



AC SIS NEWS



FEATURES

- Renewed Calls For A National Approach To Spatial Data
- Wolfram | Alpha
- Your PI Premium – How Is It Calculated?
- Warning On GPS Jamming Threats
- Social Networking & Recruitment in the Surveying & Spatial Industries



AC SIS LTD

Facilitating Insurance and Financial Products for the Spatial Information Industry.

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the 2011 Autumn edition of ACSIS News that features some interesting articles on artificial intelligence.

It's approaching annual audit time again. ACSIS Ltd, in keeping with past policy, will again be conducting voluntary audits prior to 2011 OPI renewals.

The audits will be conducted online with a minimum of 10% of participants being field audited.

The audit is based on the "Dimensions" Risk Management publication which has recently been updated. In the near future a copy will be mailed to you on a complimentary USB storage stick.

The audits offer a valuable basic health check of your firm and for those with a satisfactory score you can gain up to 10% off your base PI premium.

The audits are completely free to ACSIS members. Your participation is highly recommended.

AC SIS Ltd recently commissioned an online member research to gain valuable insights into ACSIS service levels and how the organisation can better position itself to meet your needs now and in future.

If you were kind enough to complete the survey – thanks. Results will be analysed shortly.

One of the major reasons for the popularity of ACSIS Ltd PI Insurance is that it has been designed specifically for surveyors and spatial industry professionals – something most members will be grateful for if they have a PI claim!

Ian Marler
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RENEWED CALLS FOR A NATIONAL APPROACH TO SPATIAL DATA

Infrastructure Australia and Assistant Treasurer the Hon Bill Shorten MP have revived industry hopes for a nationally coordinated effort to produce better flood maps.

Two years ago, the Federal Government identified a "highest priority" need for a nationally coordinated Digital Elevation Model (DEM) to study the shifting weather patterns caused by climate change.

A DEM is a digital, three-dimensional model of the ground surface topography, constructed using remote sensing technologies such as photogrammetry, airborne radar and satellite imagery.

"An accurate picture of coastal elevation is critical to assessing risk from inundation as water will obviously move to lower lying areas first where accessible," the Government said in a report on the risks climate change posed to the Australian coastline.

The Government acknowledged that DEMs built in Australia over the past 15 years were built by the private sector, often with government funding, but using varied contractor models.

This resulted in a "fragmented and uncoordinated network of DEMs with varying accuracies and specifications".

The Government hoped to have Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data in place and "maximise its public good use".

But industry observers have noted that little has come of this commitment.

The delays have frustrated the Insurance Council of Australia as well as the Spatial Business Industries Association.

"We've been talking with Government about flood-mapping data as far back as 2006," said Karl Sullivan, General Manager of risk at the Insurance Council of Australia.

"Nowhere in the Government is anybody taking a holistic view about how much this adds to GDP potentially over time by fostering better modelling of the land we all walk around on."

Sullivan said the creation of a robust high quality, high accuracy Digital Elevation Model for the entire country was overdue.

"From that springs a range of other applications – for example flood modelling, which is something we are particularly interested in."

The floods in Queensland appear to have prompted the Government into action.

Chief executive officer of Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA), David Hocking, said he was now being called in for "urgent talks" this week with the office of the Hon Bill Shorten MP, the Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation.

FEATURES

RENEWED CALLS FOR A NATIONAL APPROACH TO SPATIAL DATA

"We want the Government to recognise that had this been done and the information made available, they could have managed the [Queensland Flood] situation better," Hocking told iNews.

He said the Federal Government had to lead efforts to reduce duplication throughout the Federal and State Government agencies and end the "silo mentality" that lay behind duplication and waste in spatial data intelligence.

"We are not talking a lot of money in terms of the other programs that have gone on," Hocking said. "Possibly as little as \$100 million will cover the coastal areas in one go."

A previous log-jam, according to SIBA, was that Infrastructure Australia (IA) - the Federal agency for funding such as capital works - had ruled that spatial data investments did not fit its "criteria for infrastructure".

If so, Infrastructure Australia has changed its position now.

Michael Deegan, IA's National Infrastructure Coordinator informed iNews this week that the organisation "has an interest in this area".

"Should SIBA wish to revisit the case, we would welcome a submission that draws together a stronger economic case than we have received to date. We receive many submissions and the criteria are based largely on the national economic productivity improvements arising from the particular proposal. SIBA could consider this issue more closely in any new proposal."

Hocking said he was delighted with IA's position. While these events create a great deal of initial momentum, he expects a big effort ahead.

"History has shown nothing happens after the dust settles and the media leaves the flood sites - the whole issue completely disappears after the clean-ups."

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Surveyors and friends farewelled Kevin Brown at a dinner on 25 November 2010 at the Mercure Hotel Sydney Airport, Kevin actually retired on 31 December 2010 after many years as ACSIS NSW Claims Manager.

