



CB using the GEO Portal

The “CB Portal”



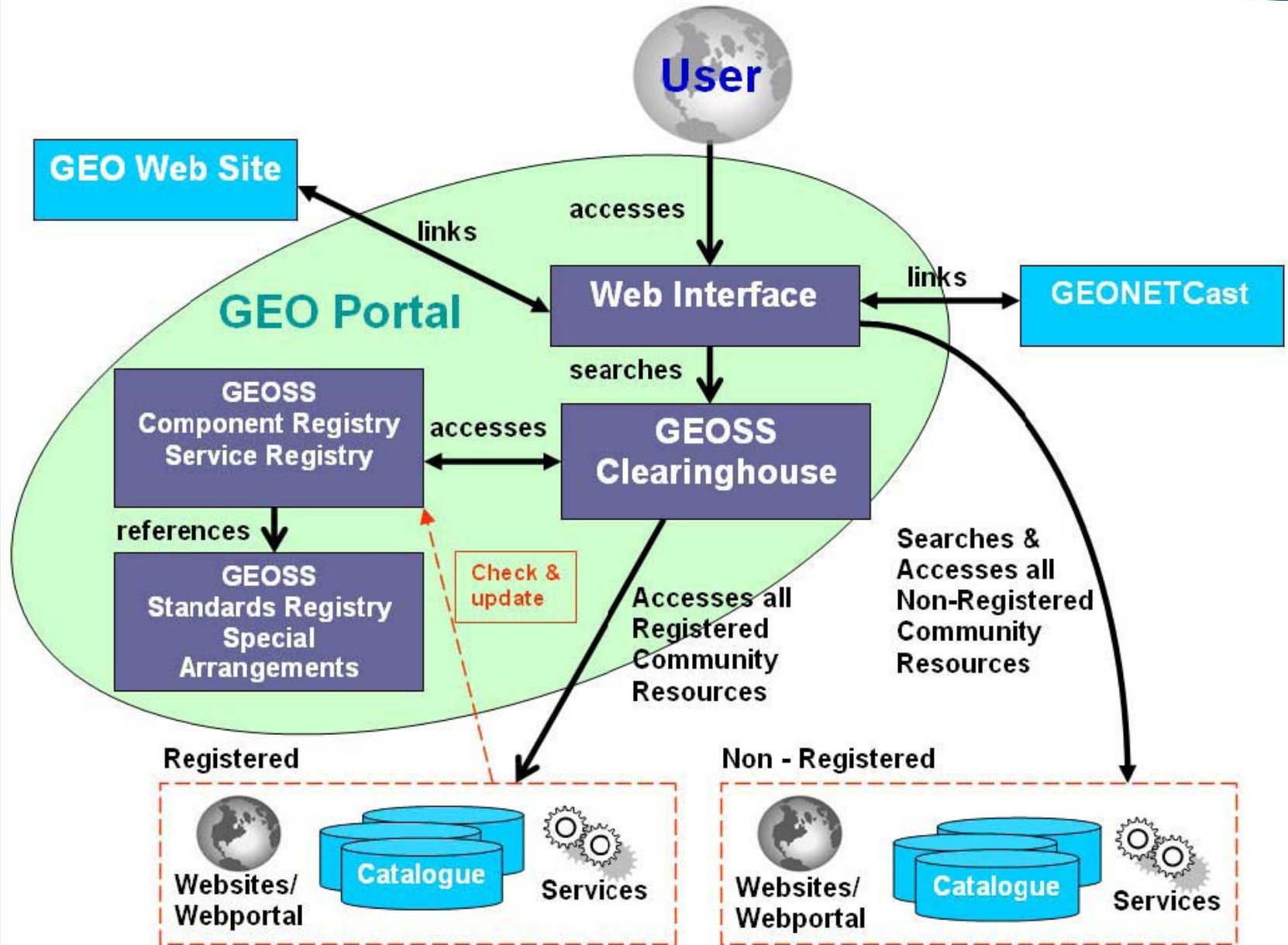
The ***GEO Portal*** will, through its single web-based interface, be the application for searching and accessing Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) services, components, and data catalogues. It will enable users to locate, access, and share data, information, services and applications through a Clearinghouse and Web interface. It will include a number of common functions and solutions, including those specific to search and discover services, as well as provide relevant information. It will also take into account integration and interoperability with non-geospatial portal environments and associated standards.

The ***GEO Portal*** will present information from diverse sources in a unified way by providing a consistent look and feel in terms of access controls, for multiple applications. All relevant applications will share information through this common Portal, thereby streamlining communication between various types of users.



