





















1. What type of organization do you work for or represent?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Municipality		36	37%
2	State Agency		13	13%
3	Public Utility		2	2%
4	Private Utility		4	4%
5	Municipal Utility		4	4%
6	K-12 Education		0	0%
7	Higher Education		8	8%
8	Non-Profit		4	4%
9	For Profit		13	13%
10	Other		4	4%
11	Federal Agency		0	0%
12	Regional Agency		13	13%

2. What is your current job role?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	GIS Manager		35	36%
2	GIS Analyst		23	24%
3	GIS Technician		13	13%
4	IT Manager		2	2%
5	IT Analyst		1	1%
6	Engineer		4	4%
7	Planner		9	9%
8	Educator		6	6%
9	Environmental Scientist		7	7%
10	Other (please list)		13	13%

Other (please list)

Intern

Environmental Assistant/GIS

Fire Marshal

Chief Land Surveyor

Saff Development and Training

GIS user

GIS/CAD Operator

Consultant

wastewater chief operator





GIS Director

Account Manager

Wetlands,Aquifer,Zoning

Surveyor

3. What is your self-described level of GIS proficiency?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Neophyte/Newbie		0	0%
2	Casual User		8	8%
3	Fairly proficient		23	23%
4	Advanced user		45	45%
5	Professional Geogeek		24	24%
	Total		100	

4. Rank the following in order of importance to you and your day to day GIS activities:

#	Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Responses
1	Making maps for presentation	30	22	31	13	1	0	97
2	Data analysis	21	38	20	16	1	1	97
3	Database creation and management	38	19	27	10	2	1	97
4	Recreation/personal use	0	2	1	19	62	13	97
5	Using existing maps/data for geographic reference	4	14	15	36	27	1	97
6	Other:	4	2	3	3	4	81	97
	Total	97	97	97	97	97	97	-

Other:

Publish GIS services and develop web apps

Learning new things to teach students

Teaching GIS

Website presentation of data

Teaching GIS to undergraduates

Update Geodatabase, support engineering with mapping requests

Data creation

Application creation and management

Emergency Planning and Response

using data is number 1 - this ranking didn't work

web GIS

Data development for online GIS

world domination

Keeping current on advances

record management

Making maps, apps, map books for management purposes

GIS system administration







Asset Management / CMOM

accessing infrastructure data



Lidar and UAV analysis

Set Policy for data mgmt. and dissemination.



5. How long have you been a member of the CT GIS User to User Group?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Less than 6 months		6	6%
2	6 months to a year		7	7%
3	1 to 2 years		11	12%
4	3 to 5 years		12	13%
5	Over 5 years		38	40%
6	Been here since the beginning!		20	21%
	Total		94	





6. Have you attended a User to User meeting in the past year?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		50	52%
2	No		46	48%
	Total		96	

7. Have you visited the User to User website in the past year?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		67	69%
2	No		30	31%
	Total		97	






8. What was your primary reason for joining the CT GIS User to User Group?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Networking with GIS professionals		40	42%
2	To expand your GIS knowledge		22	23%
3	To stay in the know about GIS initiatives in CT		33	34%
4	To market my product/program to the CT GIS community		0	0%
5	I just like meetings, they get me out of the office		0	0%
6	Other		1	1%
	Total		96	




Other

Haven't joined yet





9. In your opinion, what is the best day of the work week to hold meetings?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Monday		2	2%
2	Tuesday		17	18%
3	Wednesday		21	22%
4	Thursday		18	19%
5	Friday		37	39%
	Total		95	

10. Do morning meetings or afternoon meetings fit best into your work schedule?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Morning (9 AM- 12 PM)		45	46%
2	Afternoon (1-4 PM)		19	20%
3	Doesn't matter!		33	34%
	Total		97	

11. In your opinion, what is the best format for conducting meetings?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Half day, in person meetings		82	85%
2	Full day, in person meetings		3	3%
3	Virtual web meetings		7	7%
4	I have another idea		5	5%
	Total		97	

I have another idea

Meetings should never be more than 2 hours






a combination of half day meetings with a virtual web option for those unable to travel to in-person meetings.

I would do some as half day and some as virtual web meetings, but also leave the option for people to attend the half day meeting using virtual meeting.

half day and webcast for those who can not attend in person

Happy hour?