Kevin's duties as ACSIS NSW Claims Manager included:

- Conducting initial evaluations & full investigations of Professional Indemnity Claims Notifications

NEWS

KEVIN BROWN RETIRES AS NSW CLAIMS MANAGER

- Assisting in resolving Professional Indemnity Claims & also assisting insured members of ACSIS Ltd & their Insurers & Brokers
- Acting as an expert witness
- Counseling regarding claims

Over the years many ACSIS Ltd members received valuable assistance from Kevin with regards to Insurance Claims and a range of other issues.

We wish Kevin all the very best in his retirement.

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FEATURES

WOLFRAM | ALPHA

Wolfram | Alpha is more than a search engine, it is a web based tool for computing answers and getting knowledge. It makes the entire world's knowledge systematically computable and accessible. It works by using its vast store of expert-level knowledge to compute answers to questions you ask.

For example if we type in Tasmania this is some of the information it computes:

population	500 300 people
country	Australia
area	64519km ² (square kilometres)

Jeopardy, IBM, & Wolfram | Alpha

Stephen Wolfram Blog

About a month before Wolfram | Alpha launched, I was on the phone with a group from IBM, talking about our vision for computable knowledge in Wolfram | Alpha. A few weeks later, the group announced that they were going to use what they had done in natural language processing to try to make a system to compete on *Jeopardy*.

I thought it was a brilliant way to showcase their work - and IBM's capabilities in general. And now, a year and a half later, IBM has built an impressive level of anticipation for their upcoming *Jeopardy* television event. Whatever happens (and IBM's system certainly should be able to win), one thing is clear: what IBM is doing will have an important effect in changing peoples' expectations for how they might be able to interact with computers.

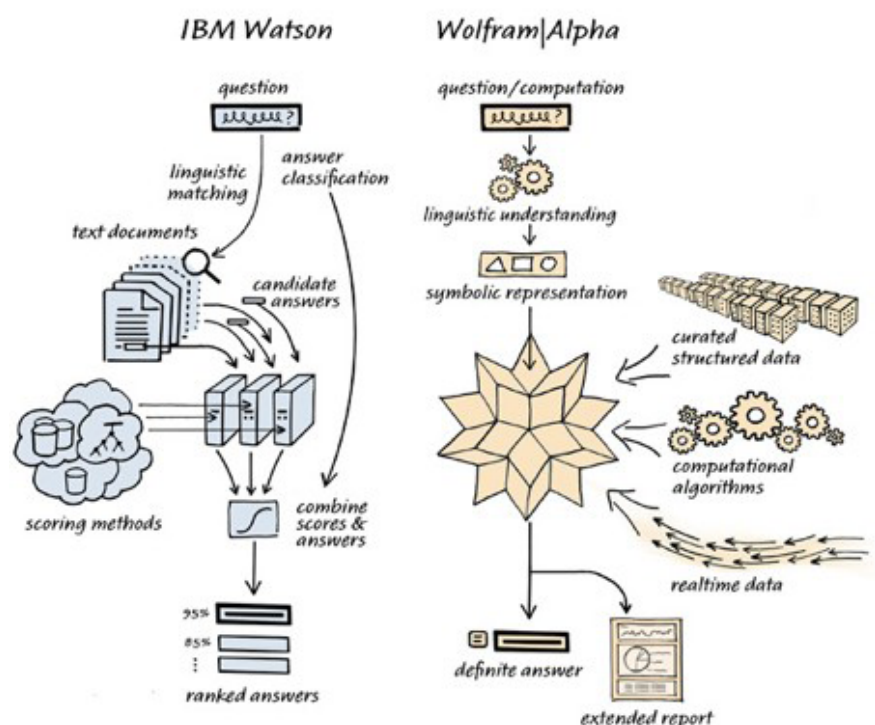
When Wolfram | Alpha was launched, people at first kept on referring to it as a "new search engine" - because basically keyword search was the only model they had for how they might find information on a large scale. But IBM's project gives a terrific example of another model: question answering. And when people internalize this model, they'll be coming a lot closer to realizing what's possible with what we're building in Wolfram | Alpha.

So what really is the relation between Wolfram | Alpha and the IBM *Jeopardy* project?

IBM's basic approach has a long history, with a lineage in the field of information retrieval that is in many ways shared with search engines. The essential idea is to start with textual documents, and then to build a system to statistically match questions that are asked to answers that are represented in the documents. (The first step is to search for textual matches to a question - using thesaurus-like and other linguistic transformations. The harder work is then to take the list of potential answers, use a diversity of different methods to score them, and finally combine these scores to choose a top answer.)

Early versions of this approach go back nearly 50 years, to the first phase of artificial intelligence research. And incremental progress has been made - notably as tracked for the past 20 years in the annual TREC (Text REtrieval Conference) question answering competition. IBM's *Jeopardy* system is very much in this tradition - though with more sophisticated systems engineering, and with special features aimed at the particular (complex) task of competing on *Jeopardy*.

