



# Implementing gvSIG as an alternative for proprietary Desktop GIS software in the Department of Health and Environment, City of Munich

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(Health and Environment Reporting)

- Initial situation
- Requirements of the Department on Desktop GIS
- Searching for an Open Source Alternative
- Testing gvSIG
- Getting involved
- Experiences so far...
- Next steps



- 2003: Munich's City Council decides:  
Linux-Migration of the Desktop  
Computers of the Administration
  - Debian-based Linux-Distribution: LiMux
- Alternatives for Desktop GIS  
ArcView/ArcGIS:
  - Server based proprietary solution
  - Open Source Desktop GIS which runs  
under Linux
- 2005: The Department of Health and  
Environment decides to search for an  
Open Source Desktop GIS. About 15  
GIS-workplaces affected



- Viewing and Editing Geodata
  - Mainly vectordata (raster data = +/- only aerial photographs)
    - File-based: shapefiles
    - read/write access to Oracle Spatial database
  - Tabular data (dbf, Text)
    - Sort, select, query, export
    - Field calculation
    - join/link
  - Many big files (> 200.000 elements are not exceptional)
- Edit vector data
- Standard geoprocessing tools (buffer,...)
- Creation of Map Layouts (plotter/print files)
- Publishing maps on the intra- and internet (UMN Mapserver [1])
  - Export of maps / Creation of Mapfiles

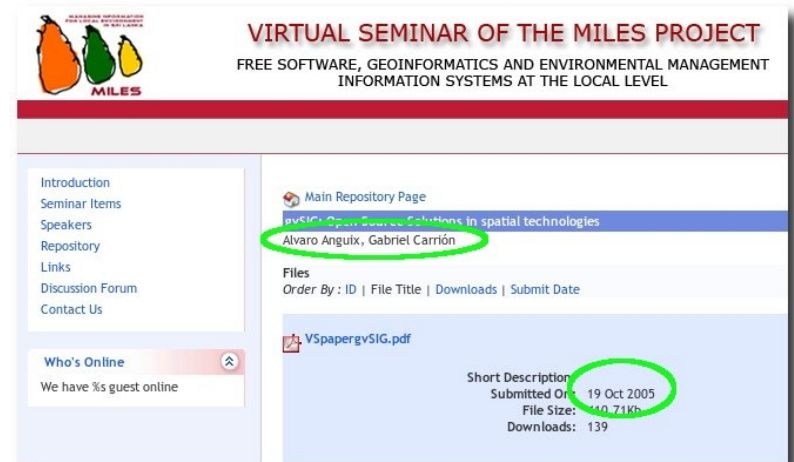
[1] <http://www.muenchen.de/umweltatlas>

# Searching for an Open Source alternative



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- 2004: first mumble on gvSIG within an EU project (Virtual Seminar of the MILES project [1])
- Since 2005: Evaluation/test of different Open Source GIS projects
- 2006: gvSIG re-discovered by accident! Test on standalone PC without access to internal network
- 2007: gvSIG 1.1.2 installed on LiMux-Client, integration in software distribution

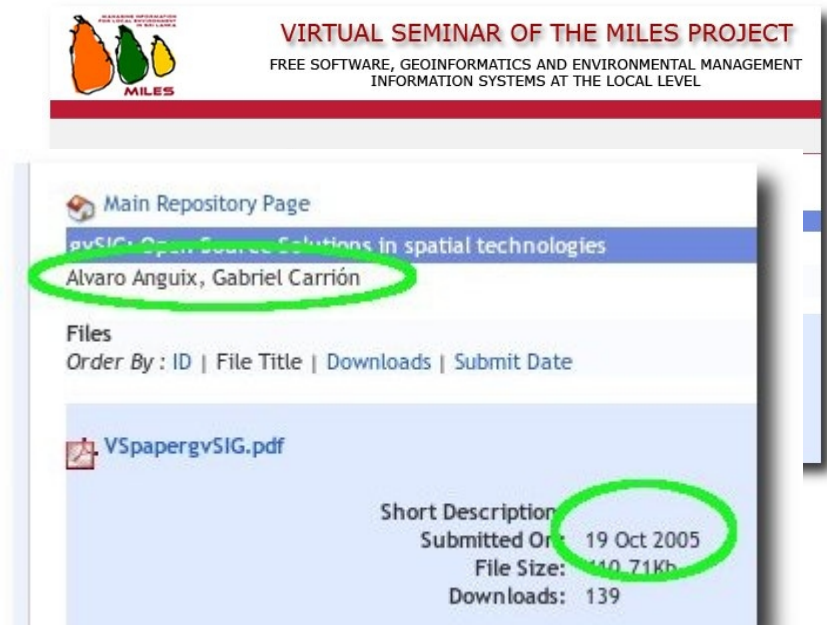


[1] [http://miles.asmoz.org/index.php?option=com\\_remository&Itemid=29&func=fileinfo&id=4](http://miles.asmoz.org/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid=29&func=fileinfo&id=4)

