

TECH REPORT: **GIS**



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The TechReports are an initiative of the Emerging Technologies Laboratory of the IDB's IT department, known as TechLab, which is in charge of exploring, experimenting, and disseminating information about new technologies to learn about their impact on the IDB Group and the LAC region.

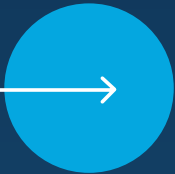


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TABLE OF CONTENT

● EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
● INTRODUCTION TO GIS: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM	7
● APPLICATIONS	8
● INTEGRATION AND SYNERGY: GIS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES	10
Location Intelligence	10
Digital twins	11
Internet of Things (IoT)	12
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	13
Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)	14
Graph databases	15
Big Data	16
● GIS AT THE IDB GROUP	17
● REQUIREMENTS & OBSERVATIONS	19
● THE FUTURE OF GIS	20
● GLOSSARY OF TERMS	22



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are emerging as essential tools in a world increasingly focused on location and spatiality, from understanding social dynamics to monitoring environmental change.

GIS enables the efficient capture, analysis, and presentation of geospatial data, revealing relationships, patterns, and trends through maps, reports, and graphics. By integrating location-based data, GIS enables a deep understanding of the environment, facilitating informed and strategic decision-making across multiple applications and sectors.

GIS excels by its georeferencing capabilities, which enable spatial analysis ranging from simple measurements to environmental change modeling and urban planning. Its application revolutionizes decision-making processes, resource management, and disaster response, showcasing its ability to streamline operations and foster a more strategic approach to addressing complex challenges.

GIS applications are extensive, spanning project management, agriculture, urban planning, and emergency response. In project monitoring, GIS enables effective resource prediction and allocation. In agriculture, it aids in resource planning, while in urban planning, it enhances infrastructure maintenance and service management. Moreover, GIS plays a crucial role in emergency response, optimizing information and resource distribution. Additionally, it contributes significantly to environmental conservation and search and rescue missions, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of these endeavors.

The synergy between GIS and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), drones, the Internet of Things (IoT) and Augmented Reality (AR) expands the horizons of geospatial data analysis and visualization. This integration promises innovative solutions to complex challenges, improving urban planning, resource management, and emergency response, to name a few.

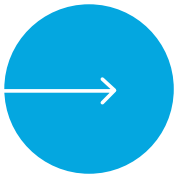
Location Intelligence (LI), as a direct application of GIS, converts geographic data into business intelligence, aiding strategic decisions in sectors like retail for optimizing store locations. Digital Twins and Building Information Modeling (BIM), in conjunction with GIS, enhance urban planning and infrastructure management by providing accurate real-world simulations. Integration with IoT optimizes resource management and urban planning, while collaboration with artificial intelligence enables deeper and more detailed analysis, significantly improving decision-making.



High-profile projects such as the World Bank's Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the use of GIS in the IDB Group demonstrate the transformative impact of this technology in enhancing project planning and execution, addressing key challenges for sustainable development and inclusion.

Successful implementation of GIS projects requires precise problem definition, appropriate data selection, and a targeted approach to data collection, emphasizing the importance of training and skill development, as well as ensuring long-term sustainability through regular maintenance of technological infrastructure.

The future of GIS holds the promise of surpassing current limitations, fueled by advancements in satellite imagery, integration with IoT sensor networks, and collaborations with technologies like AI. These developments will not only enhance the efficiency and accuracy of our interactions with geospatial data but also pave the way for addressing the global challenges of tomorrow.



INTRODUCTION TO GIS: **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM**



In today's world, where location and spatial aspects profoundly influence how we understand and manage information, from social dynamics to environmental change, there is a need for tools that can efficiently and meaningfully capture, analyze, and present geospatial data. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) play a pivotal role in meeting this need.

GIS technology is designed to handle all types of geographic or spatial data, allowing users to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present such data effectively. At its core, GIS integrates location-based data and allows users to observe, understand, interpret, and visualize geographic data in ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends through maps, reports, and graphics.