Wolfram | Alpha is a completely different kind of thing - something much more radical, based on a quite different paradigm. The key point is that Wolfram | Alpha is not dealing with documents, or anything derived from them. Instead, it is dealing directly with raw, precise, computable knowledge. And what's inside it is not statistical representations of text, but actual representations of knowledge.



FEATURES

WOLFRAM|ALPHA

The input to Wolfram | Alpha can be a question in natural language. But what Wolfram | Alpha does is convert this natural language into a precise computable internal form. And then it takes this form, and uses its computable knowledge to compute an answer to the question.

There's a lot of technology and new ideas that are required to make this work. And I must say that when I started out developing Wolfram | Alpha I wasn't at all sure it was going to be possible. But after years of hard work - and some breakthroughs - I'm happy to say it's turned out really well. And Wolfram | Alpha is now successfully answering millions of questions on the web and elsewhere about a huge variety of different topics every day.

And in a sense Wolfram | Alpha fully understands every answer it gives. It's not somehow serving up pieces of statistical matches to documents it was fed. It's actually computing its answers, based on knowledge that it has. And most of the answers it computes are completely new: they've never been computed or written down before.

In IBM's approach, the main part of the work goes into tuning the statistical matching procedures that are used - together in the case of *Jeopardy* with adding a collection of special rules to handle particular situations that come up.

In Wolfram | Alpha most of the work is just adding computable knowledge to the system. Curating data, hooking up real-time feeds, injecting domain-specific expertise, implementing computational algorithms - and building up our kind of generalized grammar that captures the natural language used for queries.

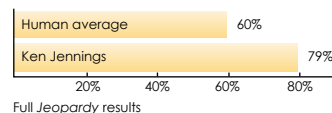
In developing Wolfram | Alpha, we've been steadily building out different areas of knowledge, concentrating first on ones that address fairly short questions that people ask, and that are important in practice. We're almost exactly at the opposite end of things from what's needed in *Jeopardy* - and from the direct path that IBM has taken to that goal. There's no doubt that in time Wolfram | Alpha will be able to do things like the *Jeopardy* task - though in an utterly different way from the IBM system - but that's not what it's built for today.

(It's an interesting metric that Wolfram | Alpha currently knows about three quarters of the entities that arise in *Jeopardy* questions - which I don't

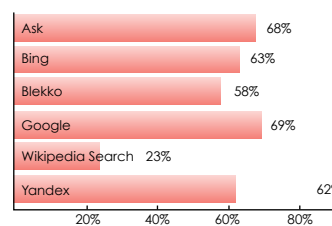
consider too shabby, given that this is pretty far from anything we've actually set up Wolfram | Alpha to do.)

In the last couple of weeks, though, I've gotten curious about what's actually involved in doing the *Jeopardy* task. Forget Wolfram | Alpha entirely for a moment. What's the most obvious way to try doing *Jeopardy*?

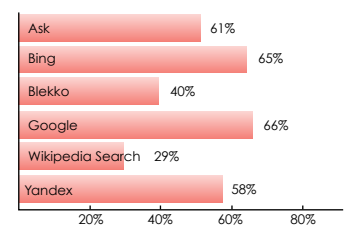
What about just using a plain old search engine? And just feeding *Jeopardy* clues into it, and seeing what documents get matched. Well, just for fun, we tried that. We sampled randomly from the 200,000 or so *Jeopardy* clues that have been aired. Then we took each clue and fed it as input (without quotes) to a search engine. Then we looked at the search engine result page, and (a) saw how frequently the correct *Jeopardy* answer appeared somewhere in the titles or text snippets on the page, and (b) saw how frequently it appeared in the top document returned by the search engine. (More details are given in this Mathematica notebook. Obviously we excluded sites that are specifically about *Jeopardy*!)



Full Jeopardy results



Answer appears on search engine result page



Answer appears in first document from search

If nothing else, this gives us pretty interesting information about the modern search engine landscape. In particular, it shows us that the more mature search systems are getting to be remarkably similar in their raw performance - so that other aspects of user experience (like Wolfram | Alpha integration!) are likely to become progressively more important.

But in terms of *Jeopardy*, what we see is that just using a plain old search engine gets surprisingly far. Of course, the approach here isn't really solving the complete *Jeopardy* problem: it's only giving pages on which the answer should appear, not giving specific actual answers. One can try various simple

strategies for going further. Like getting the answer from the title of the first hit - which with the top search engines actually does succeed about 20% of the time.

But ultimately it's clear that one's going to have to do more work to actually compete on *Jeopardy* - which is what IBM has done.

So what's the broader significance of the *Jeopardy* project? It's yet another example of how something that seems like artificial intelligence can be achieved with a system that's in a sense "just doing computation" (and as such, it can be viewed as yet another piece of evidence for the general Principle of Computational Equivalence that's emerged from my work in science).

