
Gov 2.0 Summit: GIS has Big Role in Open Government Push

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15, Sep. 2009
Last Updated 15, Sep. 2009

A recent Government Technology magazine article (Gov 2.0 Summit: GIS the Big Winner in Push for Open Government) discusses the role of GIS can play as part of open government directives being considered at many levels of government.

According to Government Technology editor Tod Newcombe, GIS is the key component in that effort, and thus, the winner.

"The math is simple. According to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's Federal Enterprise Architecture framework, 74 percent of government data is location based. At the state and local level, the number is even higher: 80 percent, according to several organizations and publications".

The article goes on to discuss an important role that government can take on with respect to technology platforms and the benefits that can be realized in both sectors with public-private partnership:

"The summit's program co-chair, Tim O'Reilly, founder and CEO of O'Reilly Media Inc., gives two major reasons why government must be viewed as a platform: The public sector built two of the most important digital infrastructures: the Internet and GPS. "The government built these platforms and the private sector ran with them," he concluded. Just as important is the fact that government has also become a major beneficiary of both platforms."

Mike Mahaffie, NSGIC's state representative from Delaware writes on the NSGIC blog that,

"Recognition of the importance of GIS in Government 2.0 is great; but it's up to us as GIS practitioners, to make sure that the work we do meets the needs of an open policy."