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Overture Maps Linux Foundation Project: The Potential for Revolution in Navigation Technology

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Summary

The Linux Foundation, a global nonprofit organization, announced the formation of the Overture Maps Foundation in mid-December 2022. Supported by Microsoft, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Meta, and TomTom, the Project aims to bring together various civic organizations, governments, individuals, and businesses to create a global map solution that would be available to developers via open-source code. With the founding members' creation of the Overture Maps Foundation, the initiative will collectively gather resources to build map data that is complete, accurate, and updated, and will reportedly be available to all developers under an open data license.

What Is the Overture Maps Foundation Project

In mid-December 2022, the Linux Foundation announced a new collaborative effort to develop interoperable open map data as a shared asset that can strengthen mapping services worldwide. The Overture Maps Foundation was created to address the need for not only better mapping data, but to share open-source code with developers, globally. Citing that "sourcing and curating high-quality, current, and comprehensive data from disparate sources are difficult and expensive," along with the fact that current map data is vulnerable to errors and inconsistences, the Foundation's goal is to deliver quality geospatial data with open-source code for developers.