The cornerstone of GIS operation is georeferencing, the process of associating each piece of data with a specific location on Earth. This is accomplished using geographic coordinates and other location methods. The data collected can be both quantitative (e.g., population, temperatures) and qualitative (e.g., vegetation types, urban zoning).

Once the data is georeferenced, GIS technology can perform various spatial analyzes ranging from basic distance and area calculations to complex tasks like modeling environmental changes, urban planning, and natural disaster management.

GIS has revolutionized decision-making processes and our understanding of the world. Its applications are vast and varied, spanning natural resource management, urban planning, transportation logistics, public health, and more. By enabling innovative visualization and analysis of spatial data, GIS helps solve complex problems, improve operational efficiency, and support better decision-making based on location.

APPLICATIONS

GIS is a versatile tool with applications across disciplines and industries, offering innovative solutions for spatial data management. Its ability to integrate, analyze, and visualize georeferenced data in real time has found applications in a wide range of fields and industries.

Here are some of the most impactful applications of GIS.



Project monitoring and management: GIS excels in monitoring and managing projects **by facilitating real-time monitoring of their progress.** Geospatial data capture and analysis enables engineers and project managers to visualize construction progress, identify deviations from original plans, and make informed decisions about resource allocation.



Agriculture: GIS plays a fundamental role in **prediction, field process management, and resource planning** in agriculture, significantly improving the efficiency and sustainability of agricultural practices. By integrating climate, topographic, and soil data, this technology allows farmers to anticipate water needs, assess the viability of different crops, and optimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides. This data-driven approach contributes to precision agriculture, where decisions are made with a deep understanding of the specific environment of each plot. Additionally, the ability to manage adverse conditions, such as droughts or pests, enables the implementation of preventive measures, ensuring more effective resource management and long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector.



Hospital resource management: By tracking and enabling real-time availability of resources such as beds, ventilators, and other equipment, GIS enables governments to better respond and facilitate patient care.



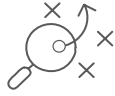
Accessibility mapping: GIS produces detailed accessibility maps using data such as digital elevation models, land use layers and natural barriers, which are essential for understanding the difficulties rural populations face in accessing services (hospitals, schools or payment points) in order to plan infrastructure accordingly.



Emergency alert systems: GIS aids in developing emergency alert systems by allowing efficient distribution of critical information, and resource allocation based on georeferenced data. Through georeferencing, officials can receive emergency alerts based on their proximity to the event, optimizing incident response.

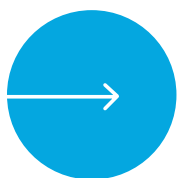


Environmental protection: GIS monitors changing weather conditions and significant landscape changes by analyzing geospatial data such as deforestation, urban expansion, and glacial melt, providing essential data for conservation and sustainability strategies.



Search and rescue: GIS assists in search and rescue situations, especially in remote or hard-to-access areas. Using high-resolution satellite imagery available on demand from anywhere on the planet, rescue teams can obtain detailed and updated views of the terrain. This makes it easier to identify possible locations of lost people and to plan access routes for rescue teams. The ability to obtain satellite imagery quickly and from any place greatly improves the chances of locating people in critical situations, optimizing rescue efforts and saving lives.





INTEGRATION AND SYNERGY: **GIS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

The collaboration between GIS and a range of emerging technologies is reshaping the landscape of geospatial data analysis and visualization. Beyond its stand-alone use, GIS is deeply intertwined with advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and Augmented Reality (AR) to create innovative solutions that address complex challenges across multiple domains. This section explores how GIS not only complements but also enhances the potential of other emerging technologies, facilitating everything from urban planning and resource management to emergency response and environmental protection. Through integration and synergy with these technologies, GIS unlocks new dimensions of geospatial intelligence, enabling deeper understanding and more informed decision-making in our interconnected world.