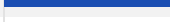

12. In your opinion, what is the best (most convenient) location for U2U meetings?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Central CT		82	86%
2	Northeast CT		6	6%
3	Southeast CT		3	3%
4	Southwest CT		9	9%
5	Northwest CT		0	0%
6	My town/city of choice is:		8	8%

My town/city of choice is:

- Middletown
- Middletown, it's in the middle
- New Britain (CCSU)
- Hartford
- New Haven
- East Hartford
- New Haven
- New Haven

13. Overall, how satisfied have you been with the CT GIS U2U?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
0	Very Dissatisfied		2	2%
1	Somewhat Dissatisfied		3	3%
2	Neutral		42	47%
3	Somewhat Satisfied		34	38%
4	Totally Satisfied		8	9%
	Total		89	

14. Rank the following in order of influence on your decision to attend a U2U meeting:

#	Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total Responses
1	Location of Meeting	32	24	9	6	10	3	0	1	85
2	Meeting Time	6	19	19	15	13	12	1	0	85
3	Meeting Length	1	1	16	16	22	14	15	0	85
4	Speakers/Presenters on Agenda	30	19	10	15	6	5	0	0	85
5	Training Opportunity on Agenda	5	13	13	12	24	15	3	0	85
6	Networking Opportunity	8	8	13	12	8	30	6	0	85
7	Ability to Present to Peers	0	1	4	9	2	6	60	3	85
8	Other:	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	81	85
	Total	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	-

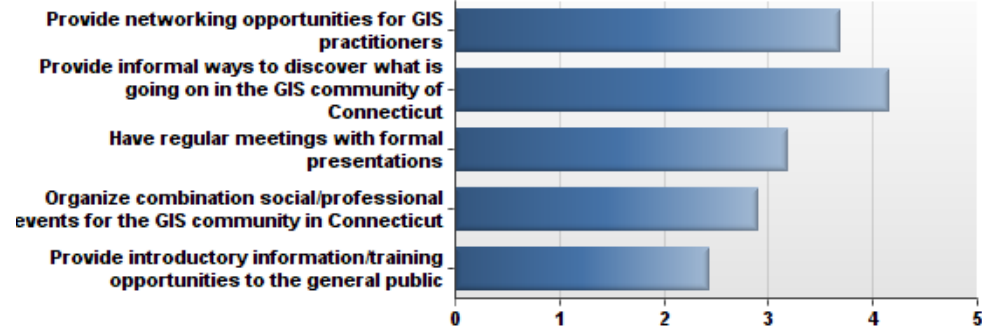
Other:

If work will let me be non-billable

overall topics to be covered



don't attend because of work commitments

15. On a sliding scale where 0 indicates low priority and 5 indicates high priority, how important is it to you that the CT GIS U2U...



#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Provide networking opportunities for GIS practitioners	1.00	5.00	3.69	1.14	89
2	Provide informal ways to discover what is going on in the GIS community of Connecticut	2.00	5.00	4.15	0.78	89
3	Have regular meetings with formal presentations	0.00	5.00	3.18	1.11	88
4	Organize combination social/professional events for the GIS community in Connecticut	1.00	5.00	2.89	1.24	87
5	Provide introductory information/training opportunities to the general public	0.00	5.00	2.43	1.45	82

16. Do you feel that the current format of the U2U is attractive to the full spectrum of GIS users (i.e. everyone from novices to GISPs)? If not, what can be changed so as to encourage greater participation from the entire user base?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		55	68%
2	No (Please explain why)		26	32%
	Total		81	

No (Please explain why)

Need more diverse representation of GIS users on steering committee. I think we should be doing more with K-12 and universities. I remember the meetings at Southern and Central were fairly well attended.

I have no idea what the format is. I am sorry that I'm so out of it.

I don't think a lot of new GIS professionals know about the network. Most know about it through word of mouth. Meetings should be publicized better and meeting dates picked more in advance.

Word has to be put out to new users through local schools or at near a meetings.

Needs to be better organized with a schedule of topics and presentations. The schedule should be available in advance so that people can plan ahead. Perhaps a training module or tips and tricks session for each meeting to attract users who are stuck in routine GIS processes at their jobs and would like to expand their skills.

I cannot expand on this.

A full explanation and training opportunities for free and open source software options like GVsig, Quantum, MapWindows, and others. The initial costs for purchasing "the widely used software" is an inmountable cost for most communitie. A FREE option would garner tremendous interest and likely a large amount of news coverage.

I came across the the group just by chance while looking on the UCONN CLEAR website. The group should reach out to local municipalities and build its network of potential members. Connecticut emergency service departments has a dire need for GIS implementation in its daily operations, and an opportunity to have a voice and join the network would be invaluable.

It seems there are limited opportunities for interaction.

Create mentoring program where veteran user-members are matched with new user-members to provide new GIS folks with guidance navigating membership, mentoring to create networking and camaraderie, and leadership to build and nurture future CT GIS U2U Network leadership.