But at a more practical level, it's related to an activity that has been central to IBM's business throughout its history: handling internal data of corporations and other organizations.

There are typically two general kinds of corporate data: structured (often numerical, and, in the future, increasingly acquired automatically) and unstructured (often textual or image-based). The IBM *Jeopardy* approach has to do with answering questions from unstructured textual data - with such potential applications as mining medical documents or patents, or doing ediscovery in litigation. It's only rather recently that even search engine methods have become widely used for these kinds of tasks - and with its *Jeopardy* project approach IBM joins a spectrum of companies trying to go further using natural-language-processing methods.

When it comes to structured corporate data, the *Jeopardy* project approach is not what's relevant. Instead here there's a large industry based on traditional business intelligence and data mining methods - that in effect allow one to investigate structured data in structured ways.

And it's in this area that there's a particularly obvious breakthrough made possible by the technology of Wolfram | Alpha: being able for the first time to automatically investigate structured data in completely free-form unstructured ways. One asks a question in natural language, and a custom version of Wolfram | Alpha built from particular corporate data can use its computational knowledge and algorithms to compute an answer based on the data - and in fact generate a whole report about the answer.

So what kind of synergy could there be between Wolfram | Alpha and IBM's *Jeopardy* approach? It didn't happen this time around, but if there's a Watson 2.0, it should be set up to be able to call the Wolfram | Alpha API. IBM apparently already uses a certain amount of structured data and rules in, for example, scoring candidate answers. But what we've found is that even just in natural language processing, there's much more that can be done if one has access to deep broad computational knowledge at every stage. And when it comes to actually answering many kinds of questions, one needs the kind of ability that Wolfram | Alpha has to compute things.

On the other side, in terms of data in Wolfram | Alpha, we mostly concentrate on definitive structured sources. But sometimes there's no choice but to try to extract structured data from unstructured textual sources. In our experience, this is always an unreliable process (achieving at most perhaps 80% correctness) - and so far we mostly use it only to "prime the pump" for later expert curation. But perhaps with something like IBM's *Jeopardy* approach it'll be possible to get a good supply of probabilistic candidate data answers - that can themselves be used as fodder for the whole Wolfram | Alpha computational knowledge engine system.

It'll be interesting to see what the future holds for all of this. But for now, I shall simply look forward to IBM's appearance on *Jeopardy*.

IBM has had a long and distinguished history of important R&D - something a disappointingly small number of companies can say today. I have had some good friends at IBM Research (sadly, not all still alive), and IBM as a company has much to be admired. It's great to see IBM putting on such an impressive show, in an area that's so close to my own longstanding interests.

Good luck on *Jeopardy*! I'll be rooting for you, Watson.

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Stephen Wolfram
<http://blog.stephenwolfram.com>
January 26, 2011
www.wolframalpha.com

FEATURES

YOUR PI PREMIUM – HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

We are often asked by members to explain the pricing structure of Professional Indemnity (PI) policies, and since the ACSIS Ltd schemes renewal is approaching in the second half of this year, we felt that it was timely to remind our members of the steps undertaken in securing appropriate insurance.

Remember not all PI policies are created equal and to coin an old phrase “You only get what you pay for”.

The ACSIS Ltd Scheme presents a premium pool of funds to the Insurers which is offset by claims, reinsurance costs (local and global) and the defence costs of managing claims and alerts as they occur.

Insurance companies are similar to your own business, in that they need to remain viable in order to survive, and unless a scheme is well managed insurers tend to withdraw from the market.

This is the hallmark of the ACSIS Ltd scheme. Since 2001, QBE and Lloyds syndicate 3210 have backed our profession and provided a best practice policy and stayed in the game while many others have come and gone.

In order to do this, Insurers need to maintain stable competitive pricing across their range of activities, which is exactly the same methodology used by consulting surveyors.

The ACSIS Ltd Scheme gives the surveying profession a significant initial advantage in that it groups together our 550 active members and pools their combined size into one purchasing body.

This is the starting point; insurers then consider the individual risk profiles of the individual members.

Refining these further, other factors influencing premiums are:

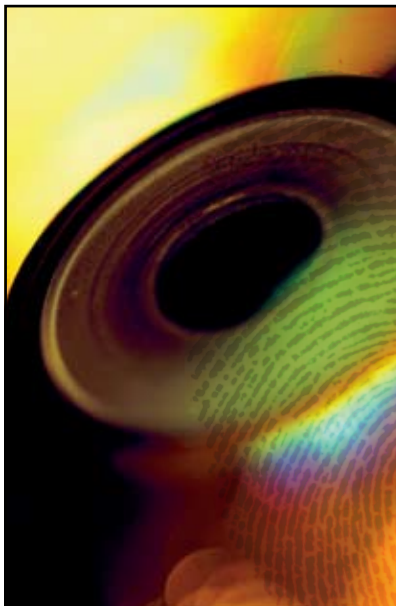
- Your firms gross fees (this indicates the size & hence potential risks derived from your activities)
- Your claims history
- The type of work you do (some areas are regarded as higher risk)
- The sum insured you select
- The amount of self insurance (Excess) you are prepared to accept
- Any additional extensions to the policy coverage that may be particular to your practice.