LOCATION INTELLIGENCE

Location Intelligence (LI)¹ serves as a direct application of GIS technology, leveraging GIS functionalities to extract insights essential for business and strategic decision-making. While GIS provides the tools and technologies to manage spatial data, LI focuses on analyzing and applying this data, turning it into business intelligence. In other words, if GIS is the engine, LI acts as the driver, steering this engine toward specific analytical and strategic goals.

A clear example of the application of location intelligence can be found in the retail sector, specifically in store location strategy. Retailers use LI to analyze demographics, traffic patterns, and proximity to other businesses to determine optimal locations for opening new stores or refine existing operations. For instance, by analyzing geospatial data, a coffee shop chain can identify areas with a high density of its target market, but a low presence of competing coffee shops. By combining this information with factors such as accessibility and visibility of potential locations, the chain can make data-driven decisions to expand its footprint, maximizing its market penetration and success.

1. The process of deriving meaningful information and insights from geospatial or location data. It uses the power of spatial analysis to transform geographic coordinates and locations into actionable insights that can support decision-making in areas as diverse as marketing, logistics, urban planning, and risk management. By integrating and analyzing georeferenced data, location intelligence enables organizations to better understand the spatial dynamics and patterns that affect their operations, markets, and environments.

DIGITAL TWINS

Digital Twins² and GIS share a deep and complementary relationship, particularly in urban planning and infrastructure management. GIS provides crucial geospatial data to construct Digital Twins of cities, buildings, or utility networks. This data encompasses topography, existing structures, transportation networks, and land use patterns, enriching Digital Twin models. By incorporating GIS-derived spatial information, Digital Twins can simulate system behaviors not only in an isolated context but also in interaction with the surrounding geographic and social environment. In this way, GIS acts as an essential source of spatial information that feeds Digital Twins, enhancing their accuracy and applicability.

Examples of applications:

A prominent example of the use of Digital Twins in conjunction with GIS is the **“digital twin city”**. Cities use Digital Twins to create complete virtual representations of their infrastructure, traffic systems and utility networks. For example, a city can simulate the effects of new construction on traffic flow and urban mobility using a Digital Twin. By considering factors like building designs, topography, current transportation routes, and population movement patterns. This allows urban planners and decision makers to assess the impact of various development projects or infrastructure changes before they are implemented, optimizing urban design and long-term planning.

GIS platforms can be used to create an accurate virtual representation of **water treatment plants and sewerage networks**, integrating terrain models for environmental context, network models to provide infrastructure connectivity, and building information models. This integration enables detailed three-dimensional surveys, streamlining asset management, operations, and urban development blueprint design. For instance, GIS technology can aid modelling how adjustments to a treatment plant would affect water flow and sanitation in surrounding areas. By simulating various management strategies beforehand, engineers and planners can make informed decisions and optimize infrastructure planning and design before physical implementation. This process enhances accuracy and efficiency in critical infrastructure development while enabling decision-makers to assess complex scenarios in a controlled environment.

2. Innovative technology that creates virtual replicas of real-world objects, processes, or systems. These digital models simulate the behavior, interactions, and dynamics of their physical counterparts, allowing for analysis, testing, and optimization in a virtual environment before implementation in the real world. Widely used in manufacturing, engineering, infrastructure management, and urban planning, Digital Twins facilitate continuous improvement, innovation, and data-driven decision-making.

INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT)

The relationship between IoT³ and GIS is essential to harnessing the volume of georeferenced data generated by IoT devices. GIS serves as the framework for analyzing and visualizing this data, offering valuable insights into spatial and temporal patterns. This analysis improves resource management, urban planning, emergency response, and environmental monitoring, among others.



Examples of applications:

In urban environments, IoT sensors deployed throughout a city monitor factors like air quality and traffic flow, integrating with GIS platforms for analysis. For example, **an intelligent traffic management system** can dynamically adjust traffic lights to reduce congestion based on data collected and analyzed by GIS. This approach improves urban mobility and reduces pollutant emissions, contributing to a more sustainable environment.