I think moving the meeting around helps allow different sets of people attend, but maybe more information in what the venues have (wifi, parking, plugs) might help attract people. I like the different presentations each time, and I think they keep up with current issues well, but maybe some type of teaching module could happen each time to attract more novices. I think more participation could be attracted when it promises contributions with results across the state, so becoming more of an influencing body might help keep the attendance high. More active social network presences with all members able to participate, or feeds of the listserv could help attract new people.

No, for years I have not seen upper level GIS professionals from across the state regularly attending meetings. If ever. These are people whose careers are to direct and manage GIS/IT depts and implement large scale projects in organizations across CT. They are rarely if ever represented. Why? Most probably bc of time limitations but perhaps also because of lack of interesting content at meetings. I will say, though, that over the last 10 years or so, the presentations have gotten MUCH better and the really good and interesting ones have been especially well attended. Even if the group had to bring in people from out of state (like the NYC Fire Dept). The NEARC-sponsored Lightning Talks really showcase what sort of cool projects are being done around the state but most go unnoticed except in that specific short 5min presentation. Clearly there are fascinating projects going on. Are most daunted by a public 20min presentation?

I tried to pick yes and an explanation. The meetings are typically well attended which shows that they meet the need. However, I remember a meeting 5 years back on LIDAR which was really interesting and has proven to be a hot topic. I like that users give presentations and it is not just a ESRI dog and pony show. It would be nice to branch out into other organizations like CCM/GMIS to do something jointly. Too often GIS users are working in a cave, and in reality are GeoAware IT professionals.

Not sure about this. How has the U2U measured who participates?

The U2U meeting would have more value if we moved beyond simple formal presentations to offering more detailed advanced trainings. There are many other groups that provide an atmosphere to attend and present formal presentations and I do not think we need to spend 4 hours do the same type.

The business sector is often missing from U2U meetings as many of them are occasional GIS users. Need to provide opportunities for small to large businesses to showcase GIS usage and discuss their needs for data.

Haven't attended--probably just on this list from NEURISA conference

It might be beneficial for someone like me to be able to attend a "new user" group; so that we can get our feet wet without starting out too far behind.

haven't heard about any meetings over the listserv in a long time

I think the people that know what is going on tend to be the people that attend the meetings, but U2U should think about having an outreach program to try to bring new people and industries that are using the technology and related technologies in more.

Not attractive to casual/introductory users. These types of users might feel that they are "not good enough" to be part of a GIS user network. Need to market the group to students and other young professionals who are entering the field. I think the education aspect of the network is very important, along with networking for students and fresh grads to find internships and employment with organizations that use GIS. There really is little need for veteran users to network with one another; the networking is really important to the young users just coming into the scene.

its good to see how different users implement the technology but I'd like more time to learn the steps or more tips and tricks on how something was done.




Not sure I have only attended one meeting.

N/A - I don't have enough insight to provide an informed response

The last meeting I attended had what I would estimate to be around 30 people attending. There are certainly significantly more GIS users and professionals in CT, so I would say it is not being effective.

I can't speak to the range and needs of the members. I'm interested in training and things of that nature.

17. The User Network is considering applying for non-profit status, allowing us to raise and spend funds. Non-profit status will allow the Network to provide more services but may also result in a membership fee and a more formal structure. Do you think the U2U should be a non-profit organization?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes, let's look into it.		49	56%
2	No, that's a bad idea.		12	14%
3	Maybe (please elaborate).		27	31%
	Total		88	

Maybe (please elaborate).

Only if it is a nominal membership fee (\$10/year)

I would hate to exclude those unable to pay dues (students, young professionals, professionals whose employers won't pay and the individuals themselves also don't want to pay.

A membership fee might keep people from joining, but dues could be collected in small bites.

would need more info (possible services provided, fee ranges, etc.) to make informed decision. U2U should explore several scenarios (low cost/service, mid-range, high-end) and then open discussions.

How many casual members would drop if there was a fee?

If it helps build the group, and provide funds for training opportunities, I think its a great idea.

As long as membership fee doesn't prohibit people from joining.

My Town would never pay a fee. I feel that they should but there is no one in my Town that seems to understand the importance of GIS. Not much funding available and soon no one will be in this Town to do it. I will be leaving the Town in a few months. I doubt they will replace my position.

Independent of a Yes, No, Maybe answer, this topic should be communicated with the user group members with complete transparency. It's been brought up in the past in snippets without leading anywhere. For people who don't know what non-profit status grants a group: "Non-profit status will allow the Network to provide more services"

Best to keep it open to anyone and somewhat informal. I'm afraid membership dues would change the feeling of the group.

