



FEATURE STORY

Why Upgrade Software?

By Dan Piette, OpenSpirit President & CEO



We are in the process of upgrading our Microsoft® Office software to Office 2007. Now, I am not sure if you have read any reviews, tested the software yourself, or have maybe even

upgraded your own computer, but it is a significant change in the user interface from what I have been used to over the past ten years. The flexibility of user-defined menus is gone. There is something called "The Ribbon", which provides context-sensitive tools that change as you click different menu headers.

"Home" gives you some standard editing tools, which also change as you click different menu headers. You get other choices of "Insert", "Page Layout", "References", "Mailings", "Review", "View", and "Add-Ins".

Every click brings you a new ribbon with the tasks that relate to that heading. This does an excellent job of exposing tasks that otherwise may have been hidden in the bowels of the multiple hierarchy of the old menu system. You want to mark a citation? Go to the "References" ribbon and it is right there. Want to add a watermark? "Page Layout" is for you.

Recently, I had a meeting with Ed Draper from Microsoft and asked him about this new structure. Why would I waste valuable meeting time asking the guy in charge of Energy Solutions a question about PC programs? Because it is always difficult to learn a new piece of software. Because despite the good things I have found along the way, it is still impacting our office.

To get over the "energy of initiation", there has to be something good at the end of the pain, I and wanted to know what that something was. And I cannot believe that the Rulers in Redmond would make a significant change like this – *knowing* the grief that they would be taking – if they did not think it was worth it.

Ed had an interesting comment. He said that Microsoft does a lot of user surveys, and one thing they discovered was that 60 percent of the enhancements asked for are already in the code. They made this change so that the end users would have better access to the stuff that was already *in* the code.

"It is hard to change something that you are used to. But a change that will bring you more utility in the long run is almost always worth it."

Think about that – 60 percent of the things their clients were asking for – *they already had!* This would be as if you wanted an extra 100 horsepower in your car, and all you had to do was push a button and it would appear. Now, granted, you might have to open the glove compartment, put your foot

on the brake, turn the radio on, then off, then on again and switch your left blinker to the lane change position while you are pushing the button, but the horsepower is there. Microsoft is hoping that by changing the structure of the software they will make this horsepower available much more easily.

Another significant change in the software is the modification of the file structure. The implications of this change are a lot more significant. By changing the files, it makes files you save incompatible with users who have not yet upgraded. This is more typical of a software upgrade – not just the changing of a user interface, but actually breaking the software so that your end users need to take a distinctive action to keep their software running.

FEATURE STORY

Why Upgrade Software?

Energistics and OpenSpirit

END USER CORNER
An Interview with Johan Kinck

Register for Houston Technical Symposium

SHORT SHOTS
OpenSpirit News



Infinite Integration

Transcend Data Boundaries
Achieve Exponential Efficiency

Break Free from
Application Bias

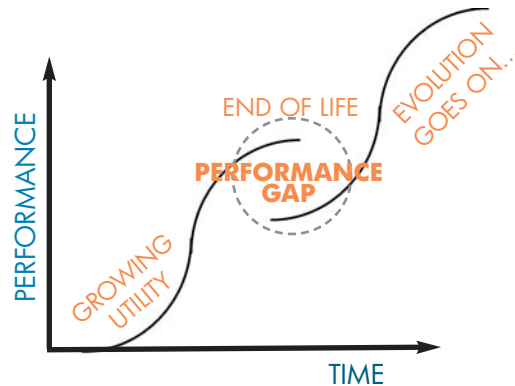
Unravel the Mystery of
Units & Coordinates

continued from page 1
FEATURE STORY

This upgrade can be characterized as a typical “Technology S Curve,” which you can see below:

The vertical axis may also be thought of as utility or usefulness, the horizontal axis may be thought of as time. When a new version of an old technology is released, it is almost always less useful than the last version of the old technology.

A good analogy would be ice machines versus home refrigerators. When people started switching from ice boxes to real in-home refrigerators, the cost of ice dropped precipitously as the ice houses – remember ice houses... they put the ice harvesters out of business – became much more efficient in the way they manufactured and delivered ice. But that drop in utility (as can be seen by the vertical gap between the two curves) is short lived. The new technology quickly catches up and then exceeds the old technology. You are buying into a curve with a steep slope once again.



As with any software company, we are faced with trade-offs when it comes to balancing temporary pain with the promise of a brighter future. In order to make our next generation better, sometimes we need to break things. In our most recent case it is the data keys that we use to identify where information is stored. To take advantage of some new technologies, we needed to expand the information we store in our keys. In some circumstances, this means that the data needs to be accessed once again. There are workarounds for this, but the new keys that result will deliver more utility than the old keys. You can count on us to share this information with you as soon as it is perfected.

It is hard to change something that you are used to. But a change that will bring you more utility in the long run is almost always worth it.