The combination of IoT and GIS also plays a critical role in **optimizing energy consumption**. IoT devices collect real-time energy usage data, which is then visualized and analyzed through GIS systems. This enables utility companies and local authorities to identify consumption patterns and pinpoint areas of high demand. With this insight, they can devise strategies for efficient energy management. In addition, the integration of automatic GIS-based alerts can notify responsible parties of deviations or unusual consumption spikes, enabling a rapid response to maintain grid stability and promote energy savings.

3. Network of interconnected physical devices that collect and exchange data over the Internet. These devices, ranging from environmental sensors to smart appliances and autonomous vehicles, interact with their surroundings through technology. IoT transforms everyday objects into "smart" devices, enhancing efficiency and facilitating decision-making in various contexts.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

AI⁴ extends GIS capabilities by automating and deepening the analysis of geospatial data. When integrating AI algorithms, GIS systems can process and analyze large spatial datasets more efficiently and accurately than traditional methods. This integration results in more complex and detailed insights into spatial and temporal patterns, significantly improving decision-making in areas such as urban planning, natural resource management, and emergency response.



Examples of applications:

The use of high-resolution satellite imagery combined with AI algorithms to **identify unofficial or rural paths**. This aids in the analysis and planning of infrastructure in remote areas, where connectivity and access to services are often limited. By leveraging this technology, governments and organizations can improve sustainable development and promote social inclusion by expanding essential services to underserved regions.

AI also enhances GIS in **predicting and analyzing extreme weather events**. By integrating AI models that analyze historical climate and environmental data, GIS systems can more accurately forecast phenomena such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts. This empowers authorities and communities to better prepare and respond to such events, reducing their adverse effects and improving mitigation and adaptation strategies.

4. Computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as pattern recognition, learning, planning, and language understanding. Using algorithms and machine learning models, AI analyzes and learns from large datasets, identifying trends and making predictions with increasing accuracy. AI finds applications in various fields, from medicine and engineering to entertainment and marketing.

AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) AND VIRTUAL REALITY (VR)

AR and VR⁵ complement GIS by using geospatial data to create immersive and context-rich experiences. AR can use GIS data to overlay relevant information about the real environment, such as historic buildings or underground utility networks, during urban exploration. VR, also leveraging GIS data, can simulate virtual environments for urban planning, geographic education, or visualizing environmental changes over time. Together, these technologies enhance data visualization, decision-making, and education, expanding our interaction with spatial and geospatial data.



Examples of applications:

Architectural and urban planning visualization: Architects and urban planners utilize AR and VR alongside GIS to **visualize construction projects within the existing context of a city or landscape**. AR allows professionals and stakeholders to visualize in real time how new developments will fit into the existing environment, while VR enables full immersion in future scenarios, allowing exploration of the visual and spatial impact of projects before construction.

Identification of rural roads with satellite images and AI. The previous example can also benefit from advanced visualization using AR and VR. Planners and government managers can use VR to virtually explore remote areas and better understand the terrain and roads identified through AI and GIS analysis. AR can further assist on the ground by providing navigation aids and verifying these roads during inspections or assessments.

⁵Technologies altering our perception of the physical and virtual worlds. AR overlays digital elements onto the real world through devices such as smartphones or special glasses, enriching the experience of the real world with digital information and visualizations. Conversely, VR creates entirely virtual, immersive environments accessed via devices such as VR headsets or glasses, enabling users to interact within digitally generated scenarios.

GRAPH DATABASES

The integration of graph databases⁶ with GIS introduces exciting possibilities for advanced spatial analysis. This combination allows users to explore not only the location and attributes of geospatial data, but also the complex relationships between them. For example, it can make it easier to understand how changes in one area may affect others by analyzing connections within ecological, urban, or infrastructure networks. In the GIS context, graph databases enhance spatial analysis with a profound relational dimension, improving decision-making based on a comprehensive understanding of spatial dynamics.



Examples of applications:

Biodiversity conservation: Graph databases are instrumental in biodiversity conservation efforts. They empower conservationists and scientists to analyze complex networks of ecological relationships, aiding in the identification of endangered species. By integrating spatial data with information about habitats, migration patterns, and food networks in a GIS system, endangered species can be identified, and effective conservation strategies planned.

