

Angus GeoSolutions Inc. (AGSI) GO360™ Survey Registry Portal enables the Ottawa Surveyors' Registry to get their plans online.....

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A Case Study

The Background:

For several years, the survey community in the Ottawa area has maintained a co-operative registry of survey work. The group self-funded a 'brick and mortar' office where survey plans and real property reports were microfilmed and indexed. For research purposes, any member of the registry could search geographically for relevant survey work. The idea of the registry was to reduce research time, improve search accuracy and reduce fees. Costs were shared in a user-pay scenario based on the frequency of searches. Until as recently as 3 years ago, plans were being microfilmed and indexed manually.

With the advent of automated film scanners and much reduced scanning fees, the Surveyors' Registry group members sought to scan and maintain an electronic inventory of all indexed survey plans. Additionally, realizing that it was a simple step to 'geo-locate' each plan based on the previously compiled geographic indexes, the registry had a third party company scan and provide a geo-location for each plan. Over 60,000 scans were delivered in PDF format along with a location code.

Initially, the Surveyors' Registry members individually maintained their own inventory of electronic scans. Most firms used their own CAD programs to map, find and display these scans. Additionally, new survey plans and real property reports were emailed in PDF format to a central email address for continued redistribution to all members by mail.

At this point it was determined by most group members that a central repository would be more efficient. One maintained dataset would be better than many. Also, various members of the Surveyors' Registry were exploring their own options for managing their company survey records more effectively. There was the ongoing problem of space management along with the potential risk of loss due to fire or water damage. Consideration of permanent document management solutions for both private and common records was discussed among members. It was decided that a web-based solution would be optimal. The Surveyors' Registry sought the advice and expertise of a company named Angus GeoSolutions Inc. (AGSI) to bundle a solution for the group

as well as possibly offer further refined internal document management solutions.

Initial meetings about the challenges and the requirements were discussed among the members. A mock-up of the application was developed by AGSI Inc. for input and discussion. Requirements were itemized as listed in an application business requirement and the portal specifications were designed accordingly. The resultant application portal was named the GO360 Survey Registry Portal. The portal was designed to use any standard browser and was supported by a relational database. It is an application that can be customized or changed rapidly to suit individual requirements. The GO360 Survey Registry Portal does not use middleware or proprietary software, which enhances user performance and reduces cost but not functionality.

The User Requirements:

- Survey Plans had to be shared and readily available online to the registry members. Authorized users want unencumbered access to post and modify their respective survey plans as required.
- Searches for survey plans had to be performed with ease. There had to be multiple options on how to search for survey plans. Whether by address, or Lot and Concession, the registry members wanted flexibility in finding a survey plan.
- Notification that plans were being added to the system was an important factor. If plans were posted to the portal or their position modified in any way, the members wanted confirmation that the changes had taken place.
- Controlled on-line access was required for members. The portal is currently available to the survey or member community only through a secure controlled user access username/password protection. In the near future, those members who want to make their plans available online to the public for sale will have the capability to do so.
- Training requirements are minimal. The users are provided their log-on identification numbers and user passwords and will have immediate access to the portal. It is very intuitive and users can begin posting their plans immediately.

The Business Solution:

The Survey Registry Portal utilizes AGSI's GO360 technology, which was developed for the purpose of collecting and verifying detailed address information throughout Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan by AGSI's field research crews.

The Ottawa Surveyors' Registry members are each assigned a username and password. Once the user is logged into the portal he/she is prompted to comply with the standard terms and conditions for its use.

The user is presented with a main map-viewing window, which in the Ottawa case is a map of the City of Ottawa. The portal, however, has the capacity to present the entire Province of Ontario, road network, address points or parcel maps. The City of Ottawa provided the use of their own road network for the members of the Ottawa Surveyors' Registry. In (Figure 1) all survey files are represented by coloured points.

The search window in (Figure 1) presents the user with several search options. Users can search by address, intersection or survey plan. However other search parameters can include lot and concession, municipal address, intersection or MTM coordinates. The GO360 Survey Registry is very flexible with its search capabilities. For example, once a search is conducted by address, the address appears in the search results window. The user then selects the Get Map