The ***GEO Portal*** shall ensure access to and search of all relevant Community Resources (Databases, Services, Websites/Webportals), including those not (yet) registered to GEOSS. Also, the ***GEO Portal*** will link with the GEO Web Site and GEONETCast. Indeed, GEONETCast should provide an alternative access capability to the same Community Resources as those provided through the ***GEO Portal*** for users with limited web access capabilities.

The ***GEO Portal*** shall contain the list of all resources accessible through the Web Interface and GEOSS Clearinghouse presenting the results of a search or providing access. Moreover, GEO will adopt a proactive approach to favour and promote registration of components which are not yet registered.





Further Points to consider



- a. The ***GEO Portal*** must be **accessible to all** GEO Members and Participating Organizations and beyond.
- b. The ***GEO Portal*** must include a mechanism by which all GEO Members and Participating Organizations **may contribute to its future development** at any time, through an agreed-upon process. Modifications could encompass items such as providing additional functionality to existing applications and services of the core software project and/or new compatible services and applications based on user/community requirements, without incurring any additional copyright/licensing charges.
- c. The ***GEO Portal*** operation, including maintenance, evaluation and updating, must be **sustained** through to the end of the GEOSS implementation, with the possibility of extension.
- d. The ***GEO Portal*** establishment process should **encourage cooperation** in the identification and selection of candidate portals and/or portal components, as well as ensure adequate **sharing of responsibilities**. This includes sharing the functions, operation and maintenance of the ***GEO Portal*** major elements, as well as, possibly, time sharing of responsibility for Portal operation and update.



Choice of Development Options

The first step will be the choice of a development path to be retained for the **GEO Portal: Open source** or **Proprietary**. The specific format for the management and development structure (e.g., advisory body and/or core development team) for the Portal will depend on the choice of paradigm and commitments made by GEO Members and Participating Organisations. Issues that need to be addressed include:

- Portal source code modification, review, and acceptance
- Portal content and hosting
- Portal software licensing

Following input from the GEO Committees (ADC, CBC, UIC, STC) and C4, the Executive Committee will formalise the decision at its 12th meeting in March.



Definition of Component Providers

This activity will begin with **an evaluation of all candidate Providers**, whether for the whole ***GEO Portal*** or for each of its components which will eventually comprise the ***GEO Portal***. Attention shall be paid to the contributor's expertise.

The individual Portal components shall be offered by the Providers either independently, or as result of coordination. A mechanism of cooperation and coordination will be preferred to a competitive arrangement, in line with the spirit of GEOSS implementation.

In case several Providers are selected, an agreement with all Providers concerned to facilitate and guarantee operation of the ***GEO Portal*** (supported by appropriate tools) will have to be negotiated.

Eventually, a team made of the candidate Providers will have to be set up to coordinate the Portal component developments and ensure their complementarity and compatibility.

This task will be conducted by the Secretariat, in close coordination with Task AR 07-02, and will require the support of the ADC. A proposal will be prepared by the Secretariat for acceptance by the **Executive Committee at its 13th meeting in July.**



Evaluation, Validation and Upgrade

Throughout its development and implementation, the Portal and its components need to be **evaluated**. A ***GEO Portal*** initial capability (Version 1) will be available at the end of the first year of implementation and presented at GEO-V Plenary for information (**late 2008**). An evaluation of this version will then be carried out under the coordination of the Architecture and Data Committee (ADC) in cooperation with the team of component Providers.

Recommendations by GEO Committees, GEO Members and Participating Organisations will be taken into account as part of the process.

This evaluation and its associated set of recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee at its 15th meeting in **March 2009**.



Establishment of the Final Framework

The final framework of the ***GEO Portal*** shall be established by the Secretariat for acceptance by Plenary at GEO-VI (**late 2009**). This final step will also formalise the mechanisms and intervals for checking the content and updating the various components of the portal.



SUMMARY

Decision regarding choice of development options (e.g. open source vs. proprietary).

Ongoing in Q1 2008

2. Identification of Providers. By Aug 2008

3. Evaluation and validation of initial developments, to formulate recommendations for further development and implementation. From Q1 to Q2 2009

4. Development of instruments, ways and means to ensure long-term, sustainable operations. Q3 2008 to end 2009

5. Formulation of recommendations for operations (hosting, upgrade and maintenance). 2009

6. Establishment of the final framework based on lessons learned from the technical evaluation and validation phases as well as available instruments, ways and means identified and accepted by GEO. Mid 2008 to mid 2009

So this process evolves over two years, of which the first year will focus on establishing a *GEO Portal* initial capability, to be tested by GEO Members and Participating Organisations for its concept, structure and functionalities. The second year will provide for refining, completing and validating the *GEO Portal* solution in full,



So what have we done ?