Transportation network optimization: Another crucial application involves optimizing transportation networks. By combining graph databases with GIS, planners can analyze how different routes interact, pinpoint bottlenecks, and optimize routes to enhance the efficiency of public transportation. This methodology is applicable to urban planning and shipping logistics, ensuring optimal resource utilization and reducing travel and delivery times.

6. Database management systems designed to efficiently store, map, and query complex relationships between data. They use graph structures composed of nodes (entities), edges (relationships) and properties to represent and store data in a way that more naturally reflects their interrelationships. This ability to handle complex relationships and high-performance queries makes them ideal for social network analysis, recommendation systems, logistics, and more.

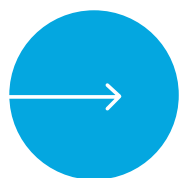
BIG DATA

The relationship between Big Data⁷ and GIS is essentially complementary, as GIS provides the spatial framework necessary to manage, analyze, and visualize vast amounts of georeferenced data. The integration of Big Data technologies with GIS systems allows handling the increasing complexity and volume of spatial data, facilitating advanced analysis of geographic patterns, temporal trends, and spatial correlations. This synergy enhances the capacity of GIS systems to make informed decisions across various domains, including urban planning, environmental management, emergency response, market analysis, among others.

Examples such as **traffic analysis, urban mobility planning, and natural disaster management** illustrate the significant role of Big Data in GIS applications. Another pertinent example is **environmental monitoring and climate change analysis**. **Through the collection and analysis** of extensive datasets from satellite observations, ground sensor measurements, historical temperature and precipitation records, and climate models, scientists can identify patterns of climate change, evaluate its impact on diverse ecosystems, and forecast future environmental shifts more accurately. This integration provides a deeper understanding of global and regional processes, thereby aiding in the development of more effective mitigation and adaptation strategies to address climate change.



7. Refers to the processing and analysis of vast and complex datasets beyond the capabilities of traditional data processing tools. These datasets, sourced from various channels like online transactions, social networks, IoT devices, and environmental sensors, are characterized by their massive volume, high velocity, and diverse data types. Big Data presents both a challenge and an opportunity to extract valuable information, patterns, and hidden trends through the use of advanced analytics and processing technologies.



GIS AT THE IDB GROUP



At the IDB Group, GIS systems have been fundamental in driving decision-making and knowledge sharing, both internally at the organization and in the Latin America and Caribbean region. These tools have improved project planning and execution, addressing key challenges such as environmental management, urban development, and access to education. This demonstrates the GIS's capacity to support policies and strategies focused on sustainable development and inclusion.

Atlas⁸ is the collaboration platform designed to enhance and support all geospatial aspects of IDB projects. With maps, applications, and data, Atlas supports decision-making and data sharing across the organization.

The **Mesoamerica Integration and Transportation Hub**⁹ is an interactive website that provides a planning tool and countries with accurate, multisectoral georeferenced data relevant to regional integration. It is proposed as an effective and high-impact support for strategic decision-making in sectoral investment.

C2DB (Crowdsourcing for Digital Connectivity in Brazil)¹⁰ is a project that identifies unattended broadband demand groups and maximum connectivity points. It also estimates the costs of integrating those main connectivity points into the network in Brazil.

8. <https://atlas.iadb.org/portal/apps/sites/#/atlas>

9. <https://www.iadb.org/es/node/49436>

10. <https://c2db-idb-gis.hub.arcgis.com/>

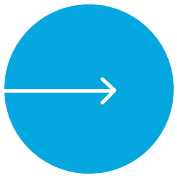
The **Amazonia360 Hub**¹¹ is a digital platform through which the concepts of Regional Collaborative Intelligence are operationalized. This platform provides information and knowledge about the Amazon region to support its conservation and sustainable development. It integrates and harmonizes data from various sources using artificial intelligence and geographic information systems (GIS). It serves as a tool that supports decision-making, policy formulation, project monitoring and evaluation, and learning, and it fosters cooperation among different stakeholders working in the Amazon region. It is a regional public good led by Amazonia Forever and hosted on the IDB's digital infrastructure.

