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ABSTRACT

Web Map Service (WMS) is a standard defined by the Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC). It defines a convenient way to use maps and other geo-referenced data from different services on the Internet in order to create composite maps. This standard offers easy access to large amounts of cartographic data using only the World Wide Web and a Web Browser as a client. The WMS technology is emerging on the Internet and offers new opportunities with free access to maps. The WMS technology can therefore be easily adopted and integrated into other projects.

Since 2000-2001, geo-information has been recognized by the Norwegian Government as one of the key aspects of their vast e-Gov Program called e-Norge. The requirement was to set up an interoperable infrastructure for using, accessing, presenting, sharing and exchanging Spatial Data across a number of different administrations. In November last year, the Norwegian GeoPortal was pre-launched. One of the goals of this portal has been to improve the infrastructure and accessibility of geospatial information through web portals. The partners in this project have already launched several new portals which gives access to a wide variety of geospatial information. WMS is the core technology used for development. Another goal with GeoPortal was to establish an environment for automated development of applications, to face the fast growing requirement for new online services using geospatial information.

The Norwegian Directorate for Primary and Secondary Education has developed an Action Plan for the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for educational purposes. One of the goals was to develop an Internet site, The Norwegian Schoolnet, which offers resources and content to support teachers and pupils in their work. Geography is taught on different levels in Primary and Secondary school. The Norwegian Schoolnet site is still, however, in lack of extended geographic resources to offer for educational purposes.

This project focuses on the possible integration of the WMS technology for use as a recourse for geography teachers. The aim is to build a resource database for teachers, explain the main objectives of the WMS technology, and to show how this technology can be adopted for educational purposes. In addition, a thin WMS Client will be developed. Teachers will get an introduction to the WMS technology, which in turn should make them able to exploit resources on the Internet for individual projects.