# Searching for an Open Source alternative



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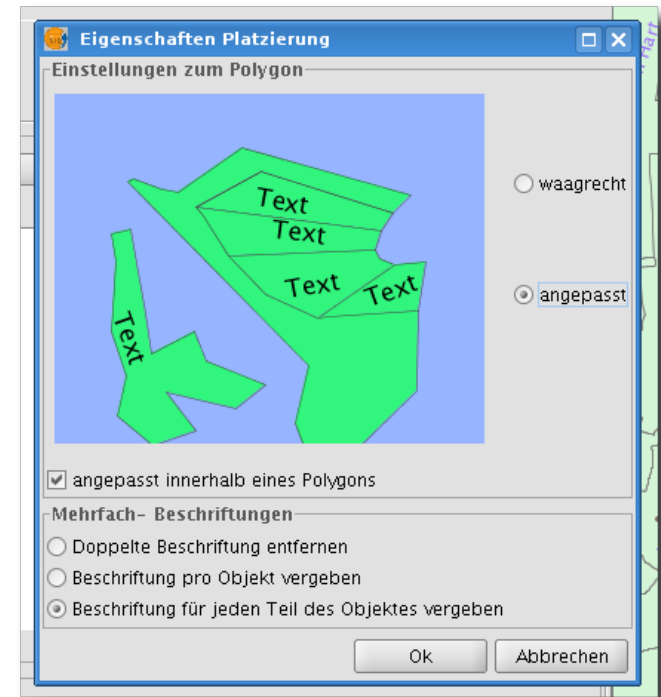
- gvSIG 1.1.2 provides many tools that are important for the Department's GIS tasks
  - Easy access (read/write) to Oracle Spatial Database
  - Geoprocessing wizard
  - Print composer
  - Tools for tabular data (sorting, join tables, calculation of tabular data)
  - Possibility to save legends, print templates (layout)
  - Publishing extension for mapfile-generation
- Experienced ArcView 3.2 users will not have too much trouble when switching to gvSIG.
- very fast development, frequent releases of new versions, detailed roadmap!
- Decision: within the Department, gvSIG will be the alternative for ArcView 3.2, budget for former GIS-licenses will be used for programming of additional functions in gvSIG.

# Getting involved...new features



## Call for tender:

- Additional features for gvSIG
  - Additional vector editing tools (split geometry, auto-complete polygon, merge)
  - Enhancements regarding labelling (individual labelling, labelling along lines...)
  - Group statistics (Summarize table)
- The bid of the spanish company IVER was accepted
- The new features are integrated in the next version (gvSIG 1.9/gvSIG 2.0)





# Getting involved...other activities



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Apart from financial support of additional programming:

- Organization of the first german-speaking gvSIG-user meeting in Munich (May 2009) together with IHK München, Landesdenkmalamt and CSGIS.
- Setup the gvSIG-Wiki for german-speaking users with a german gvSIG user in Uganda [1]
- Continuous testing and bug-reporting to the international user list...

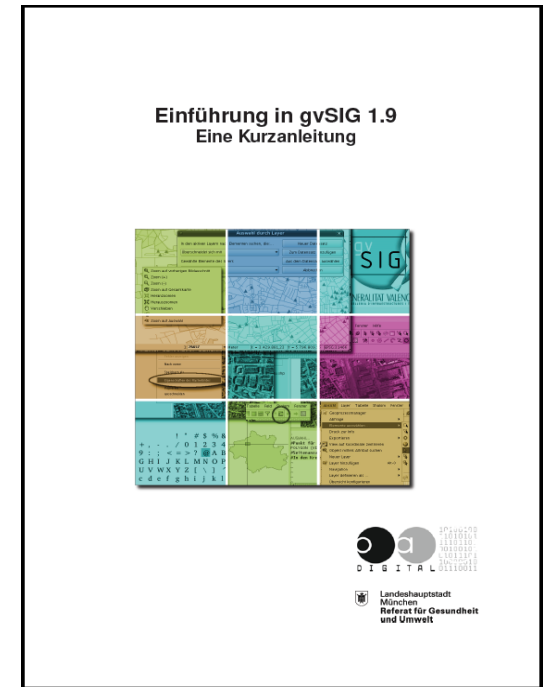


[1] <http://www.gvsig.eu/mwgvsig/index.php?title=Hauptseite>

# Getting Involved...other activities



- participation in the translation of
  - gvSIG userguide for 1.1.2 into German
  - gvSIG GUI into German (1.1.2)
- Translation of the brief instruction for gvSIG „gvSIG Digital Edition Quickstart Guide“ (gvSIG 1.1.x) into German and adaptation to gvSIG 1.9
  - 70 pages, to be found on the gvSIG-Wiki [1]
  - CC-licensed (you are invited for further development)
- Financially supporting the translation of the German GUI for 1.9



[1] [http://www.gvsig.eu/mwgvsig/index.php?title=Kurzanleitung\\_gvSIG](http://www.gvsig.eu/mwgvsig/index.php?title=Kurzanleitung_gvSIG)

# Experiences so far...



- gvSIG is a full-fledged Open Source alternative for Desktop GIS in and beyond the Department. The new version 1.9 covers nearly all needs of the Department. gvSIG rocks!
- Very helpful and quick-responding international mailing list
- fields for improving the gvSIG project
  - bug tracking (language, transparency)
  - Release plan for future versions/development
  - Facilitation of development (documentation)



# Experiences so far...



- German-speaking community has to be activated... founded?
  - Translation tasks
  - collaboration regarding development
  - documentation...
- „Softly, softly catchee monkey“ - it all takes some time... and patience!



# The next steps



- Integration of gvSIG 1.9 stable into software distribution system of the LiMux-client
  - Debian package, test, ...
- Information of colleagues within and beyond the department (synergy)
- Next german-speaking gvSIG-usermeeting in Munich 2010?
- Commission additional programming
  - copy geometries
  - improvement of the mappublish-extension
  - Relative paths
  - Raster data access (image catalogue/remote raster database)
- Participation in translating the user manual for gvSIG 1.9?



Thank you for your attention.

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