

Position statement for the W3C-OGC workshop on Maps for the Web Sept 21st to Oct 2nd 2020.

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Meteorology became a true science only after snapshots of the atmosphere were plotted on maps – “synoptic charts”. These evolved into highly specialised paper maps to address particular 3/4D concerns, as they did in oceanography and geology. These then became, especially in meteorology, highly specialised applications distinct from GIS. As the ‘traditional’ GIS becomes ever more powerful and starts to incorporate temporal and vertical dimensions as ‘first class citizens’, will it become feasible to ditch the traditional specialised meteorological mapping systems and replace them with generic GISs with ‘meteo style sheets’? The timescale for this may be 5 years. Then what happens in 10 years or so? I posit that GISs in turn are replaced by generic browser-based software, which is geospatially aware, to centimetre or better accuracy. Then an interesting question is what interoperability standards will we need?