By continuing our strength as a purchasing body we continue to provide the profession with a unique partnership with the insurance industry.

We look forward to your continued support.

More Information

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MEMBER PROFILE

PYPER LEAKER SURVEYING SERVICES PTY LTD - SURVEYORS SA

In this edition we profile South Australian based firm Pyper Leaker Surveying Services Pty Ltd.

If you would like your firm to feature in future editions please contact Ian Marler, ACSIS Chairman at marler@acsis.com.au

Pyper Leaker Surveying Services Pty Ltd was established in 2001 by David Pyper and Martin Leaker.

Since then we have built a reputation for delivering efficient and cost effective surveying solutions.

With a diverse range of surveying experience, we have developed a business that is both process and results driven to help deliver the best client outcomes.

As an Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), we guarantee that the directors are either working on or directly overseeing each and every project.

Our services extend over a large range of areas:

Construction & Infrastructure

Construction setout for:

- Buildings & housing
- Wind farms
- Roads
- Bridges
- Services (cables, sewer & water mains)

Property & Land Development

- Subdivisions
- Land divisions
- Boundary identifications
- Community titles
- Lease plans

Topographic & Mapping

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Detail & contour surveys
- Precise levelling
- Control & GPS surveys

Senior Staff



David Pyper

Licensed Surveyor
B App Sc. (Surveying), MISA
Post Grad Property, UniSA
Licensed Since: 1990



Martin Leaker

Licensed Surveyor
B App Sc. (Surveying), MISA
Licensed Since: 1994



Matthew Hynes

Licensed Surveyor
B.Surv Hons, MISA
Licensed Since: 2004

Waterloo Wind Farm Project

One of our major was the wind farm project south-east of Clare, SA. 37 towers in all were constructed in a project lasting around 8 months.

Survey requirements included

- Preliminary topographic surveys for road access & pad design
- Tower location setout. The 37 towers being 90m tall with blades 45m in length.
- Sub-station setout & associated works
- Boundary investigations, lease & easement plan creations
- Precise levelling of tower embedment (+/- 1mm) pre & post pour to ensure tower verticality
- Approximately 70km of electrical cable as-constructed locations
- Road & pad as-constructed survey

As with most engineering projects there were a number of interested parties onsite. Our clients included Roaring 40's (windfarm operator), Catcon (local civil contractor) and Consolidated Power Projects (electrical contractor).

MEMBER PROFILE

PYPER LEAKER SURVEYING SERVICES PTY LTD - SURVEYORS SA



Very steep and rough terrain posed many challenges for our firm and the contractor. We made extensive use of Leica T1200+ GPS and TPS Total Stations and DNA03 digital level during the project. Utilising this leading edge technology and equipment gave us a high confidence with the end results.

The project covered the entire range of service skills and services, from engineering and contour surveys to cadastral and precise control work. It also necessitated liaison with engineers, clients and contractors to ensure the project met deadlines and desired outcomes.

Staff on the project included a senior licensed surveyor and a technical officer. The project proved to be a good learning experience for the junior staff member. The new skills and knowledge developed on the project have enhanced our day-to-day running of the practice.

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MEMBER PROFILE

NOEL LEARY & ASSOCIATES - SURVEYORS TAS

In this edition we profile Tasmanian based firm Noel Leary & Associates.

If you would like your firm to feature in future editions please contact Ian Marler, ACSIS Chairman at marler@acsis.com.au

Noel Leary & Associates is a private Hobart-based land and engineering survey firm. The owner, Noel Leary, has 40 years of extensive experience in the surveying industry and over 30 years as a director of this private surveying firm. Noel is renowned throughout Tasmania and is involved in all aspects of the surveying projects.

We currently have 5 surveyors on staff and 3 of these are registered. Casual field assistants and a office assistant are hired to provide support with invoicing and general office requirements.

The firm is actively involved with the development of the next generation of surveyors within the state. We have supported students from the University of Tasmania by providing work placement as part of the university courses. Several of these students have taken full-time roles with the firm upon completion of their studies.

The firm is involved in cadastral and engineering survey projects in Hobart and across the state. Specialising in both small and large scale projects, we work closely with clients to ensure expectations are met and deadlines are achieved in a cost effective manner.

The work varies greatly from basic detail and set out surveys for the housing industry, to small and larger subdivisions for developers and land owners as well as full cadastral and engineering surveys on high profile projects.

We use the latest surveying equipment including total stations and GPS technology as well as leading edge software. This enables us to provide the most up to date and accurate information for our clients and to fully meet the expectations and requirements of each and every project.

