

DEVELOPING WITH (OR FOR) DATA THAT ISN'T YOURS

A Discussion on Challenges, Best Practices, and Ideas

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PARKER WITTMAN METADATA:

- Director of Professional Services at Aspect Consulting – a 70ish-person enviro/water/geo consulting and engineering firm;
- Core technical skills: database developer and GIS analyst – specializing in water resources and environmental remediation;
- Not really a *developer*, per se... more of a heavy duty “scripter”;
- Thinks all the really interesting problems are in Eastern Washington;



THERE'S. JUST. SO. MUCH. DATA.





DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



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**JUST THINK OF ALL THE
QUESTIONS WE CAN (AND DO!)
ANSWER WITH IT.**



**...ESPECIALLY WHEN WE
STACK IT ALL UP.**



THE TRADITIONAL MODEL:



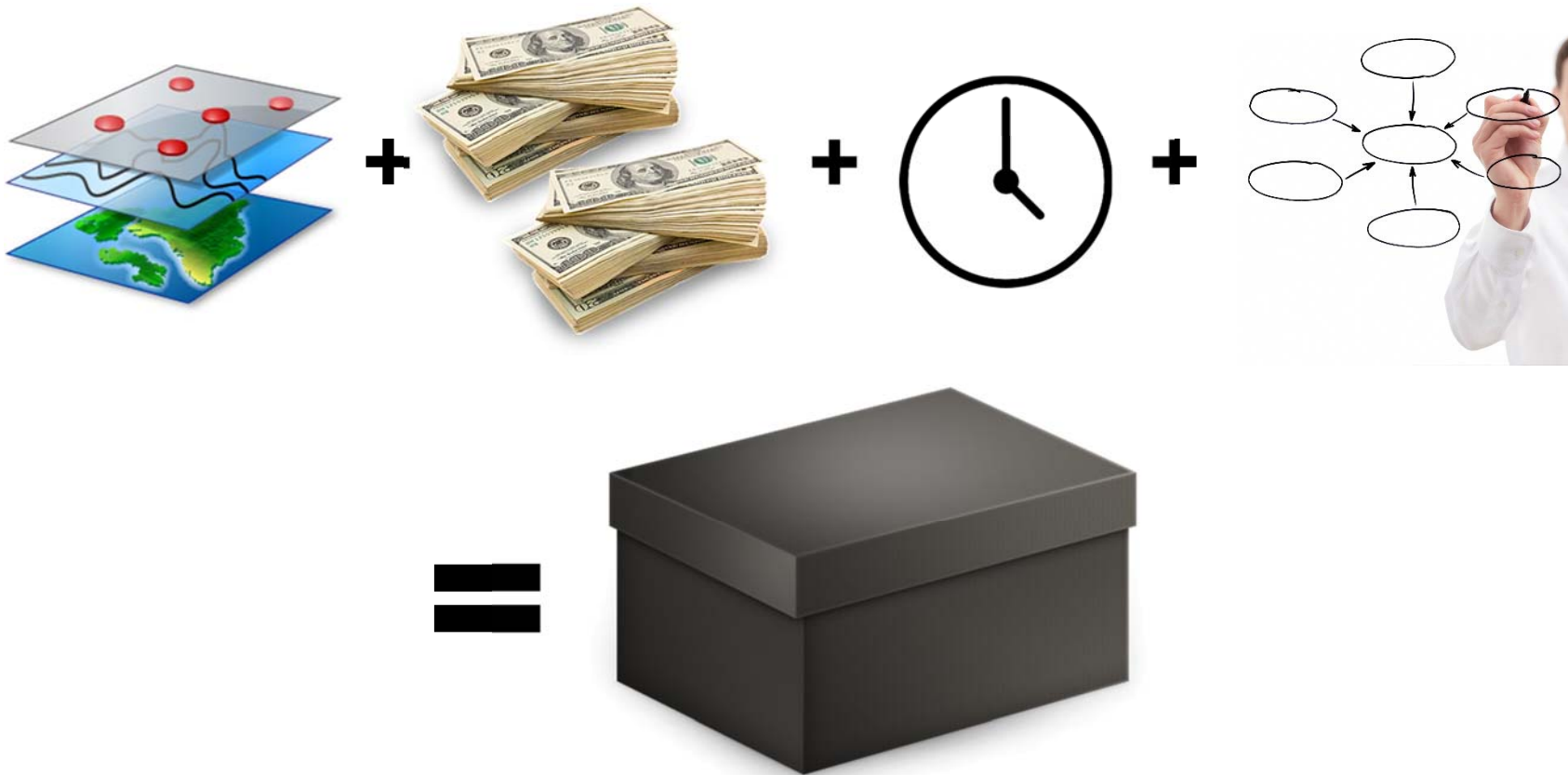
THE TRADITIONAL MODEL:



`analysis_outputs_with_cryptic_field_names_and_no_metadata_final3.shp`



OR (MAYBE)





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HOW CAN WE DO A BETTER JOB RECAPTURING VALUE FROM THE THINGS WE MAKE?



GAGING THE WEIGHT OF DEVELOPMENT

- > How do we enable **reuse**?
- > How to we ensure **broad applicability**?
- > How can we support **long life**?
- > How do we build **sustainable** tools?
- > How do we keep it all **up to date**?



BUILD OPEN? BUILD UBIQUITOUS?



UPDATES!

**POOR
ALIGNMENT!**

THE TROUBLE WITH DATA

SCALE!

**SCHEMA
CHANGES!**



IT'S A **SCARY ENTERPRISE,
BUILDING THINGS THAT RELY ON
THE SPECIFICS OF OTHER
PEOPLE'S DATA.**



(Naiveté Alert!)

**WHAT CAN WE (YOU) DO TO
HELP MAKE DATA MORE
INTEROPERABLE?**



WHAT ABOUT FEATURE SERVICES OR APIs?