The upgrade path we have laid out for our clients we believe provides the most utility for the least amount of pain. It is just another step on delivering the overall dream of *Infinite Integration*. ♦

Energistics and OpenSpirit: Working Together for the Open-Standards Community

OpenSpirit recognizes that the energy industry’s evolution to a true open-standards business model is dependent upon sharing – not duplicating – R&D efforts. That’s why we are furthering our involvement with the Energistics upstream open-standards consortium with the donation of the OpenSpirit Units Catalog and Data Model.



“We are very pleased to be working more closely with OpenSpirit to achieve our goal of increasing the availability of best-practices data models for the open standards community.” said Randy Clark, President & CEO of Energistics. “The generous donation of the OpenSpirit products for the benefit of the industry is a positive step for both our community and for open standards efforts in general. We look forward to their participation in future industry standards development efforts with Energistics.”

The donated OpenSpirit Units Catalog and OpenSpirit Data Model will be available and downloadable as open standards through the Energistics Website in the near future.

See the press release for more information. ♦

Mission Possible
Digital Pathways Delivered

Mission Possible
Digital Pathways Delivered

digital pathways delivered

SEG
September 23-26
San Antonio
Booth 744

Are you Ready?

In Remembrance

We want to take a moment to remember a long-time friend and member of our extended OpenSpirit family.



Jake Doruiter, Manager, Data and Technology Integration Services at GEOSEIS, passed away in July 2007. Our condolences to his family and GEOSEIS colleagues.

An interview with Johan Kinck

At the recent OpenSpirit Technical Symposium in London, Johan Kinck, Partner Team G&G, provided more insight into the immense data-migration project in progress at Norsk Hydro.

Norsk Hydro (now StatoilHydro) is adopting the OpenSpirit integration framework to migrate data from GeoFrame to OpenWorks, and then to enable ongoing integration between OpenWorks and key G&G applications, including Irap RMS, Petrel and KINGDOM. They are also including OpenSpirit-based integration with GIS tools as a key component of their solution.

This is all part of a two-phase project to more effectively leverage key applications and data across multiple offices in several countries. In January 2007, we announced that Hydro had selected OpenSpirit as its data and application integration provider. This came after an extensive application portfolio review to identify all business-critical G&G applications within Hydro. OpenSpirit is being used to seamlessly integrate a select list of applications.

Now that you have identified the application and data storage technology that will be used within Hydro, what is your data management objective?

Our primary goal is to serve these applications with project data from OpenWorks. We are using OpenSpirit to push data to the applications and then return the interpreted results back to the project data store. We are dealing with a rather large GeoFrame installation, and OpenSpirit is a key part of the data migration process to OpenWorks. We are also using OpenSpirit to scan data stores and send data to an SDE database, and then we will use ArcGIS to select data to send it to the applications.

continued on page 4



James Calaway Joins OpenSpirit Board

James D. Calaway, President of Calaway Interests LLC, joined the OpenSpirit Board of Directors on July 24.



"OpenSpirit is working hard to deliver vendor-neutral integration solutions that impact the way energy professionals around the world leverage and interact with their data," said Calaway. "I look forward to working with OpenSpirit's respected group of board members to help shape the direction of the company as it continues to meet the challenges of the oil and gas industry."

Read the press release for more information!

Landmark Extends Integration to the DecisionSpace Environment Using OpenSpirit Solution

Landmark is developing a data-access adapter that uses the OpenSpirit integration framework to connect the company's DecisionSpace[®] environment to OpenSpirit-enabled data stores.

The adapter will allow many of Landmark's software products to update, read and delete data from third-party data sources, including GeoFrame, Finder, PPDM, Recall, KINGDOM, SDE and Petra applications. It expects to offer the adapter in late 2007.

Read the press release for more details!

OpenSpirit Web Server Released

E&P professionals have a new way to interact with their geotechnical data and applications with the release of the OpenSpirit Web Server. The Web Server helps both casual and experienced users quickly navigate, select and view all OpenSpirit-enabled data. This includes viewing E&P data in the context of publicly available map data via 3D browsing tools, such as Goggle Earth[™], ESRI[®] ArcGIS[®] Explorer and NASA World Wind.

Learn more about the Web Server at sales@openspirit.com.

continued on page 4

OpenSpirit Technical Symposium – Houston

Register Today!

The **OpenSpirit Technical Symposium** brings together end users and best-of-breed software vendors for an open-forum information exchange featuring technical information and end-user case studies. Attendees return to their organizations with new ideas about how to leverage OpenSpirit technology within their G&G workflows.

Tuesday, November 6
8:30 to 5:00

ConocoPhillips Conference Facility

A social event will be held immediately following at Carmelo's Ristorante

Registration: \$250 USD

You will hear plenty of information about:

- OpenSpirit v3.0
- Migration path from v2.9.x to v3.0
- Upcoming OpenSpirit v3.1
- OpenSpirit Web Server demo
- "Futures Workshop" on advances in ArcGIS and Web Services in E&P
- Future OpenSpirit development plans
- And that's all before lunch!

The afternoon offers presentations from clients and partners who will discuss their OpenSpirit integration experiences.