One of the more high profile projects recently undertaken was the upgrade and construction of additional facilities at the Hobart International Airport, Cambridge. This project involved various aspects of survey requirements and spanned a long period

during which our services were used extensively by the main client as well as other contractors during the construction phase of the project.

Services for Hobart International Airport included:

- A full site detail survey of approximately 160ha of land & airport facilities including the main terminal, green field site, an old golf course & parts of the existing runway
- The establishment of an accurate control network of survey stations to provide a stable & on-going datum for future development requirements around the site
- Set out of various new buildings on site including freight handling facilities & a new child care centre
- Set out of new roads & associated infrastructure including drainage systems along Holyman Avenue for construction by contractors
- The establishment of lease boundaries for tenancies around the main terminal building & green field sites including a child care centre, hotel, caravan park & a potential DFO location
- The provision of as-constructed survey data at the completion of each stage of the development & the establishment of a single data set combining the new data with the existing provided by the client

To ensure business progress and client relevance, we strive for excellence by adopting procedures and practices to ensure that a high degree of accuracy and reliability in all aspects of our survey work. In doing so we are able provide our existing and future clients with the best possible service, product and solution that best suits their specific requirements.

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FEATURES

WARNING ON GPS JAMMING THREATS

Researchers have warned that GPS systems are becoming increasingly vulnerable to accidental interference or deliberate jamming, raising concerns about reliability and security.

Professor Andrew Dempster, of the University of New South Wales School of Surveying and Spatial Information Systems, said GPS is relied on for an ever-increasing number of applications, including navigation, vehicle and freight tracking, as well as location-based smartphone services.

However, low-powered GPS signals are easily drowned out by other sources, which are increasing in number, said Professor Dempster, among them cheaply obtained jamming units that can be used by criminals to knock out tracking systems.

"GPS signals are weak and can easily be outpunched by poorly controlled signals from television towers, devices such as laptops and mp3 players, or even mobile satellite services," he said.

Professor Dempster spoke at a workshop on GPS vulnerability organised in Canberra on the 10 March 2011, by UNSW's Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research (ACSER). The workshop addressed unintended and intentional disruption threats, including the risks of GPS jamming and "spoofing" - where a false GPS signal is created - being used in terrorist activity.

"This is not only a significant hazard for military, industrial and civilian transport and communication systems, but criminals have worked out that they can jam GPS," he said.

Professor Dempster said his research team had detected interference in GPS signals caused by a television tower in Sydney's northern suburbs. While they had not detected any criminal jamming activity, Professor Dempster said overseas criminals are already using jammers.

The UNSW team are working with the University of Adelaide and private company GPSat Systems on an Australian Research Council funded project to develop jammer detection technology.

"Our research will produce a system that can accurately geolocate the position of a jamming signal, and hopefully track a moving vehicle carrying a jammer" Professor Dempster said.

"Australia has tough laws that ban jamming, but the risks to GPS keep growing, and there's a need, not only for new solutions, but for more awareness and greater preparedness, particularly by industry when committing to using GPS when designing complex systems."

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WHY PHONE LOGS?

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Call Logs Can Be Used to:

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Call logs can help members to resolve disputes and protect themselves with recorded evidence.

Improve Service

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Increase Security

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FEATURES

SOCIAL NETWORKING & RECRUITMENT IN THE SURVEYING & SPATIAL INDUSTRIES

Traditional recruitment in the spatial industry, and any industry for that matter, has often been associated with a long drawn out process of advertising the position in local, state and/or national newspapers, reviewing the resumes, short-listing suitable candidates, initial interviews, short-listing, second interview and finally selecting and appointing the candidate.

In many cases, candidates were local to the position and were often known by the employer or even referred by an existing employee. Traditional networks included business associations, professional organisations, conferences, trade shows, etc but in the main were locally based.

Now with the increasing use of internet based technology the process seems more streamlined, but does it really improve the recruitment process?

Newspapers are being replaced by internet job boards, networking replaced by social/business networking web sites and even face-to-face interviews being replaced by internet video conferencing.

The internet approach can at times be both a help and a hindrance. Given the internet is globally accessible, your vacancies are now available to a worldwide audience and no matter what you put in your advertisement you may attract applicants from overseas.

This can increase the time to vet applications when they appear in your inbox but can also give you a wider choice of quality candidates.

Job notice board web sites have been around for a while now and have become the preferred mechanism for tech-savvy candidates to search for suitable vacancies.

Generic job web sites in Australia like Seek, CareerOne and MyCareer dominate the market place.

Spatial Industry specific job boards, like Spatial Jobs Online, also serve to disseminate vacancies to a more select group of industry professionals.

These sites compliment, and for some employers, have replaced the traditional newspaper advertisement, at a fraction of the cost of print media. These sites are also able to alert possible candidates within 24 hours via email, so your vacancy can be filled faster.

