Why is the OGC WMS 1.3.0 standard important for OneGeology?

Dr. Tim Duffy • British Geological Survey
Edinburgh, U.K. td@bgs.ac.uk
And Satish Sankaran • ESRI Inc and OGC WMS standards Editor

What is WMS?

A Web Map Service (WMS) produces maps of spatially referenced data dynamically from geographic information.

The OGC 1.3 Web Map Service (also referenced as ISO 19128) is an International Standard. The specification was developed and first published by the Open Geospatial Consortium in 1999.

This International Standard defines a “map” to be a portrayal of geographic information as a digital image file suitable for display on a computer screen.

WMS-produced maps are generally rendered in a pictorial format such as PNG, GIF or JPEG, or occasionally as vector-based graphical elements in Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) format.

WMS

A WMS server interacts with a WMS client via the HTTP protocol.

The WMS specification defines a number of request types, and for each of them a set of query parameters and associated behaviors.

GetCapabilities: return service level metadata.

GetMap: returns a map whose geographic and dimensional parameters are well-defined.

GetFeatureInfo: return info about particular feature(s) on a map.

WMS Versions

OGC WMS
- Version 1.0 (2000)
- Version 1.1 (2001)

ISO WMS
- ISO 19128 WMS Specification is same as OGC 1.3

INSPIRE
- View Service – (based on ISO19128 / WMS 1.3)

WMS 1.3

It is advisable to use the WMS 1.3 specifications over the older versions of the specification.

1. The WMS 1.3 Specification is an International Standard (ISO 19128). Therefore it is considered more universally acceptable. All older versions of the WMS spec have been deprecated by OGC.

2. WMS 1.3 is the base version for the INSPIRE view service.

3. In WMS 1.1.1, geographic coordinate systems specified with the EPSG namespace are defined to have an axis ordering of longitude/latitude. 1.3.0 tightens the requirements with strict guidance based on axes order as specified by EPSG.

4. The 1.3 GetMap operation distinguishes Spatial reference System (SRS) from Coordinate Reference System (CRS).

5. The WMS 1.3 does not reference the old SLD specification, but instead can be used in conjunction with the newer SLD profile of wms specification and the Symbology encoding specification.

6. WMS 1.3 utilizes XML schemas and moves away from the use of DTD’s.

From the OneGeology WMS cookbook: