

The Town of Southampton, NY

Publishing land management information through the Web



Town of Southampton: Town Hall

The Context

The Town of Southampton, New York is located on the southern fork of Long Island, 75 miles east of New York City. This community of quaint villages, beautiful beaches, and agricultural lands is also a favorite summertime getaway for New York City residents.

The first property control system, implemented by the Town in the late 1980s, was based on a solution from *Govern Software*, and encompassed land management, mass appraisal, tax assessment and billing, and utilities. In the 1990s, the Town developed its first GIS application, the *Land Manager GIS*. With simple clicks of a mouse, this application allowed access to property-related information directly from the map on screen. *Land Manager GIS* was integrated with *Govern* for spatial analysis, report generation, mailers, and data management.

In 1999 the Town decided to make information more accessible to the public. The benefits provided by the *Govern/Land Manager GIS* solution now paved the way for the release of the *Town of Southampton's Professional Services GIS Web Site*, a custom Internet mapping application developed by the Town. This first attempt at putting geographic information online contained limitations typical of early Web applications – namely, that security, speed, functionality, interactivity, printing capabilities, and reliability were far less advanced on the Web than they were on the desktop-based solution.

In 2001, *Govern Software* released *Govern.NET*, a web-based tool that allows users to browse property information online. Because of the existing and strong relationship between the Town and *Govern Software*, Southampton became an early adopter of this Web technology. While this took care of the property management, online mapping remained the missing piece for a true interactive Web-based application.

The Decision

The Town of Southampton examined several solutions for publishing its spatial data through the Web. Of these, only *JMap* matched and even surpassed the capabilities it wanted. One of the key requirements of the Town was an open environment. The Town did not want to be locked into any operating system on the server side, or to install any proprietary technology on the client side. *JMap* was viewed as the best solution in great part because it runs on any operating system, is compatible with all web browsers, integrates data from any database platform, and can distribute and display multiple GIS data types.

Another feature unique to *JMap* was the use of vector streamlining as opposed to raster output in the client environment. The mapping capabilities of *JMap* through a Web architecture therefore matched those of desktop applications without sacrificing speed. Moreover, given that *JMap* can handle many simultaneous connections, speed and reliability could be drastically improved over the former *GIS Web Site*.

The decision to implement *JMap* along with *Govern.NET* was made by the Southampton Town Board in December 2000. *JMap* was installed and integrated with *Govern.NET* and other information systems within 5 days in March 2001. The new Web-based management system has been in operation at the Town since August 2001.

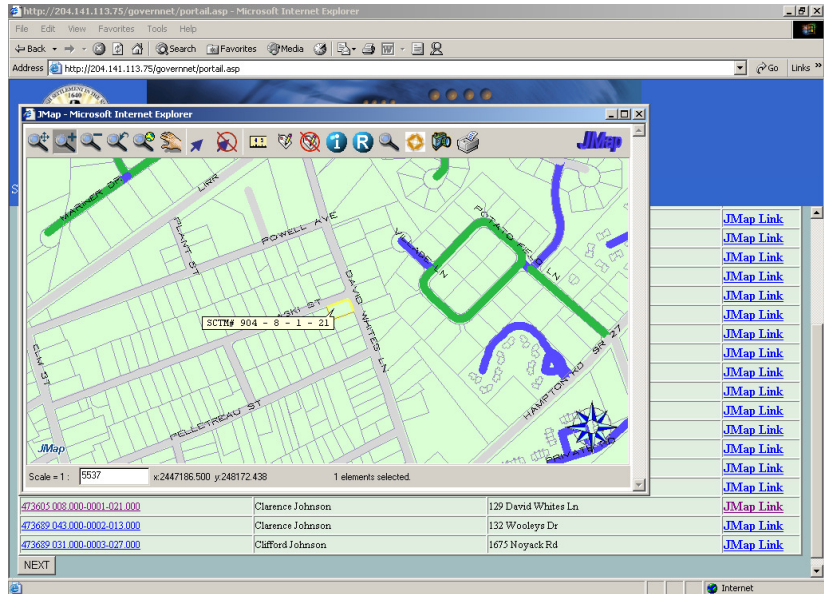
"The Town takes great pride in the custom online service that it has provided to its constituents over the past few years. The Town's decision to contract with Govern Software and Kheops Technologies for its new online property management system is proof that the Town is intent on maintaining its reputation for keeping in the forefront of technology, therefore continually meeting the demands of its growing community."

Richard Blowes, Town Management Services Administrator, Town of Southampton

The Solution

The release of the Govern.NET/JMap based solution was acclaimed as a very successful attempt by the Town to bring quality information services to its personnel and to the public at large. Today, many city personnel log on to the Town's online Land Management System on a daily basis to request environmental reporting information, select abutters for public hearing notices, print overviews of aerial photos, and retrieve all information and scanned documents relative to a piece of property. The system has a proven record of increased productivity and is a significant improvement over the former system.

Govern.NET and JMap are currently providing a best-in-class professional services Web site for the Town of Southampton. Looking ahead, the Town plans to maximize the capabilities of the Govern.NET/JMap solution by deploying numerous customized and secured GIS applications representing all facets of the Town's government, whether it is destined for the Town's personnel, its residents, local businesses and professionals, or coordinating agencies. In order to strengthen its leadership in technology, the Town plans to maintain a strong relationship with Govern Software and K2 GEOSPATIAL, two companies committed to providing world-class information technology to municipalities.



Users can research property based information, retrieve imaged documents, and then visualize the property online through the integrated Govern.Net/JMap internet application

Technical Environment at the Town of Southampton (August 2003)

Server: Compaq Proliant 2500
Pentium Pro Dual Processor
512 MB of RAM

Operating System: Microsoft NT 4.0

Web Server: Microsoft IIS 4.0

Relational Data: SQL Server 2000

Users of intranet applications: 188 (Aug. 15, 2003)

Spatial Data: Town proprietary data in ESRI shapefile format
New York State Ortho-imagery Program 2001 6"
Suffolk County Tax Parcel Base Map

Land Management System: Govern 7.5
Govern.NET 1.0

Online geospatial solution: JMap 2.1

Users of extranet applications: 322 (Aug. 15, 2003)



K2 GEOSPATIAL
740 Notre-Dame Street West, # 1260
Montreal, Quebec H3C 3X6
Canada
www.k2geospatial.com

K2 GEOSPATIAL thanks the Town of Southampton for the help provided in writing this document and in particular Ms. Annette DesRochers, GIS Manager, for her contribution. This document is provided for information purposes only. K2 GEOSPATIAL disclaims any liability in connection with this document. JMap is a registered trademark of K2 GEOSPATIAL. Govern and Govern.NET are trademarks of Govern Software. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.