The IDB has worked with the Ministry of Agriculture of El Salvador on digitalizing processes, particularly in **diagnosing and planning coffee farm activities** such as mapping cultivation areas, delivering inputs, optimizing planting, and harvesting. These plans encompass a wide range of farm-related data, including crop assessments, agricultural practices employed by farmers, and precise geolocation and mapping of crops within the farms.

The **Bono Vida Mejor**¹² project in Honduras uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to improve decision-making in educational policies, especially in rural areas. Although “educational deserts,” areas with limited access to education, were already known, the use of GIS in this project has been crucial for analyzing and optimizing the expansion of the third cycle in schools. This analysis included integrating data on poverty, school enrollment, and geographic locations, along with terrain information such as elevation and natural barriers, which had not previously been considered so thoroughly. Thanks to this GIS-based approach, it was possible to optimize the distribution of educational resources, significantly facilitating the expansion of educational opportunities in vulnerable communities.

11. <https://www.iadb.org/es/quienes-somos/topicos/amazonia>

12. <https://blogs.iadb.org/educacion/es/sistemas-de-informacion-geograficos-como-contribuyen-a-la-toma-de-decisiones-de-politica/>



REQUIREMENTS & **OBSERVATIONS**



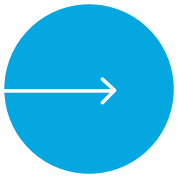
The implementation process of GIS projects begins with a **precise definition of the problem**, guiding the selection of appropriate data sources, determining specific procedures, and defining clear metrics for the success of the analysis. **Adopting open international standards** for data formats, such as those recommended by OGC (<https://www.ogc.org/standards/>), is crucial to ensure interoperability and data reuse, facilitating effective information exchange among diverse technological platforms.

A critical aspect of efficiency and effectiveness in GIS projects is the **selective collection of data**. It is imperative to gather only the data that are indispensable for analysis and decision-making. This practice not only optimizes resources and eases the burden on processing systems, but also encourages a more targeted and relevant approach to information analysis, avoiding the accumulation of data that could complicate or dilute key project results.

Investments **in education and professional training are essential for nurturing proficiency and competence within teams** to fully harness the potential of GIS. **Interoperability** emerges as a vital consideration, ensuring seamless integration between GIS systems and other technologies, thereby broadening their applicability and effectiveness.

Finally, the **long-term sustainability** of GIS projects depends on the regular upkeep of technological infrastructure and the continual updating of data, ensuring that solutions remain relevant and effective in the face of new challenges. By adhering to these practices and recommendations, GIS projects can achieve enduring success and relevance, empowering informed decision-making and fostering significant outcomes across diverse policy and developmental contexts.





THE FUTURE OF GIS

GIS is poised to push the boundaries of what we currently consider possible, driven by innovations in technology and computing. This section explores the potentialities of a forthcoming era in which GIS not only extends its current capabilities, but also enables revolutionary applications that will radically reshape our engagement with geospatial space and time.



High-precision mapping with satellite imagery. In the future, satellite imagery may reach a resolution that allows mapping of the Earth's surface at the molecular level. Such advancements would transform fields such as geology, agriculture and environmental conservation, making it possible to identify specific mineral compositions, crop health or ecosystem biodiversity with unprecedented accuracy. For example, scientists could detect subtle changes in soil chemistry indicative of valuable mineral deposits or the need for specific agricultural interventions, directly from space.



Immediate detection of environmental changes. Ultra-high resolution in satellite imagery promises instant, real-time detection of environmental shifts, including deforestation, desertification, and localized pollution events. This advancement not only enhances our ability to respond to environmental disasters but also enables continuous, detailed monitoring of our planet's state. Real-time observation of human activities and natural environmental changes provides a powerful tool for sustainable resource management and conservation.



