

StoryScapes101: Introduction to the StoryScapes platform

Module 6 - Collaboration & Community Building with StoryScapes

Document Version: 01/01/2019

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041, USA.

Also, credit to GeoAcademy for inspiring this open course format.

Introduction

In this Module, students will learn to use StoryScapes as a platform to support projects that are larger than what they can implement alone. StoryScapes is designed to be more than just a tool for individuals to manage their *own* data or produce their *own* map visualizations. It aims to be a platform where people can work together to crowdsource and improve data on an ongoing basis.

StoryScapes provides two special profile types to support collaboration among StoryTellers working on a common theme and StoryTellers working within the same organization.

Additionally, StoryScapes provides mechanisms for StoryTellers to support the ongoing improvement of the StoryScapes platform. As an open-source and agile project, StoryScapes relies on a wide community of users, developers and sponsors to continuously grow and improve to meet user needs.

This module includes the following lessons:

- Lesson 1 – Organizing Community Initiatives
- Lesson 2 – Managing Organization Accounts
- Lesson 3 – Help StoryScapes Improve

Each Lesson is planned to take about 30 minutes to complete. Combined, this module should take about two hours to complete (assuming ten minute breaks between each Lesson).

Lesson 1: Organizing Community Initiatives

Objective

In this lesson, students will learn to start and lead a Community Initiative.

Lecture

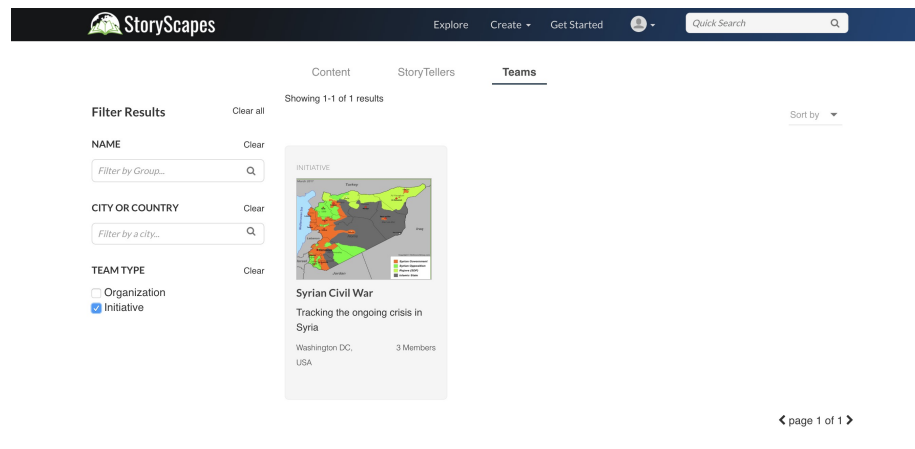
A Community Initiative is an effort by StoryTellers to collect StoryLayer data around a common theme.

For example, when the ISIS movement gained prominence in 2014, a Community Initiative in StoryScapes could have helped analysts across the US Government quickly collect the spatio-temporal data available about ISIS into a single Community Initiative page. As the data accrued, analysts could quickly compose StoryScapes that help explain various phenomena apparent in the StoryLayer data.

A Community Initiative simply empowers crowdsourcing and collaboration around a topic of interest.

The Community Initiative Page

Community Initiatives are publically accessible via a special account page. They can be accessed by going to the StoryScapes **Explore** page and filtering for **Teams**.



On the Community Initiative page you will see the StoryLayers and StoryScapes that are associated with the Community Initiative, as well as the Organizers and Members of the Community Initiative.

The screenshot shows the StoryScapes website interface. At the top is a dark blue navigation bar with the StoryScapes logo, links for 'Explore', 'Create', and 'Get Started', a user profile icon, and a search bar labeled 'Quick Search'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there's a map of Syria with a red border, followed by the title 'Syrian Civil War' and the subtitle 'Tracking the ongoing crisis in Syria'. Below this is a 'MANAGE' button. Further down, it says 'Washington DC, USA' and 'ABOUT SYRIAN CIVIL WAR'. The text describes the initiative as a place for experts to pool knowledge. To the right, there's a section titled 'Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes' which lists two items: 'Death in Syria: A Breakdown' and 'Russian Air Involvement in Syria'. Each item has a thumbnail image and buttons for 'Add to Featured' and 'Remove from Initiative'.

Becoming a Community Initiative Organizer

Community Initiative pages are managed by designated Initiative Organizers. Organizers are simply registered StoryTellers that have been given Organizer rights by a StoryScapes administrator.

If you have a Community Initiative you would like to see launched on StoryScapes, or that you would like to organize yourself, you will need to email an administrator. An administrator will then create the Community Initiative and add you as an Organizer. This will give you the ability to manage the Community Initiative page.

Managing a Community Initiative Page

If you have been given Organizer status on a Community Initiative, you click **Manage** on the Community Initiative page to customize basic information about your Community Initiative.


Explore Create Get Started



Syrian Civil War

Tracking the ongoing crisis in Syria


MANAGE

Washington DC, USA

ABOUT SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

This Community Initiative is a place for experts working across a range of agencies to pool knowledge about the ongoing crisis in Syria. As the conflict has many dimensions - political, economic, military, religious, ecological - it is helpful to have a single space where data and interpretations from a wide variety of experts can interact and deepen collective understandings. If you're working on Syria, please consider joining our Initiative and sharing StoryLayers and StoryScapes!

INITIATIVE MEMBERS



HonestAbe
Organizer

Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes

StoryScapes




UNCATEGORIZED
Death in Syria: A Breakdown
Ihracmer
Created Nov. 12, 2018
0 views

Add to Featured
Remove from Initiative

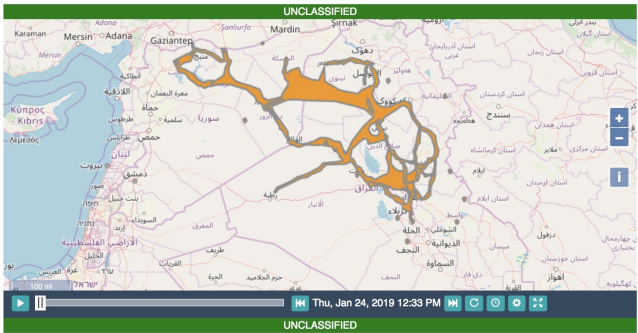


UNCATEGORIZED
Russian Air Involvement in Syria
Ihracmer

To add StoryLayers and StoryScapes to your Community Initiative page, you simply go to the StoryLayer or StoryScope page. You will see an option to add the content to the Community Initiative that you are an Organizer for.


Explore Create Get Started

Changing Areas of ISIS Control



UNCLASSIFIED

Download Layer
Metadata Detail
Edit Layer
Download Metadata

Legend
Single symbol

Create a story using this layer
Click the button below to generate a new story based on this layer.


Compose Story


Use on Organization Page
Syria Research Group

Use on Initiative Page
Syrian Civil War

Title Changing Areas of ISIS Control
Abstract No abstract provided
Publication Date Oct. 4, 2018, 5:12 p.m.
Type Vector Data

StoryTellers can also request to become Members of your Community Initiative. This is simply a way for you to indicate people that are supportive of your Community Initiative and are helping with the work in some way. A StoryTeller can request to become a Member by clicking **Join This Initiative** on any Community Initiative page. You can accept or reject these requests from the management page for the Community Initiative.


Explore Create + Get Started



Syrian Civil War

Tracking the ongoing crisis in Syria

[RETURN TO INIT. PAGE](#)


- Basic Info
- Links and Social Media
- Organizers and Members
- Privacy & Permissions
- Payment Info

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

admin on Jan. 24, 2019, 6:36 p.m.


[ACCEPT](#)
[DECLINE](#)

MEMBERS




HonestAbe

Manager



lheramer

Manager



coop

Member

BASIC INFORMATION

Demonstration

Now that you've learned how to access and manage a Community Initiative, let's watch an example of a user performing these actions:

Watch this video. VIDEO.

Tasks

Now it's your turn! Complete the following tasks:

- [x] First, find a Community Initiative on the Explore page and request to become a Member
- [x] Second, think of a Community Initiative that you would like to see launched in StoryScapes and share your idea with a colleague.

The following tasks can be completed if your course instructor shares login information for a temporary user account with rights as an Initiative Organizer:

- [x] Log off from your current account and log back on to StoryScapes using the test account provided by your course instructor. Go to this Community Initiative page and make one improvement to the profile.
- [x] Add at least one StoryLayer or StoryScape to the Community Initiative.

Lesson 2: Managing Organization Accounts

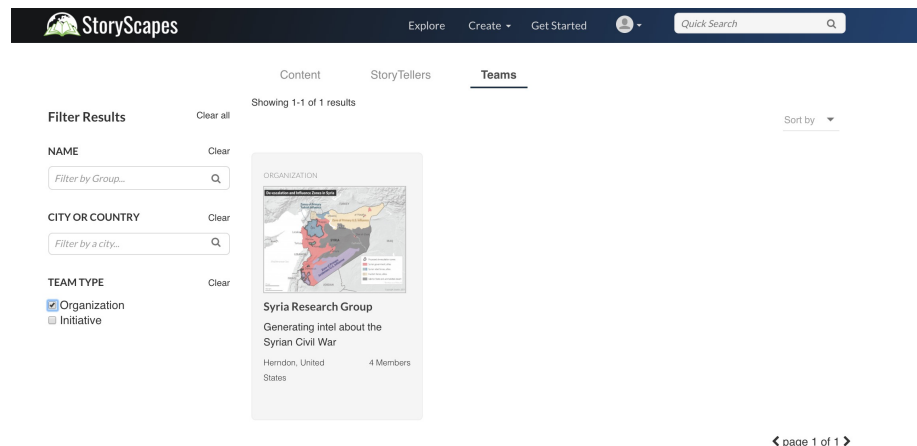
Objective

In this lesson, students will learn how to access and manage an Organization Account in StoryScapes.

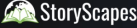
Lecture


Organization Accounts are very similar in structure to Community Initiative pages, although they have slightly different purposes. Community Initiatives are designed to promote collaboration around a single thematic topic that is pertinent for a period of time. Organization Accounts are designed for work units like agencies, teams, offices, departments and companies that benefit from a single place to represent their collective work on StoryScapes. The work of an Organization might span many different topics. For example, a regional desk inside the State Department may manage an Organization Account to host all of the StoryLayers and StoryScapes it produces over time.

Organization Accounts are hosted on a special account page inside StoryScapes. They can be accessed by going to the StoryScapes **Explore** page and filtering for **Teams**.



On the Organization Account page you will see the StoryLayers and StoryScapes that are associated with the Organization, as well as the Organizers and Members of the Organization.


Explore Create Get Started



Syria Research Group

Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War


MANAGE

Herndon, United States


ABOUT SYRIA RESEARCH GROUP

We are a research group dedicated to organizing data and producing StoryScapes that explain the nuances of the Syrian Civil War. As we work the data (StoryLayers) we produce will then become available for the rest of the IC to use and improve!


ORGANIZATION MEMBERS




battle
Organizer



admin
Organizer




HonestAbe
Organizer



Ihcramer
Organizer

Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes

StoryScapes



UNCATEGORIZED

Death in Syria: A Breakdown


Ihcramer

Created Nov 12, 2018

0 views

Add to Featured

Remove from Organization



UNCATEGORIZED

Chemical Weapons and the Brutality of Modern War

HonestAbe

Created Nov 16, 2018

0 views

Add to Featured



Remove from Organization


Setting up an Organization Account

When you are ready to set up an Organization Account for your work unit, you will contact a StoryScapes administrator. An administrator will work with you, or the appropriate point of contact, to get the Organization Account created. Once this is done, this will give you, or the appropriate point of contact, the ability to manage the Organization Account.

Managing an Organization Account

If you have been given Organizer status on an Organization page, you click **Manage** on the public Organization page to customize basic information about your Organization.


Explore Create Get Started 



Syria Research Group

Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War

MANAGE

Herndon, United States

ABOUT SYRIA RESEARCH GROUP

We are a research group dedicated to organizing data and producing StoryScapes that explain the nuances of the Syrian Civil War. As we work the data (StoryLayers) we produce will then become available for the rest of the IC to use and improve!

ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

battle
Organizer


admin
Organizer

HonestAbe
Organizer

Ihcramer
Organizer

Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes

StoryScapes



UNCATEGORIZED

Death in Syria: A Breakdown


Ihcramer

Created Nov 12, 2018

0 views

Add to Featured

Remove from Organization



UNCATEGORIZED

Chemical Weapons and the Brutality of Modern War

HonestAbe


Created Nov 16, 2018

0 views

Add to Featured

Remove from Organization

To add StoryLayers and StoryScapes to your Organization page, you simply go to the StoryLayer or StoryScape page. You will see an option to add the content to the Organization that you are an Organizer for.


StoryScapes
Explore
Create
Get Started
Quick Search

UNCLASSIFIED

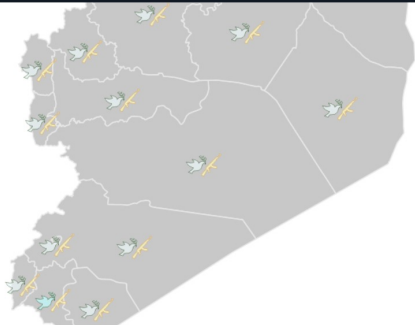
Death in Syria: A Breakdown

Incramer

1 Civilians vs Combatants

1 Civilians vs Combatants

While we often think of wars and conflicts as between multiple parties (both state and non-state actors), it is the civilians that pay the price. Each Governorate shows the total death toll with a breakout icon for civilians and combatants (non-civilian). Darker colors indicate higher casualties




50 mi
Mon, Feb 28, 2011 6:00 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

★ Not yet rated
0 views

★★★★★
Favorite
Flag

Death in Syria: A Breakdown


Laurence Cramer
0 views

Add to Organization

Syria Research Group

StoryScapes users can also request to become Members of your Organization. This is simply a way for you to indicate people that are involved in your Organization. A StoryTeller can request to become a Member by clicking **Join This Organization** on any Organization page.

