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Case Study:

Community of Brindisi modernizes mapping to preserve millennia-old architecture

Overview

Founded as an Ancient Greek settlement, Brindisi has a long and storied history. Preserving the architecture of millennia is a key concern for modern government officials. The city's proximity to the Adriatic Sea makes hydrology and environmental issues crucial as well.

For years, Brindisi has used mapping technology to display information about environmental protections, zoning and permitting restrictions, and similar characteristics of individual properties. When it needed an upgrade, the city deployed a solution from Precisely that provides 80 to 90 percent faster performance, while dramatically improving the maps' user-friendliness and significantly reducing staff time dedicated to mapping.

Business Challenge

A port city located in southern Italy's Apulia region, Brindisi has played an important role in European trade and culture for millennia. Today, the community continues to serve as a pioneer of environmental preservation techniques. "Brindisi is a small city, but there are a number of issues that we have to deal with around environmental protection, landscaping and hydrology," says Teodoro Indini, architectural official with the community of Brindisi.

The city has long used mapping software to understand these issues. Community members and city employees access an online Web GIS application to answer zoning questions, visualize boundaries of environmentally protected areas, and determine landscaping and permitting restrictions on specific properties.

Previously, the Web GIS solution was built on MapXtreme from Precisely. The solution displayed the information Brindisi needed, but the city wanted a more modern solution. Brindisi decided to upgrade to Precisely Spectrum Spatial and the new release of MapInfo Pro Advanced.

Client profile
Community of Brindisi
comune.brindisi.it

- Italian port city of nearly 90,000 residents located on the Adriatic Sea
- An important trade center since it was part of Ancient Greece, before the Roman conquest of 267 BC
- Known for rich architecture dating as far back as Roman times
- Modern city leaders prioritize architectural heritage, environmental issues and hydrology concerns

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– Teodoro Indini, Architectural Official, Community of Brindisi

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Solution

The city worked with Precisely partner Geo Marketing to deploy and configure the solution. Now, Spectrum Spatial collects both internal data and regional information from external sources that have been properly certified. MapInfo Pro builds maps based on this data. A total of 128 layers can be visible at the same time on the same map, which enables Brindisi's users to create maps to serve a wide variety of needs.

As an example, one group of layers reflects building restrictions. "Among many other factors, it shows which properties have a stream nearby and where structures cannot exceed a certain height because of their proximity to the airport," Indini explains.

Brindisi provides different levels of access to the mapping information. Some data is available to the general public (see it at brindisiwebgis.it), some to internal employees only, and some to city contractors such as architects, engineers and geologists.

"Through MapInfo Pro, users can query our Spectrum Spatial database to learn who owns a particular property, what can be built there, and applicable standards or laws that apply," Indini says. "Users can attach a printout of this information to building-permit applications." They can also save and then digitally annotate their personalized versions of the maps.

Benefits

Feedback from users has been overwhelmingly positive. "We've heard, from both Brindisi residents and the city contractors who use our mapping services, that they are very pleased with the new Precisely solution," Indini reports. That's partly because performance of the system is much faster. "It's 80 to 90 percent faster than our legacy system," he says.

The solution's user-friendly interface enables employees throughout the city to update maps themselves. "The person who is actually working on the problem can determine how it will be displayed," Indini says. "And updates go out much faster. As an example, I drew a gas pipeline on a map in Spectrum Spatial, and it was available to all our map users within one minute."

This means residents, employees and contractors are accessing up-to-date maps. At the same time, the new solution has reduced by 20 to 25 percent the amount of time Indini's team spends on mapping. Indini is thrilled with the solution and with the Precisely partnership that helped his team bring it to fruition.

"Precisely has always treated our community with great professionalism, seriousness and respect," Indini says. "The people who work for Precisely are very responsive. We have an excellent working relationship."

Technology used

- Spectrum Spatial
- MapInfo Pro Advanced

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