Advanced integration with IoT sensor networks. The future could also see advanced integration between ultra-high-resolution satellite imagery and vast IoT sensor networks deployed around the world. This synergy promises a comprehensive and detailed understanding of the environment, with satellite imagery offering a macroscopic view complemented by microscopic, real-time insights from IoT sensors. Such integration has the potential to revolutionize environmental monitoring, natural disaster management, and urban and agricultural planning by furnishing a continuous flow of detailed ground-level data.



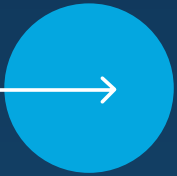
Archaeology and cultural heritage preservation. Ultra-high-resolution satellite imagery presents new possibilities in archaeology and cultural heritage preservation. The ability to detect and map hidden archaeological sites or ancient ruins beneath vegetation or soil, without direct intervention on the ground, could unveil lost civilizations and shed new light on human history. Moreover, precise monitoring of cultural heritage sites could facilitate early identification of risks or damage, aiding in their preservation..



Full autonomy in vehicles and robotics. While we are currently experimenting with autonomous vehicles and robots that use GIS for navigation and simple tasks, the future holds the promise of full autonomy, where these systems will interpret, adapt, and navigate complex environments without human intervention. By integrating advanced AI capabilities and geospatial analytics, these systems could perform surveillance, rescue, or construction tasks in areas that are difficult or dangerous for humans to navigate, thereby revolutionizing territory exploration and management.



The future of GIS is marked by an evolution towards capabilities that are beyond our current imagination. These advances promise not only greater efficiency and accuracy in the handling of geospatial data, but also new dimensions in the understanding and management of our planet's space and resources. As these emerging technologies develop and converge with GIS, we edge closer to a future where existing limitations are overcome, and new tools will be available to address tomorrow's global challenges.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

GRAPH DATABASES

Database management systems designed to efficiently store, map, and query complex relationships between data. They use graph structures composed of nodes (entities), edges (relationships) and properties to represent and store data in a way that more naturally reflects their interrelationships. This ability to handle complex relationships and high-performance queries makes them ideal for social network analysis, recommendation systems, logistics, and more.

BIG DATA

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CLOUD COMPUTING

Provides computing services over the Internet, allowing greater flexibility, efficiency, and scalability. It enables access to data, applications, and analytics resources from anywhere, transforming how organizations handle and process large volumes of information.

DIGITAL TWINS

Innovative technology that creates virtual replicas of real-world objects, processes, or systems. These digital models simulate the behavior, interactions, and dynamics of their physical counterparts, allowing for analysis, testing, and optimization in a virtual environment before implementation in the real world. Widely used in manufacturing, engineering, infrastructure management, and urban planning, Digital Twins facilitate continuous improvement, innovation, and data-driven decision-making.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as pattern recognition, learning, planning, and language understanding. Using algorithms and machine learning models, AI analyzes and learns from large datasets, identifying trends and making predictions with increasing accuracy. AI finds applications in various fields, from medicine and engineering to entertainment and marketing.

INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT)

Network of interconnected physical devices that collect and exchange data over the Internet. These devices, ranging from environmental sensors to smart appliances and autonomous vehicles, interact with their surroundings through technology. IoT transforms everyday objects into “smart” devices, enhancing efficiency and facilitating decision-making in various contexts.

LOCATION INTELLIGENCE (LI)

The process of deriving valuable insights from geospatial or location data. It uses the power of spatial analysis to transform geographic coordinates and locations into actionable insights that can support decision-making in areas as diverse as marketing, logistics, urban planning, and risk management. By integrating and analyzing georeferenced data, location intelligence enables organizations to better understand the spatial dynamics and patterns that affect their operations, markets, and environments.

AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) AND VIRTUAL REALITY (VR):

Technologies altering our perception of the physical and virtual worlds. AR overlays digital elements onto the real world through devices such as smartphones or special glasses, enriching the experience of the real world with digital information and visualizations. Conversely, VR creates entirely virtual, immersive environments accessed via devices such as VR headsets or glasses, enabling users to interact within digitally generated scenarios.