Guest Presenters to Date

- ConocoPhillips
- ExxonMobil
- Landmark
- Schlumberger

Register for Houston
www.openspirit.com

continued from page 3

Can you explain the scale of this project and the associated challenges?

Only a few years ago, Statoil had about four terabytes of data that required 20 people and 1.5 years to move. Now we are dealing with 28 terabytes of data, 17 times the number of wells and five times the number of 3D volumes and 2D lines. In terms of manual labor, this data migration would take five years, which simply is not feasible.

This is a huge project, very complex and relies on a number of vendors that must communicate with each other effectively. Success is dependent upon heavy involvement with OpenSpirit because we are using it as a mass migration tool. With this amount of data, performance is key, and the project needs to be completed in two years. Additionally, there is a lot of pressure to get the new tools into everyone's hands very quickly. We are developing a rollout plan to ensure this happens.

Finally, when a company moves to a culture where end users have much more freedom in their end application than what they used to have with the data store controlling the data, it is important to do quite a bit of work to update their data management routines. Otherwise, chaos can ensue in a very short amount of time.

So, how will this project take shape?

The first step is to clean up the GeoFrame database. We've had it for many years and it has undergone numerous upgrades and contains a good deal of duplicate data. We have developed a number of scripts and complex procedures to identify the "good" data and determine what to move and what to leave behind. We are cleaning the data ahead of time to avoid manual processes and human error. Having a shopping list of items to move requires a high degree of user interaction and also can introduce errors. The key to doing it quickly is to have the data clean before hand and then move it all at once.

The second step will be to move all of the static data, such as seismic surveys and wells from GeoFrame to OpenWorks. As soon as static data is available in OpenWorks the population of Petrel and KINGDOM projects can start. Then we will move over the seismic interpretation and well interpretation data. This particular step will need to be done very quickly to ensure end users are back online and able to access data in the least possible time. Finally, we will move interpretation data into the applications.

Quality assurance must be a huge challenge.

Yes. When doing a project like this, we need to have good QC tools to make sure that what we have in the new system is equal to what we had in the old one. We are setting up OpenSpirit to do a straight transfer of a fixed area, and OpenSpirit is also scanning both data stores daily. We are then generating maps to check progress and to see if data is in the right place. Exports to Excel spreadsheets are also used for greater detail. This makes it very easy to check our progress.

What are the results so far?

Because of OpenSpirit, we are able to leverage lower level technical resources during the migration process, allowing senior-level personnel to focus on other tasks. Instead of 20, there are only about seven people involved in the migration process – quite an impressive change, I think.

OpenSpirit is very up to date with new applications and versions, although there are some issues with the end applications not always being certified with the latest OpenSpirit version. We can't have a system where one application uses only the current version of OpenSpirit and another requires something older. It is very important to us that the application vendors are up to date and put more emphasis on being current on certifications. This will ensure we are able to push the latest versions out to end users.

OpenSpirit is the "fast move" button, but you must know what you are doing to ensure OpenSpirit understands what you are asking it to do. And you can depend on it to get the job done. ◆

continued from page 3

SHORT SHOTS

OpenSpirit v3.0.1 is now available

Key enhancements include:

- Improved 2D seismic performance in OpenWorks/SeisWorks and GeoFrame/IESX/Charisma
- Improved PPDM data connector performance
- Support for ArcSDE 9.2 and ArcMap 9.2, KINGDOM 8.1 and Recall 5.1 on Linux
- Other miscellaneous issues

OpenSpirit v3.0.1 is a Master and Satellite update release for v3.0.0 or can be installed as a new v3.0.1 installation.

See a full description at: <http://www.openspirit.com/documentation.html>

Download the v3.0.1 update kits at: <http://www.openspirit.com/downloads.html>

Events and Technical Symposia

- Landmark Solutions Forum, Aug. 28-29, Houston
- SEG, Sept. 23-26, San Antonio, Booth 744
- GOCAD User Group, Oct. 2, Calgary
- GOCAD User Group, Oct. 18, Houston
- SIS Open Technology Forum, Oct. 16-18, London
- AAPG Gulf Coast Section, Oct. 21-23, Corpus Christi, Booth 110
- OpenSpirit Technical Symposium, Nov. 6, Houston [Register Today!](#)

OpenSpirit Training dates

OpenSpirit Basics

- Tuesday, November 27

OpenSpirit for Administrators

- Wednesday, November 28

Courses are held at our offices in **Stafford, Texas**, as well as in Calgary. Information and registration instructions/form are available at: www.openspirit.com/training.html.



OpenSpirit Connection is a quarterly publication of the OpenSpirit Corporation. It is distributed via email and through the corporate Web site: www.openspirit.com

If you would like to subscribe to OpenSpirit Connection, please send an email with "subscribe" anywhere in the subject or message body to the email address below.

OpenSpirit Corporation, 4800 Sugar Grove Blvd., Suite 500, Stafford, TX 77477, (281) 295-1400

Address all inquiries and subscriptions to: info@openspirit.com