also easily modified for different types of monitoring.

For full utilisation, it is necessary to prepare scenarios with local sensors in other areas. The easiest way will be to implement scenarios with technology focused on human as sensors. Other issue is to test the implementation of the SOS client on the side of Grid.

9 Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 Conclusions

The deliverable EnviroGRIDS_D2-12 provided next work:

- Two testing scenarios for testing Sensor Observation Services were defined:
 - Measurement of level of underground water;
 - Human as a Sensor Scenario;
- There were implemented:
 - SOS server for publishing heterogeneous sensor observation in interoperable form;
 - SOS invoking client for HSLayers;
- There were tested description and discovery of Sensors Observation by Catalogue System MICKA;
- The SOS services were integrated with full sensor chain (some operations are coming from other projects) including:
 - Single sensors for Measuring Level of Underground Water;
 - Sensors Network for Measuring Level of Underground Water;
 - MORT hardware gate for interconnecting Sensors or sensors network with Web environment;
 - Android based Smartphone or tablets as tools for human observation;
 - Software gateway (daemon) for integration of sensor measurement with Web;
 - PyWPS server for analysis of sensor data;
 - Integration of SOS with LearnSens system.

The implementation demonstrates the functionality of all the solutions and the possibility to use it in practice.

9.2 Recommendations

The recommendation for future period could be divided into two parts:



- Technological;
- Organisational.

The technological recommendations are:

- To develop client side for access of sensors measurement from the side of GRID;
- To integrate import of metadata to Micka catalogue from SOS GetCapabilities;
- To integrate Catalogue client into SOS embedded Client;
- To extend metadata profile for sensors;
- To integrate SOS client into WPS client embedded into Hslayers.

Organisational recommendations are:

- To organise large testbed inside of EnviroGrids@BlackSee with Android technology for Human As a Sensor;
- To implement SOS server on one pilot side of EnviroGrids@BlackSee;
- To provide a test with accessibility of sensor measurements in the Grid environment;
- To provide a test with the LernSens technology on the pilot area Litovelske Pomoravi;
- To implement Alert Services for Litovelske Pomoravi.



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Terminology

The terms and the definitions used in this document are according with the terminologies published in known glossaries such as ISO TC-211 Glossary, OGC Glossary, OASIS SAML/XACML Glossary, and Wikipedia. We have added new terms and definitions when it was necessary.

Definitions

Access Control: A process by which use of resources is regulated according to a security policy and is permitted by only authorized system entities according to that policy.

Access Rights: A description of the type of authorized interactions a user or a program can have with a system. Examples include read, write, execute, add, modify, and delete operations.

Actor: A coherent set of roles that user of system plays when interacting with this system.

Attribute: Feature that describes the range of values an element may hold.

Authentication: To confirm a system entity's asserted principal identity with a specified, or understood, level of confidence.

Authorization: The process of determining, by evaluating applicable access control information, whether a subject is allowed to have the specified types of access to a particular resource. Usually, authorization is in the context of authentication. Once a subject is authenticated, it may be authorized to perform different types of access.

Catalogue: A collection of entries, each of which describes and points to a feature collection. Catalogues include indexed listings of feature collections, their contents, their coverage, and other metadata. It registers the existence, location, and description of feature collections held by Information Community. Catalogues provide the capability to add and delete entries. At a minimum Catalogue will include the name for the feature collection and the location handle that specifies where this data may be found.

Data product: Dataset or Dataset series that conforms to a data product specification. Data product specification is a detailed description of a dataset or dataset series together with additional information that will enable it to be created, supplied to and used by another party.

Dataset: A Dataset is an abstract object. It corresponds to the ideal of a data set, independent of a physical form or an encoding in which it is being distributed. It represents an identifiable collection of data.

Dataset series: Collection of datasets sharing the same product specification.



Digital Repository: A complex collection of datasets. The main functionalities concern with data access and related services provided to users. Data repository could support the following functionalities on data: organize, store, administrate, secure access and retrieve, search and discover.

Feature: Abstraction of a real world object and phenomenon. In data repository a feature has a digital representation.

Feature collection: A group of features having common metadata and formal relationships. The feature collection can be identified as another feature at different abstraction levels.

Infrastructure for spatial information: Metadata, spatial data sets and spatial data services; network services and technologies; agreements on sharing, access and use; and procedures, established, operated or made available in accordance with particular specifications.

Interoperability: Possibility for spatial data sets to be combined, and for services to interact, without repetitive manual intervention, in such a way that the result is coherent and the added value of the data sets and services is enhanced.

ISO 19115: most widely used international standard ISO for describing geographic information and services. It provides information about the identification, the extent, the quality, the spatial and

Metadata: Data describing another data or service. In the web service based system, the metadata is XML-encoded and stored in catalogues and registries, in order to support operations such as search, discover, and retrieve data and services.

Metadata dataset: The set of metadata describing a specific dataset.

Middleware: Software in a distributed computing environment that mediates between clients and servers.

Policy: A set of rules, sometimes described through an algorithm as an obligation.

Portal: A Web site that provides a view into a universe of content and activity through a variety of links to other sites, communication and collaboration tools, and special features geared toward the community served by the portal.

Portlet: From user's perspective, a portlet is a window in a portal that provides a specific service or information, for instance, a calendar or weather. From the application development perspective, the portlets are pluggable modules that are designed to run inside the portlet container of a portal server. The portlet container provides a runtime environment in which portlets are instantiated, used, and finally destroyed. Portlets rely on the overall portal infrastructure to access user profile information, participate in window and action events, and communicate with other portlets, access remote content, and lookup credentials, and store persistent data.

Portrayal: The presentation of information to humans, e.g., a map. In the context of the Web, portrayal refers to how data is presented to the user.

Protocol: A set of semantic and syntactic rules that determine the behaviour of entities that interact.

Schema: Formal description of a model or a structured framework. A metadata schema specifies the order and types and labels of information elements describing a data set.

Server: A particular instance of a service. The server denotes sometimes the computer running a service.

Service: A computation performed by a software entity on one side of an interface in response to a request made by a software entity on the other side of the interface. It is a collection of operations that allows a user to evoke behaviour or a value.

Service interface: Shared boundary between an automated system or human being and another automated system or human being.



Service metadata: Metadata describing the operations and (geographic) information available at a server.

Spatial data: Any data with a direct or indirect reference to a specific location or geographical area.

Spatial data services: Operations, which may be performed, by invoking a computer application, on the spatial data contained in spatial data sets or on the related metadata.

Spatial data set: An identifiable collection of spatial data.

Spatial object: An abstract representation of a real world phenomenon related to a specific location or geographical area.

Spatial metadata: Information describing spatial data sets and spatial data services and making it possible to discover, inventory and use them.

Storage with certain quality properties.

Use case scenario: A possible sequence of real world events used as a test case for specifying or testing information systems designed to help manage such events.

Universally Unique Identifier (UUID): An identifier standard used in software construction, standardized by the Open Software Foundation (OSF) as part of the Distributed Computing Environment (DCE). The intent of UUIDs is to enable distributed systems to uniquely identify information without significant central coordination.

Web Service: A Web Service is defined by the W3C as a software system designed to support interoperable machine-to-machine interaction over a network. It has an interface described in a machine based processing format (e.g. WSDL). Other systems interact with the Web service in a manner prescribed by its description using SOAP-messages, typically conveyed using HTTP with an XML serialization in conjunction with other Web-related standards.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIP	Architecture Implementation Pilot
CCSS	Czech Centre for Science and Society
CEP	Complex event processing
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
GPRS	General Packet Radio Service
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
JAXB	Java Architecture for XML Binding
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
MANET	Mobile ad-hoc network
OGC	Open Geospatial Consortium



RFID	Radio Frequency Identification
RSSI	Received Signal Strength Indication
SOAP	Simple Object Access Protocol
SOS	Sensor Observation Standards
SWE	Sensor Web Enablement
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
UML	Unified Modelling Language
URM	Uniform Resource Management
W3C	World Wide Web Consortium
WPS	Web Processing Service
XML	Extensible Markup Language