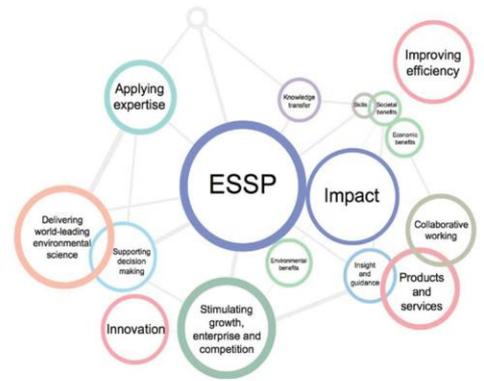# ESSP
Environmental Science to Services Partnership

NEWSLETTER | May 2016

ESSP is a partnership of six leading UK public sector environmental science organisations sharing a common goal of delivering services, benefit and economic growth from their capabilities.

British Geological Survey — NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology — NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Environment Agency

Met Office

NERC SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Ordnance Survey

Demonstrating DataSpring

DATA SPRING

ESSP are developing DataSpring, our innovative single sign-on web service providing direct access to multi-disciplinary environmental datasets from the authoritative sources across ESSP

Since our last newsletter in November we've been busy improving the look and feel of DataSpring and adding more data. We also took a collective deep breath and held our first workshop at the Digital Catapult Centre in London, bringing together a small group of software developers for a hands-on, creative day using the live prototype service. Find out what they thought and how we're using their feedback over the page.

Here's a quick recap of what our collaboration project is all about.

Connected Data for a Connected Environment

The ESSP are developing DataSpring to provide a unique, curated discovery and access service for trusted data from across the partnership organisations in standard formats with consistent and simplified licensing terms.

We know that the six partners don't hold all the environmental data that people want so we've designed the DataSpring service to allow other authoritative sources to easily publish their environmental data in the same one-stop-shop.

Our API management system DataSpring can provide data owners and software developers with important information about data usage and service performance. Uniquely, we're working on functionality to provide access to open and premium data all in the one place, making our data truly interoperable.
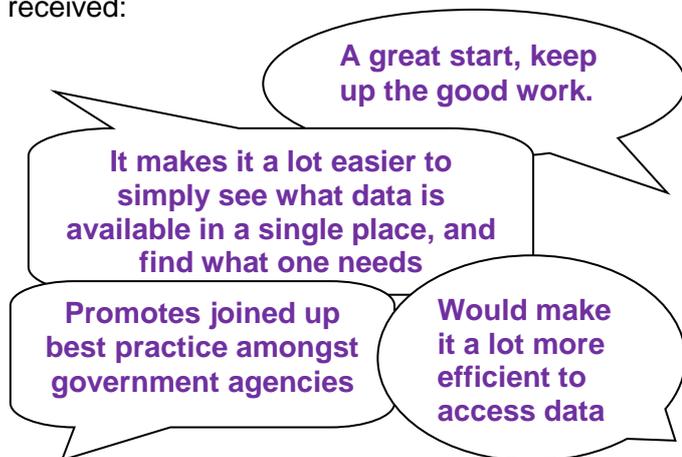
DataSpring Workshop

Our first workshop with software developers in March was a day of energy, enthusiasm and creativity. We explained why we had created DataSpring and our ambition for the future; we showed them the basics about registration and data discovery; but we really wanted their feedback so we invited them to play with it. By the end of the day the developers had worked towards integrating DataSpring into existing software applications and had created a brand new smartphone app. They also provided some excellent feedback.

Feedback Survey

DataSpring got a very positive reception from the participants on the day, with the post event survey showing 100% of people think there is a need for the service and are likely to use a fully operational DataSpring service in the future.

Attendees were keen to continue working with us, these are just a snap-shot of some comments we received:

A great start, keep up the good work.

It makes it a lot easier to simply see what data is available in a single place, and find what one needs

Promotes joined up best practice amongst government agencies

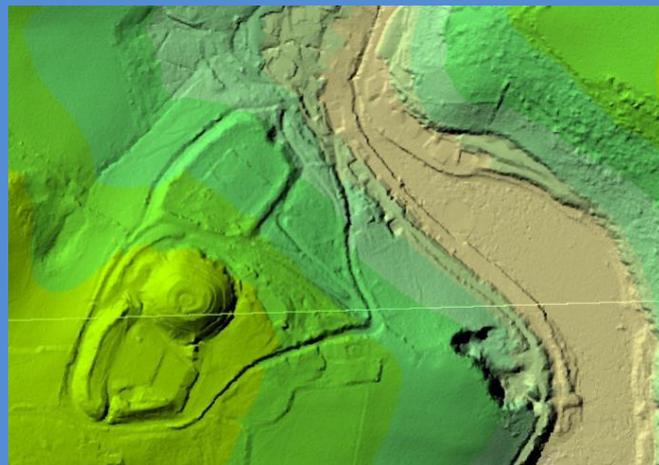**Would make it a lot more efficient to access data**

The workshop gave us a great start in exploring user needs and we want to engage further with developers and data publishers about their requirements.

Let's Talk

We've already shared our plans and shown our prototype to a growing list of stakeholders across Government (Defra, BIS, Cabinet Office, Digital Catapult, InnovateUK, SSGP, Satellite Applications Catapult, HSL, ResilienceDirect) and beyond.

If you'd like to take a look at our prototype just get in touch. We'd be delighted to come and talk to you about our ambitions to reduce the barriers to innovation and stimulate economic growth.

LIDAR Data Showcase

For the past 17 years the Environment Agency has been capturing LIDAR (Light Detection & Ranging) data in England. LIDAR uses a laser to scan and map the landscape from a light aircraft collecting very dense and accurate elevation data. This extensive archive of LIDAR data covering over 72% of England is now accessible through DataSpring at resolutions of 2 m, 1 m, 50 cm and 25 cm.

Future Plans

Plans are being developed to take forward actions based on the suggestions and feedback gathered at the recent workshop. We're working to bring more data into DataSpring such as Sentinel satellite data. Whilst still focussed on providing frictionless access to map layers (like WMS) for view services, our plans are to facilitate more sophisticated re-use of data such as sub-setting (like WCS) and compute services (like WPS) to support use, innovation and economic growth.

Find out more

Following the recent workshop a blog has been published about DataSpring:

https://www.digitalcatapultcentre.org.uk/dataspring-at-the-digital-catapult/

Contact us:
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