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exploring horizons

Industry meets Research

How do commercial GI-Services and NFDI4Earth interoperate

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Overview

Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

- Introduction

- How can NFDI4Earth benefit from commercial services?

- Business models and open source software?

- Example: 52°North

- Summary

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How can NFDI4Earth benefit from commercial services?

Open Source components can be a key element for building research data infrastructures (e.g., catalogues, viewer components, metadata editors, ...)

- Re-use existing work

- Enable the re-use of own developments
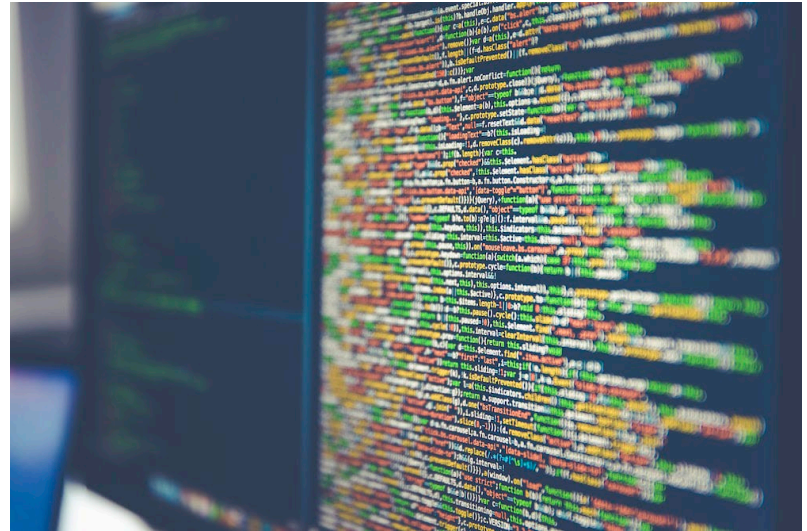
- Join forces to avoid duplicate work

Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

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How can NFDI4Earth benefit from commercial services?

Challenges when building open source communities

- Continuity

- Ensure maintenance

- Community building

- Onboarding of new contributors

- Sustaining involvement of developers

- Support users

- Provide training

Photo by Hannah Busing on Unsplash

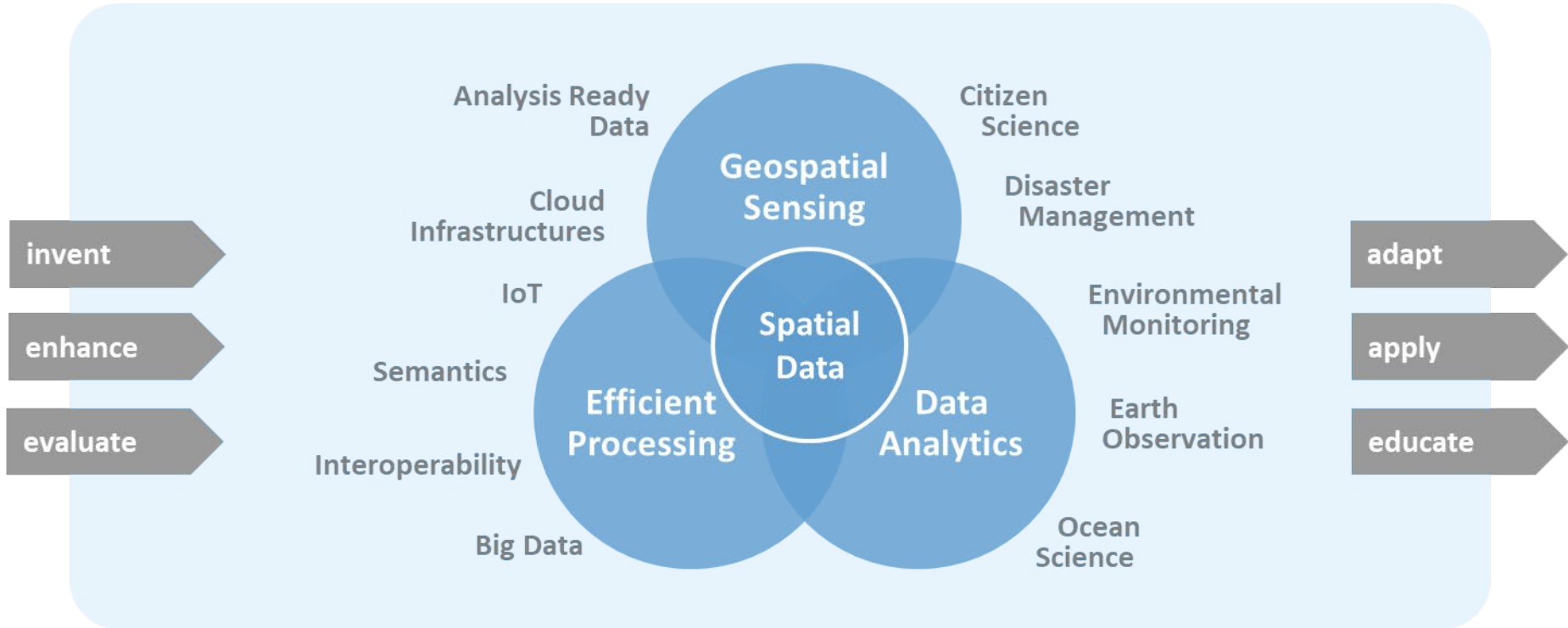52north

Business models and open source software

- Companies can help to sustainably manage open source software
    - Staff continuity
    - Maintenance and support
    - Community management
    - Act as legal entity managing intellectual property rights
- Different approaches to cover the costs
    - Research projects alone are not sufficient
    - Provide further fully-funded services to co-fund research and development activities
- Companies are not necessarily for profit

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Example: 52°North

- Based in Münster, Germany
- Ca. 25 employees
- Conducting applied research in Geo-information Technologies
- Non-profit company
- Activities
  - Research projects
  - Professional services, e.g.
    - Consulting
    - Software Development
- Professional services ensure the necessary co-funding for the research activities
- Open source, open science, open data

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Example: 52°North

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Example: 52°North

Assets

- Excellent competencies
  - Methods of applied science and software engineering
  - New trends and technologies in the geoinformation processing
  - Domain knowledge
- Strong network - industry, science, public administration
- Strong focus on added value and customer experience

Services: *knowledge-intensive services*

- Applied research
  - Studies for the evaluation of technologies/solutions
  - Execution of feasibility studies
- Software development
  - Prototype development, development of demonstrators
  - Development of innovative solutions
- Consulting & training, in particular on new methods/technologies

Revenues

- Professional service projects
- Public R&D funding programmes
- **R&D services contracts**

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Example: 52°North

- Open Pioneer Track as cooperation model

  - Initialised jointly with con terra GmbH

  - Managed development platform as open cooperation model

  - Customers and partners as contributors

  - Based upon a wide range of base components

  - Results are provided via open source licenses

  - Outputs will likely be used for the OneStop4All

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Summary

- Ensure the sustainability of developments!

- Cooperation with commercial service providers can help to

  - ensure maintenance

  - grow the community

  - build continuity

- Commercial activities and non-profit principles can go hand in hand

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Thank you for your attention!

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