

DRAFT CHARTER FOR DATA INTERCHANGE TECHNICAL TEAM

Executive Statement

See the Data Model Steering Committee (DMSC) charter for an executive statement on technical teams.

Mandate and Charge

Mandate — The Data Interchange Technical Team (DITT) is charged with developing standardized formats and mechanisms for exchanging digital geologic map databases, to facilitate exchange of digital geologic map content between various implementations of the North American geologic map data model.

Charge — The Data Interchange Technical Team is charged with the following tasks:

(1) To determine the scope of the data interchange problem with reference to the various data model implementations currently under construction or contemplated for near-term construction. This task should take into account the software and hardware most likely to be used by implementations of the data model.

(2) To examine candidates for data exchange formats and rate such candidates based on availability to a broad community of users, ease of use, availability and/or ease of construction of translators, and other criteria as established either by the DITT or by the Data-Model Steering Committee (DMSC).

(3) To develop one or more exchange formats for possible adoption as a standard by the DMSC.

Accountability — The DITT is accountable to DMSC. It receives its mandate and guidance from the DMSC and periodically apprises DMSC of its progress and of any relevant issues, through a representative that is mutually acceptable to the DITT and DMSC.

Authority — The DITT has authority to:

(1) Develop one or more data interchange formats that meet DMSC requirements, operating within the mandate and guidelines specified by DMSC.

(2) Confer with, and possibly incorporate, technical experts and other resources as deemed necessary.

Technical Team Operations

Workgroup Operations — The DITT will convene an initial meeting to evaluate goals and to discuss issues, problems, and strategies. The DITT will conduct the majority of its business via e-mail. The Technical Team will convene as many face-to-face, and/or phone/video conference meetings as required to allocate responsibilities and to resolve issues and problems not easily resolvable via e-mail.

Lateral Coordination — The DITT will regularly communicate strategies and proposed exchange standards laterally to other Technical Teams—especially the Data Model Design Team

(DMDT) and the Software Tools Technical Team—in order to ensure that data-model architecture and software tools consistently reflect the evolving exchange standards.

Technical Review — Draft exchange formats and mechanisms prepared by the DITT will be presented to the DMSC for initial review and evaluation for compliance with the overall goals of the North American geologic-map data model. Following DMSC review and DITT response, the proposed standards will be widely distributed for technical review by the geoscience community (probably through a web-based venue).

Membership

Technical Team Size and Constituency — Because the DITT is primarily designed to solve a technical problem that is best approached by hands-on development, the size of the DITT membership should remain small. The ideal size is probably 3-6 members with diverse backgrounds in GIS, database development, computer programming, and data interchange.

Appointment procedure — DITT members will be appointed by the DMSC with the mutual consent of the appointee, DMSC, and the DITT. Appointments will be based on the criteria defined above; DMSC is obliged to consider with care the membership recommendations of the DITT

Lifespan of the DITT

Within a year of convening its first session, the DITT shall carry out its charge to study the problem and produce one or more exchange formats for potential adoption as a standard by the DMSC. The DITT will remain intact during the review period, and shall respond to Steering Panel review and to peer review until such time as version 1.0 of a data exchange standard is adopted for use with the North American Data Model. Future revisions of this charter, and the continued existence of the DITT, shall be at the discretion of the DMSC.