How would these funds be spent? What is the need for non-profit status? This has been discussed for the past two years at least, what is the point of further discussing this topic if no movement is occurring?

Only if necessary for the network to continue functioning. If its just so food can be provided, then I would say NO.

Bad idea. I think it would work against the casual, friendly atmosphere of the group, and I think few members would be willing to pay dues, especially casual users and students.

It would be nice to have funds to spend on the GIS community in CT. However, there are a number of issues to overcome when becoming a non-profit. The biggest concern that I have is that leadership will have to switch focus from promoting GIS issues to fundraising. If the funds need to come from members, it will likely decrease membership. If corporate sponsors are willing to provide a bulk of the funds it could work.




It doesnt make a difference to me

Don't know

Cost can be an issue...

Who would administer the non profit status? From where would you raise funds?

18. In the future, would you be willing to support a dues structure with annual membership costs?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes, if it means bigger and better things from the U2U		42	48%
2	No way, never!		10	11%
3	Maybe (feel free to elaborate)		36	41%
	Total		88	

Maybe (feel free to elaborate)

Only if the dues are nominal \$10/year

I would hate to exclude those unable to pay dues (students, young professionals, professionals whose employers won't pay and the individuals themselves also don't want to pay.

see previous answer

Dues=sponsored training opportunities

Wealth spoils value and opens the door to ill will.

Town doesn't support my efforts with GIS. Plus I will retire soon and probably no one will take my place.

Depending on the price\$\$\$

Depends on how the dues would be used and cost structure. Based on the past couple of user my organization would not find dues to for U2U to be worth the expense.

If it leads to benefits like training and continuing ed, then yes. If its just to pay for meeting locations and food, then NO. (Might lose membership if people have to pay.)



I already work for a non-profit, so I don't have the free income to join another dues group and my employer is unlikely to pay my membership.

I don't see the point

Shelton is stingy but a reasonable annual fee (~\$100/year), I think, would be acceptable.

If the fees are reasonable (not greater than \$50 per year)

19. Would you pay an entrance fee for GIS Day if it included lunch and was structured as the Network's annual conference?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		60	70%
2	No (please explain why not)		26	30%
	Total		86	

No (please explain why not)

It's always on a day I teach in NY state.

If I could get reimbursed through my employment

Free GIS Day attracts more new people. Most GIS Day events are free.

GIS Day should be geared more towards attracting other, non-GIS and new GIS users.

there are too many of these events in this area already. URISA Day, Spring NEARC, etc.

don't find the meetings that valuable

GIS Day should be about sharing, celebrating and marketing, not trying to turn a buck. I don't see attendance spiking with an entrance fee, nor do I see a financial windfall. No real in here.

Don't attend GIS day now

I never attend GIS Day now.

Municipal funding is tight, any fees involved would be more of a hassle to secure than it would be worth.

GIS Day is about showcaing the wonders of GIS to the world, not just GIS professionals. An entrance fee may discourage those who are not GIS professionals but could benefit from seeing what GIS can do for them.

I would pay out of my own pocket if I where to stay involved in GIS but my career will be ending soon. I have all I can do to get them to fund all the work we have already in place to use our GIS and do annual parcel updates. So I doubt they would pay into this if the Town I work for even fills my position.

probably not, it's hard to get the company to pay for anything nowadays.

I don't feel GIS day should be based on paying a fee, I would not participate.

This gets dangerously close to other 1 day GIS fall meetings in or near CT, like NEGIS and NEURISA. I wouldn't want to see these efforts compete with each other.

Based on past experience at GIS Day put on by the U2U group I would not. Though if the format was changed I might.

Keeping events free enables greater participation

My office has no budget for dues and fees

I don't think the general public would spend money to attend - particularly if they had no idea what GIS is. I have a difficult time justifying attending a GIS day event given my schedule and workload

If it were in the area.

20. Do you have any suggestions on how we might improve GIS Day?

Text Response

Spread it out, encourage local GIS Day activities, perhaps even at local high and middle schools.

Central location with free and easy parking. More talks, more swag and more networking opportunities, maybe a happy hour after. :-)

Teach something

N:a

have simualteous events across the state not just one location.

Try to include an outdoor activity as well as interesting presentations. Look at what was good in previous years and build on that.

More outreach efforts to entice educational groups (schools, community groups, etc.) to attend and learn. Interactive displays and/or activities.

more software vendors - these vendors must have more options than the widely used software" - GIS Day must stress free and open source - it will be the path to garner more support and interest

keynote speakers of significance in the industry or who have something of value to contribute to the industry. more public exposure through the media.

Have some information put together for Towns regarding the importance of funding GIS. Good Luck!