Social/business networking sites including LinkedIn and Facebook, have become the flavour of the month, connecting people of like interests. The benefits

of these sites enable you to review the profiles of possible candidates in a proactive way rather than a reactive way. The downside is that not all candidates use these sites, although the popularity is growing. Many of these sites also contain job boards so you can advertise and review candidates in a single location.

All this technology, although assisting in the recruitment process, does not remove the need to review the resume/profile of a candidate, conduct interviews, reference checking and the final appointment of the chosen candidate.

It's prudent to use the technology to aid you in the job placement process but don't rely on it to find you a perfect candidate. Nothing will ever replace face-to-face networking and interviewing the candidate in your office, although this is not always possible. Seek out specialist advice when needed or use a recruitment agency to take the search process out of your hands.

Spatial Jobs Online was established in 2002 to meet a gap in the market place for spatial industry organisations to advertise their vacancies and for spatial industry professionals to apply for these positions. Spatial Jobs Online is the only site for spatial industry specific jobs advertising in the Australian market place.

Vacancies are distributed daily and weekly to a subscriber base of over 6500 industry professionals. The Australian site www.spatialjobs.com.au receives over 35,000 unique visitors each month and over 500,000 hits on the site, making it also a valuable tool for industry organisations to advertise their products and services.

The site has expanded in recent years to also include the UK (www.spatialjobs.co.uk), USA (www.spatialjobs.biz) and India (www.spatialjobs.in).

Services through Spatial Jobs Online not only include job advertising but we also assist with the preparation of resumes and cover letters, interview coaching and much more.

More Information



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ACSIS LTD FACILITATES TASMANIAN SURVEY DAY

The seminar was held on Friday 3 December 2010 in Hobart with the support of ACS NSW, VIC and SSSI TAS.

With 24 attendees present, the seminar included "The Basics of Risk Management and Contracts" presented by Ian Marler, "The Survey Profession in Tasmania", was presented by John VanderNiet from the Surveyor General's Office, Tasmania and "The NSW Registration Process", was presented by Stephen Glencorse, Registrar, Board of Surveying and Spatial Information NSW.

RATING	1	2	3	4	5
Venue	0	0	0	14	5
Food	0	0	3	13	3
Ease of Access	1	1	0	12	5
Presentation	0	0	0	10	9
Content	0	0	0	8	11

* Where 1 was lowest rating & 5 was the highest rating.

Comments

Some comments by those seminars attendees are:

"Seminar first class."

"Insightful presentation-a real eye opener. Thank you. The only complaint with venue is lack of parking."

"Good job Ian."

"Hard copy or CD/Website of presentation slides. Well done."

"If this could be run every 2 years it would be great."

"Quite interesting and relevant."

"Great forum."

More Information

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ACSIS PLUS ADDS VALUE TO ACSIS PI

ACSIS PLUS offers subscribers a number of essential business tools and support in the areas of

- Legal Advice
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ACSIS Ltd members can now able to subscribe at any time during the PI cycle and have their subscription costs pro-rated through to the next PI renewal.

Enquiries

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ACSIS EVENTS

ACSIS LTD RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINARS

ACSIS Ltd continues to maintain a strong commitment to risk management by undertaking a number of seminar presentations. These presentations are usually free to the profession in the belief that PI claims can be minimised.

Recently presentations were conducted in Perth on the 2 July 2010 and again in Perth on the 4 August 2010. These were immediately followed by a presentation in Geraldton on 5 August 2010.

The seminars on 4-5 August 2010 formed part of the "Sam and Samantha" series of seminars conducted around Australia and were attended by 30 participants in each location.

ACSIS Ltd April Fool's Day Seminar was held on Friday 1 April 2011 at Shepparton in conjunction with ISV Regional Conference, with approximately 40 attendees

ACSIS Ltd would like to thank all those participants who played a role in the seminars.

September 2010 was a big month with seminar presentations conducted as follows:

"Contracts" - Warrnambool

"Sam & Samantha" - Adelaide 14 September

"Risk Management" - Melbourne 15 September

RMIT Students - Risk Management Melbourne 16 September

UNSW Students - Risk Management Sydney 29 September

More Information

If you feel ACSIS Ltd could help your organisation please contact:

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www.acsis.com.au



Geraldton



Perth



Hobart



Hobart

LET'S LAUGH

Don't Talk to the Parrot

Wanda's dishwasher quit working so she called a repairman. Since she had to go to work the next day, she told the repairman, "I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a cheque."

"Oh, by the way don't worry about my bulldog Spike. He won't bother you. But, whatever you do, DO NOT, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot!"

"I REPEAT, DO NOT TALK TO MY PARROT!!!"

When the repairman arrived at Wanda's apartment the following day, he discovered the biggest, meanest looking bulldog he had ever seen. But, just as she had said, the dog just lay there on the carpet watching the repairman go about his work.