UNCLASSIFIED

Explore Create Get Started

Quick Search

Syria Research Group

Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War

JOIN THIS ORGANIZATION

Herndon, United States

ABOUT SYRIA RESEARCH GROUP

We are a research group dedicated to organizing data and producing StoryScapes that explain the nuances of the Syrian Civil War. As we work the data (StoryLayers) we produce will then become available for the rest of the IC to use and improve!

ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

- battle**
Organizer
- admin**
Organizer
- lhcramer**
Organizer

Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes

StoryScapes

UNCATEGORIZED
Death in Syria: A Breakdown
lhcramer
Created Nov. 12, 2018
0 views

StoryLayers

UNCATEGORIZED
Syria-Deconfliction-Zones_c2bd1ecf
lhcramer
Created Nov. 8, 2018
0 views

UNCATEGORIZED
Zones of Control along Iraq and Syria Border
admin
Created Oct. 4, 2018

You can accept or reject these requests from the management page for the Community Initiative.

UNCLASSIFIED

Explore Create Get Started

Quick Search

Syria Research Group

Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War

RETURN TO ORG PAGE

- Basic Info
- Links and Social Media
- Organizers and Members
- Privacy & Permissions
- Payment Info

Manage Memberships

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

HonestAbe on Jan. 31, 2019, 12:24 a.m.

ACCEPT DECLINE

MEMBERS

- battle**
Organizer
- admin**
Organizer
- lhcramer**
Organizer

Edit Org Page Information

BASIC INFORMATION

Name:

Syria Research Group

Demonstration

Now that you've learned how to manage an Organization Account, let's watch an example of a user performing these actions:

Watch this video. VIDEO.

Tasks

Now it's your turn!

- [x] First, find an Organization Account on the Explore page and request to become a Member
- [x] Second, think of an organization that might benefit from having an Organization Account in StoryScapes. Share your idea with a colleague.

The following tasks can be completed if your course instructor shares login information for a temporary user account with rights as a manager of an Organization Account:

- [x] Log off from your current account and log back on to StoryScapes using the test account provided by your course instruction. Go to this Organization Account page and make one improvement to the profile.
- [x] Add at least one StoryLayer or StoryScape to the Organization Account.

Lesson 3: Help StoryScapes Improve

Objective

In this lesson, students will learn how they can help make StoryScapes a platform that continuously improves to better serve its user community. ### Lecture

StoryScapes is designed to be a community-driven piece of software, more like Wikipedia than Microsoft Word. StoryScapes is a knowledge platform where users work together to make the StoryLayers and StoryScapes that are published more complete and accurate over time.

Therefore, StoryTellers have an opportunity to help improve the platform itself, and are encouraged to do so! Consider the following ways you can help StoryScapes improve:

Report Issues

As you use the StoryScapes platform, you can report any issues you experience by using the Flag tool that was introduced in Module 4.

Contribute to the Roadmap

StoryScapes development follows a Roadmap that is available here XXXX. If you have ideas for features you want to see built, contribute it to the Roadmap XXXX.

Write Code

If you're a software developer, you're invited to get involved in the StoryScapes development pipeline. StoryScapes develops on a Agile process anchored by an open Scrub Board. Read more about our process here XXX. Check out our Backlog of issues here XXX. If there is one you feel you can tackle, go ahead!

Apply to become an Administrator

Administrators are the glue that holds StoryScapes together. Administrators are StoryTellers that have demonstrated significant experience and skill in using StoryScapes and are willing to volunteer time above and beyond their work duties to help make StoryScapes succeed. Administrators take on tasks like:

- Responding to content Flags
- Responding to Community Initiative and Organization Account requests
- Featuring excellent content on the Homepage
- Setting development priorities for the Roadmap

If you are interested in becoming a StoryScapes Administrator, email XXXX.XXXXX

Demonstration

Take a few minutes to listen to XXXX, a long-time StoryScapes developer, discuss what its like to be a StoryScapes developer and administrator;

Watch this video. VIDEO.

Tasks

Now that you've reached this final lesson in the Course, we want your thoughts! Take a moment to think about a new feature that you'd like to see in StoryScapes. Maybe its a new tool to help you curate StoryLayers or compose StoryScapes. Contribute your idea to the StoryScapes Roadmap!

Conclusion

In this Module you have learned how you can use StoryScapes to bring people together, whether by connecting people around a common interest in the form of a Community Initiative, or helping colleagues collaboration with an Organization Account.

You've also learned that StoryScapes depends on its users to step up in order to succeed. You've been invited to provide feedback, write code and even to

become a site Administrator. The future of StoryScapes depends on you! Join us to chart the future!