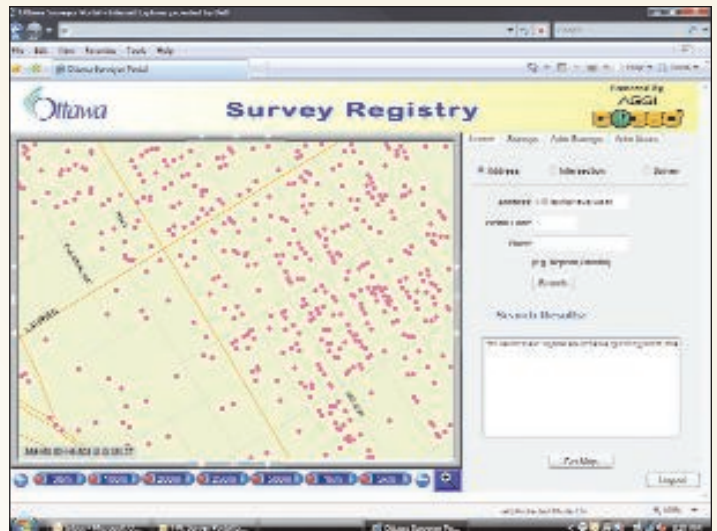


Figure 1.

button, which centers the map on the selected address.

The user can then select a survey point to view, and the survey plan number associated with this address is highlighted (see blue dot in Figure 2). By selecting the Open button the user opens the survey plan number associated with the address point and can now open the associated survey plans, notes etc.

The user has the option to either add their plans at the

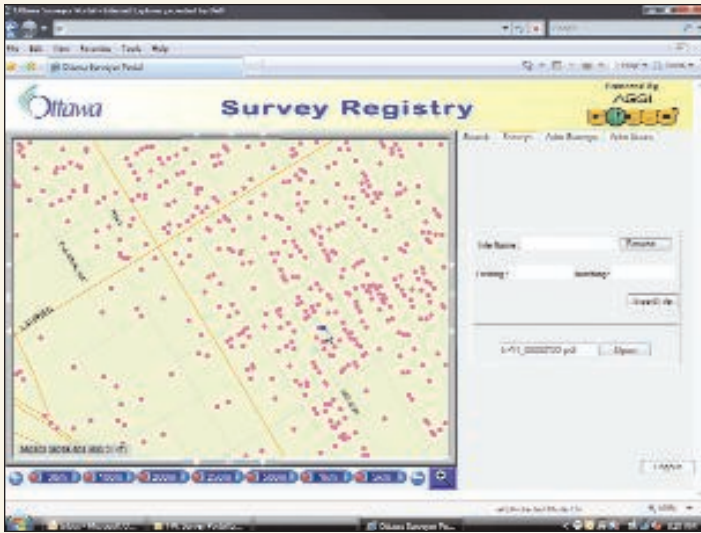


Figure 2.

selected address or to initiate a location modification. All changes are date and time stamped and each survey firm member adding or modifying a survey plan receives an e-mail confirming the posting.

The user can also select and highlight a geo-referenced dot, which represents a survey point, and view the accompanying survey plan. The Ottawa Surveyors' Registry has adopted the posting of their plans in PDF (Figure 3). The GO360 Survey Registry Portal can be quickly implemented online for OLS members who have digital survey records and are looking to/for:

- protect their survey assets,
- access them quickly,
- a geo-referenced placement for their survey plans.

In summary, the GO360 Survey Registry Portal is an intuitive application service that enables and empowers the land information professional with a high level of functionality and responsiveness for its members. The survey plans are maintained in secure and a protected digital environment that improves searching accuracy and reduces the amount of time on plan searches thus saving the survey member both time and money on a respective project.

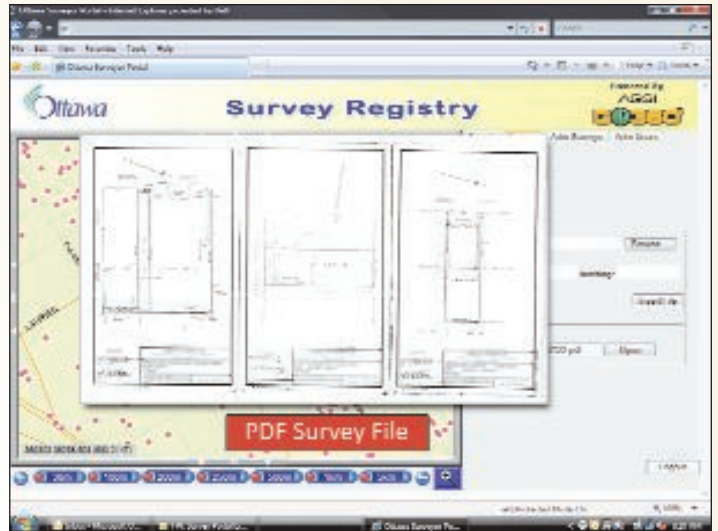


Figure 3.