

Esri User Conference Focuses on Web GIS



On Monday morning, 8 July 2013, Jack Dangermond welcomed some 12,000 GIS users from 130 countries during the opening of the yearly Esri User Conference in the San Diego Convention Center, USA. Dangermond pointed out that GIS is shifting to WebGIS, and he also illustrated some of the possibilities resulting from that shift: integration of social media, utilisation of different sensors, linking organisations and people, and enabling sharing.

Dangermond clearly sees a change in GIS. He announced therefore a free subscription to ArcGIS Online for all users of ArcGIS Desktop. The plenary of the UC in San Diego was a feast of showing successful GIS applications in all conceivable fields: disaster relief, conservation, city modelling and planning, real estate, logistics, and the list goes on.

In recent years, Esri has been focused on integrating imagery into GIS. In the Premium Services for the new ArcGIS 10.2 Digital Globe, AccuWeather and RapidEye are able to serve near-real-time imagery in ArcGIS Online. The release of ArcGIS 10.2 will take place in a few weeks' time, and according to Jack Dangermond this will mark a faster cadence of new releases of the various Esri products, keeping up with the pace of all developments in the online world.

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