In previous CBCs we established and agreed a set of CB-related requirements to be placed upon the GEO Portal.



At the Strategic Level the CB portal will address:

- 1 the needs of **human** capacity building and make individuals aware of access to and use of information.**
- 2 the needs of **Institutional** capacity building and will focus on developing and fostering an understanding of both the value of Earth observations, and making the most effective and synergistic use of them to enhance decision making at all levels.**
- 3 the needs of **Infrastructure** capacity building, and provide information related to the use of hardware, software and other technologies required to access, use and develop Earth observation data and products for decision making.**
- 4 all GEO societal benefit areas (SBAs).**



At the Strategic Level the CB portal will also address:

- 5 an interface to a comprehensive set of databases, catalogues, archives, services and other reference material suitable as educational and capacity building tools.**
- 6 existing CB efforts and identify best practices in developed and developing countries.**
- 7 the development of criteria and standards for Earth observation capacity building.**
- 8 the identification of gaps between available and required Earth observations**
- 9 the identification of gaps between existing and required capacity building programmes.**

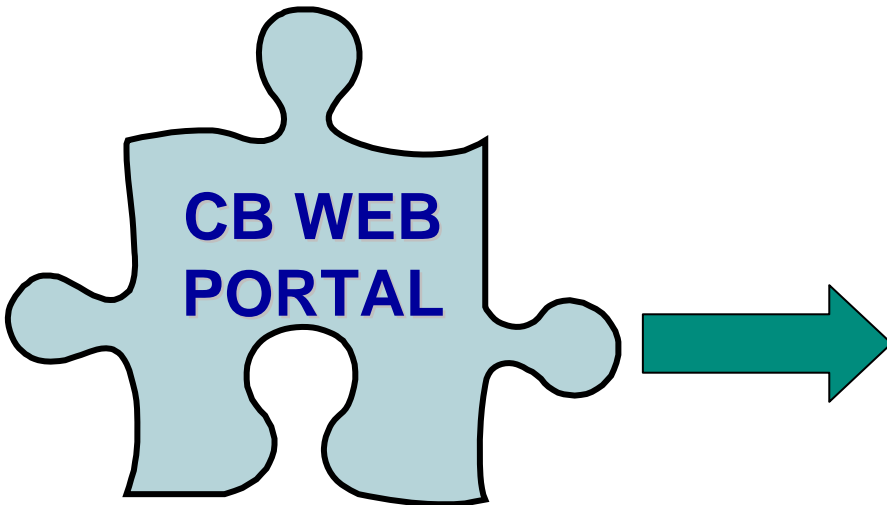


At the more practical level the CB portal will

- 1 serve as an effective means of coordinating, networking and linking EO education, training and data sources.**
- 2 provide global outreach to individuals, students, trainers, scientists, professional users, and decision makers.**
- 3 build upon, and frequently link to existing Earth observation capacity building portals and on-line resources.**
- 4 enable access to downloadable capacity building data (including near real-time datasets), products and tools.**
- 5 enable access to open courseware and e-learning material, open source Earth observation software as well as capacity building outreach material.**



- 6 It will provide a mechanism for dissemination of information to foster donor engagement. Specifically, it should encourage donors towards well established institutional development needs and priorities in the Earth observation community.**
- 7 CB registries available via the GEOSS Web Portal should be updated via biennial surveys which gather evolving information on capacity building activities from the Earth observation community.**
- 8 It will enable the Identification and analysis of CB related gaps in the population of the registries of the GEOSS Clearinghouse.**
- 9 The level of use of the various elements of the CB portal will be assessed on a regular basis to determine what information on the site is in greatest demand by the user community to ensure that future development is targeted in areas of greatest need and use.**



SUMMARY

- Outreach (CB0604 – & use of GEONETCAST capabilities)
- Education and training materials, open courseware and e-learning materials **across all SBA's** (CB0701d)
- Open source software and training guides & tools (CB0701e)
- Registries of good practice (CB0701b)
- Registries of Needs
- Registries of “Donors” (CB0701a)
- Links to other portals



Andwhat else should we consider ?

- Use of the WIKI for CB
As a chat forum, information channel, pointer to good practice,
- Use of the GEONETCast “training channel” is seen as a key component of the CB portal, but it needs configuration and management (task team ?)
- Close coordination with ADC, but also with UIC, is clearly very important



And

Linkage to, e.g. Disaster management “knowledge” portal

And to other CB portals as we become aware of them

Finally, to be worth the effort, its performance must be better than “Google” and sustainable !

So it will need input, management, quality checks and regular updates.....i.e. **human resources and funding**