The parrot, however, drove him nuts the whole time with his incessant yelling, cursing and name calling.

Finally the repairman couldn't contain himself any longer and yelled,

"Shut up, you stupid, ugly bird!"

To which the parrot replied, "Get him, Spike!"

Only the Irish, Bless 'em

Paddy was waiting at the bus stop with his mate when a lorry went by loaded up with rolls of turf.

Paddy said, 'I gonna do that when I win lottery'

'What's dat', says his mate.

'Send me lawn away to be cut.'

Be Careful Out There!

Please, take care of yourself. A recent joint study conducted by the Department of Health and the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), indicates that 23% of traffic accidents are alcohol related. This means that the remaining 77% are caused by people that just drink coffee, carbonated drinks, juices, yoghurts and stuff like that.

Therefore, beware of those who do not drink alcohol. They cause three times as many accidents.



Senior's Road Trip

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip.

When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table and she didn't miss them until they had been driving for about 20 minutes.

By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around - in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

During the entire return drive, the husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed, complained and scolded his wife relentlessly. The more he chided her the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her. 'While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card!'

Amazing Anagrams

"Dormitory" - Dirty Room

"Evangelist" - Evil's Agent

"Desperation" - A Rope Ends It

"The Morse Code" - Here Come Dots

"Slot Machines" - Cash Lost in 'em

"Animosity" - Is No Amity

"Mother-in-law" - Woman Hitler

"Snooze Alarms" - Alas! No More Z's

"Alec Guinness" - Genuine Class

"Semolina" - Is No Meal

"The Public Art Galleries" - Large Picture Halls, I Bet

"A Decimal Point" - I'm a Dot in Place

"The Earthquakes" - That Queer Shake

"Eleven plus two" - Twelve plus one

"Contradiction" - Accord not in it

"George Bush" - He bugs Gore

AC SIS LTD SUPPORTS THE EXCELLENCE IN SURVEYING & SPATIAL INFORMATION AWARDS



The ACSIS Ltd table at the 2010 Awards.

These awards enable the industry to celebrate the achievements of some of the finest professionals and organisations in the country.

A distinguished panel including members of The Institution of Surveyors NSW Inc, the Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW and guest judges, work closely to find outstanding achievements in the Surveying and Spatial Information sectors.

The highlight of the professional calendar is the Excellence in Surveying and Spatial Information Awards. The gala event is the night of nights for members of the Institution of Surveyors NSW Inc and The Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW.

The Institution of Surveyors NSW Inc and The Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW congratulate all those that reach these awards.

Sir Thomas Mitchell Award

The Sir Thomas Mitchell Award is the highest award for Surveying or Spatial Information conferred by The Institution of Surveyors NSW and The Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW.

The award is inspired by the achievements of the most well known Surveyor General of NSW, who was responsible for the placement of roads, bridges and

towns, and led four expeditions of exploration and carried out most of the surveys of eastern Australia.

Specific Category Awards

The NSW Excellence in Surveying and Spatial Information Awards acknowledge excellence by surveyors and spatial scientists in NSW. They raise awareness within the community as to the wide range of activities with which the surveying and spatial information profession is involved.

Individual Awards

The NSW Excellence in Surveying and Spatial Information judges confer individual awards, such as Professional Surveyor, Young Surveyor, University Student Project, TAFE Student and Journalist of the Year Award.

They aim to attract young people into our profession by promoting its diversity and the variety of career opportunities that are available. They honour individual achievers within the profession.

More Information

www.surveyors.org.au

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AC SIS Ltd facilitates a wide range of insurance and financial products for both the surveying and spatial information industries. These include:

- **SPATIALCOVER PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY**
For breach of professional duties
- **SPATIALCOVER BUSINESS**
Includes fire, public liability, burglary, money, tools of trade, electronic equipment
- **SPATIALCOVER LIABILITY**
Covers legal liability to the public for bodily injury or property damage
- **SPATIALCOVER MOTOR VEHICLE**
Covers your business motor vehicles
- **SPATIALCOVER WORKERS COMPENSATION**
You need to take out separate workers compensation covers for each state in which your staff work
- **SPATIALCOVER TRAVEL**
Covers loss of deposits, staff luggage, additional medical and associated expenses, workers compensation for overseas work
- **SPATIALCOVER INCOME PROTECTION**
Covers loss of income should you become disabled or incapacitated
- **SPATIALCOVER SUPERANNUATION**
Super funds are structured for you
- **SPATIALCOVER SALARY CONTINUANCE**
Allows you to cover your staff who may suffer long term incapacity for work
- **SPATIALCOVER FINANCIAL**
Includes assessment, advice, investment and management of your funds
- **HOME & CONTENTS INSURANCE**
Covers householders for numerous risks including fire, theft and storms
- **LEASING**
Includes leasing of motor vehicles, mobile/fixed plant and equipment

Further Information

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