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GIS and the other enterprise database

Presenter

Marc Kratzschmar
Exor Corporation
mkratzschmar@exorcorp.com

Co-Presenter

GIS is an integrating technology and provides an ideal platform for relating diverse highway agency data sets into a spatially enabled enterprise database. Much has been written and said on this subject and many state highway agencies are developing GIS-based enterprise databases.

However GIS is not the only approach to developing enterprise databases, and with the evolution of spatial functionality within mainstream relational database management system software it is not even the only approach to spatially enabling an enterprise database. Many agencies are implementing enterprise databases not based on GIS technology.

Ironically, organizations taking this approach face technical and organizational issues integrating GIS into their enterprise database. These include who has control of the street centerline layer, and how GIS functionality can be used to improve its accuracy, and how to make enterprise data available to powerful GIS-based cartographic tools.

This presentation documents these issues using examples from state highway agencies and presents the approaches that these states have taken to addressing each issue.