Not one but many different sorts of SDIs

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Presentation

- Some comments on the presentations that are being considered at the workshop
  - Highlights general nature of SDI definitions
  - Draws attention to the key role played by governments of all kinds in SDIs
  - Points to the diversity of SDIs at the workshop
  - Suggests a simple typology of these SDIs
  - Recognises that some questions still remain

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What is a SDI?

- Parallels between SDI concept and other forms of infrastructure – eg transport and communication systems

- But most definitions of SDIs rather general
  - For example
    - 'the technology, policies, standards, human resources, and related activities necessary to acquire, process, distribute, use, maintain, and preserve spatial data' (US OMB 2002)

The role of government

- Nevertheless
  - The overriding objective of SDIs is to facilitate access to the geographic information assets that are held by a wide range of stakeholders in both the public and private sector in a nation or region with a view to maximising their overall usage. **Coordinated action on the part of governments is required to achieve this objective.'**

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  - 'Since the range and diversity of GIS applications is tremendous the full potential of this positive impact of GIS can only be realised if the necessary spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) are implemented (by governments) at the respective local, national, and transnational levels.'

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Some outstanding questions

- About the nature and scope of SDIs
  - Is a corporate organisational structure that brings together the spatial data that is held by different departments within a public organisation a SDI?
  - Is an organisational structure whose membership is restricted to meeting the spatial data needs of one or more levels of government without reference to other sectors, a SDI?
  - Is an organisational structure that meets the spatial data needs of a limited number of thematic users a SDI?

The diversity of SDIs - 1

- Evident from the workshop presentations
- Clear distinction between
  - SDIs that meet (multiple) **administrative** needs
    - Eg. GeoHub Northern Ireland is a sub national version of a National SDI
  - SDIs that meet (specific) **thematic** needs
    - Eg. South Wales Fire and Rescue Service focuses on emergency responses in10 local authority areas

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The diversity of SDIs - 2

- Also big variations in number of agencies and number of users involved
- Administrative SDIs
  - Multi agency - Northern Ireland and Forth Valley
  - Single agency - Dudley and South Dublin
- Thematic SDIs
  - Multiple user - EDINA
  - Limited user – S. Wales Fire and Rescue Service

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A typology of Workshop SDIs

	Limited	Multiple
Administrative (agencies)	Dudley South Dublin	Forth Valley GeoHub
Thematic (users)	Atlantis Fingal PUSH (Atkins) S. Wales Fire & Rescue	EDINA ISDE MEDIN NLPG/NSG

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Further questions

- Variations within thematic category
  - EDINA serves the academic community not government
  - NLPG/NSG concerned with core/framework data as defined in Annex I of INSPIRE
  - MEDIN serves both public and private users
- When does a GIS become a SDI?
  - Forth Valley GIS >> SDI?
  - Parallels with other countries