Keep the event centrally located. Think outside the box for marketing and advertising

Set up volunteer work during the time peroid.

I haven't been able to attend one yet.

Advertise. Try and get the public to come (may interfere with the pay for play option). GIS day should be about reaching out to the community to see what it is. Perhaps it should be rebranded geography day or something that isn't so scary for most folks.

I think it work well the way it has been operated in the past

more participation, numbers are low. I think if more people went including college students it would promote GIS positively

Get more people involved early in the planning process. GIS Day, and network meetings in general, have suffered from late planning and announcements.

Whatever is done, keep it light and fun. Unique speakers are always good, like the guy from Mystic Seaport who did a talk on whaling. What about a GIS Day poster competition where competitors have the same set of data and each person has to make a map with that data. Best map wins.

I have not had the pleasure of attending.

Start organizing it in May instead of October

GIS Day would greatly benefit from some training sessions or tutorials to help users grow their GIS skills, rather than a series of talks about "we accomplished this using GIS"

GIS day is supposed to be about promotign GIS in your own work, I don;t see the point to having it for people who already use GIS

Better Advertising. More opportunities for students to be engaged - maybe contests, etc.

meaningful topics that have real meaning for municipal organizations and utilities.

21. What suggestions do you have to help improve the CT GIS User to User Network? Anything goes!

Text Response

Fill the void of the Geospatial Council. Help coordinate/support GIS base mapping activities.

The purpose of the network needs to be better defined. It's lacked leadership over the past few years and has really suffered as a result. Strong, active leadership is key but the direction and definition of the network should be determined by everyone that considers themselves to be part of the network. This survey is a good start.

Online resources, tips, links to helpful tools

training options for GVsigt

Reach out to the municipalities via the regional Council of Governments (COG)

More frequent communications with members - success stories on the use of GIS to solve a problem; awards and accomplishments of GIS professionals in CT; noteworthy or interesting events; regional, state and federal GIS initiatives; grant opportunities; data development plans and opportunities for multiple organizations to collaborate and leverage their funding; interesting tidbits...

regularly scheduled meetings a regularly published newsletter of interesting content regular outreach and education opportunities

I think your CT GIS User to User Network has been the best. I learned so much from many of the meetings. It was always interesting. I feel that many of the Towns that use GIS have relied on very few people with knowledge and skills to do GIS. Maybe at the meetings you can come up with a way to keep pressing the state to fund local government to keep what we have going. Also, to keep the local government informed with the importance of GIS and how it helps there community. They need to set aside more funds for this. They also need to realize the importance of having trained personnel and value those people. I was pretty much a one person show working with consultants to get the GIS to where it is now in my Town. I will be retiring soon and I doubt my Town will fill my position. Mainly because they wouldn't even change my job title, I am still a Party Chief. On that note it's hard to replace a job that doesn't exist.

Website needs regular updating!! Homepage is where you hook visitors - there's no hook there. Would love to help improve the website if you're looking for folks!

Change times once in a while: maybe 8-12 or 1-4 or a happy hour.

Patches! Surveys like this.

Have a strong, committed, accountable, and *communicative* Steering Committee providing clear direction for the User Group. Having not heard a peep from the group or any of the newly elected steering committee members since March is not a great start. Everyone has been wondering if the group disbanded. Regarding the "best most convenient location" question: The most convenient location for the most members to come to most meetings is always Hartford or New Haven. But rotating the location to four locations for the four meetings per year to allow most members access to a meeting is still the best option; one in Stamford area, one in New Haven, one in New London, one in Hartford.

Without the carrot and the stick, like the Geospatial Council, it is not apparent to me how the User to User network would be able to fill in the void. There is no funding provided to do a flight or to provide standards (parcel standard, address standard) and nobody is doing this work anymore. How can an outside non-profit develop these standards? I suppose we could look at CALS for guidance as they have had much success.

Better communication of what is going on, when meetings will be, etc.

advanced trainings, expand beyond ESRI products, reduce the number of formal presentations, discuss collaborations.

Keep to a quarterly schedule. If having trouble with getting presenters, maybe combine meetings with NEURISA or NEARC.

Creating and pushing a legislative agenda.

I will think about this, but something for new users to assist getting comfortable.

Do not loose sight of what the network is. It does not need to be anything bigger or better than it already is, just needs to do a better job of doing what it already does, which is bringing GIS people together to learn, network, and stay informed. If possible, expand on the education aspect by offering occasional trainings (doesn't need to be high-level training, but could be something as simple as people sharing tips and small how-to demonstrations).

I'd like more hands on training or workshops

if held in the afternoon, end the event at a bar or restaurant with food/drink available.