



Elyx and sustainability

What do the management of land and property, networks and buildings have in common ?

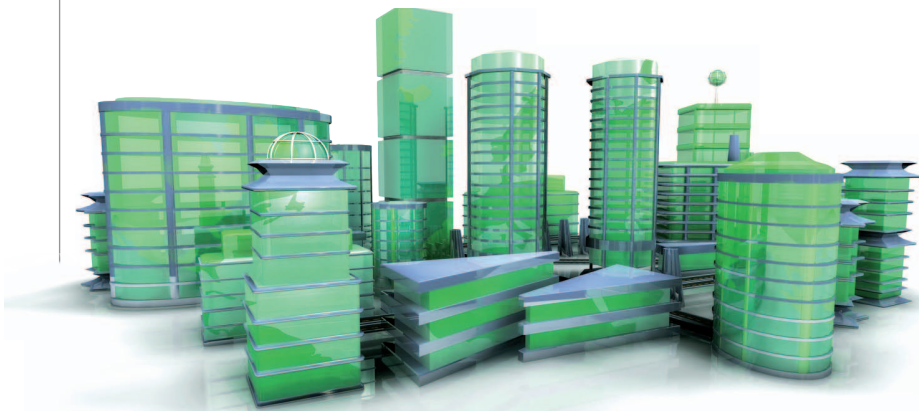
Besides the fact that these three areas constitute STAR-APIC's core business and expertise, there are many shared issues across these disciplines. A coherent, consistent approach to management is necessary and because the real world exists in three dimensions, this is likely to require 3 dimensional modelling. For this reason, STAR-APIC have put significant resource into research and development into 3D database management technology. Land and infrastructure can be considered as a single entity to be designed and managed through complete life cycles, taking increasing account of interaction with users.

This approach will open the way to new applications, for example in the areas of sustainable development and soft mobility, two current challenges for managers of land and infrastructure.

STAR-APIC aim to provide a simple and unified approach to the (sustainable) management of land and infrastructure. This is our vision for Elyx and its industry-based applications.

Issam TANNOUS
CEO
STAR-APIC Group

editorial



Le Syndicat des Eaux et de l'Assainissement du Bas-Rhin (SDEA) select Elyx

Le Syndicat des Eaux et de l'Assainissement du Bas-Rhin (SDEA) manage public water and waste water networks for 740,000 inhabitants of more than 450 communes of the Bas Rhin (Lower Rhine) department of France. To improve quality of service and efficiency, last February SDEA issued a tender to enhance its GIS capabilities including intranet and extranet applications and capability to supply data relating to the water and sewerage networks to third parties, customers and employees.

STAR-APIC responded to the tender with the Elyx Aqua solution which integrates all of the Elyx Suite modules (Office, Web, Mobile, ETL and Manager) into a coherent solution for water network management. In addition to software the tender required services to migrate data, install and configure software and access rights, training and application development. The tender also specified a mobile component allowing field workers to access and update data in the field.

Once the system is installed, SDEA will have a centralised data management and maintenance system with access controlled by Elyx Manager and a range of web (Elyx Web) and desktop (Elyx Office) users making use of Elyx Aqua applications for management of the network. Access to SDEA information will also be available to external parties via an internet Elyx Web solution.

SDEA will migrate from a CAD oriented approach to centralised GIS data management, giving them more consistent and coherent understanding of their infrastructure, resulting in improved decision making and significant efficiencies.

In this edition...

news

2

New customers
Partners
Events
Calendar

focus on products

4

Focus on Elyx
Certification
Customer Survey
Mass market solution

case studies

6

Successful end to a project
The city of Orléans



What's new in water

The Communauté de Communes Bayeux Intercom chooses Elyx for the management of its water and waste water networks.

STAR-APIC has won the tender published by the Communauté de Communes Bayeux Intercom for the implementation of its industry-focused GIS. First, the data will be captured by the land surveying company GEODIS. Then, our industry-focused solution dedicated to water and sewage management, Elyx Aqua, based on the Elyx' thick and thin client, will be deployed by STAR-APIC for managing the network covering the 34 communes that constitute the territory of Bayeux Intercom.

STAR-APIC technology honoured at the 2010 innovation trophies organised by Lyonnaise des Eaux

The Degrés Bleus® solution developed by Lyonnaise des Eaux calculates the amount of heat produced by waste water running in sewage networks which could be used, via a heat pump, to heat or cool down any type of building. The aim is to have a tool that maps areas suitable for such a system. The prize was awarded the "commercial activities" category and acknowledges the innovation involved in locating sewers that are technically suitable for the Degrés Bleus® technology.

The Degrés Bleus® solution is based on integrating population density data provided by INSEE (French Statistical Office) into a STAR-APIC spatial database. When the data is integrated, it is possible to determine the number of inhabitants connected upstream of any section of main sewer. The sewage network maps identify sections of suitable main sewers and their perimeter to locate buildings that could benefit from Degrés Bleus®. The data can be published on Google Earth.



Good to know!

Lyonnaise des Eaux France is one of the key references of the Group in the field of water and sewerage network management. The company has more than 3,000 STAR-APIC users among whom 1,800 are office based users and 1,200 use STAR-APIC software in the field on tablet PCs

New customers

STAR and APIC users "think Elyx"

Since it was launched, the Elyx suite has been successfully implemented at many customer's sites including: Chambéry Métropole, SIARE (Syndicat Intercommunal d'Assainissement de la Région d'Enghien-les-Bains, Val d'Oise), the Grand Port Maritime de Nantes Saint-Nazaire, Angers Agglomération and the City of Rosny-sous-Bois. Now the Communauté de Communes de Vallet and the Communauté d'Agglomération de Charleville-Mézières have joined the Elyx user community.

The Communauté de Communes de Vallet



Just after Elyx was officially launched, the new team of the community's elected officials decided to call for tenders with the aim of enhancing existing GIS capabilities. Following an extensive benchmark, the Elyx solution was selected. All reference data (cadastre, scan 25®, Carto DB®, Address DB®, orthophotos) and application data (including local town plans, rights of way, drinking water supply, sewerage, public lighting, fire hydrants, development zone, household refuse collection, cemeteries) will be stored and managed centrally and will be used with the modules of the Elyx suite (Office, Web, Manager). The final goal will be increased interoperability between the Elyx suite and other management applications running Oracle. The system will be deployed within the community at the beginning of next year.

The Communauté d'Agglomération de Charleville-Mézières



After the French STAR-APIC user meeting, organized by the Communauté d'Agglomération de La Rochelle in October 2009, the Communauté d'Agglomération de Charleville-Mézières was convinced of the value of migrating its software platform to Elyx. As a result a plan was developed to migrate Water and Sewerage applications developed in WinSTAR and STAR GIS to a single consistent spatial database accessed by Elyx. The project will lead to the establishment of a coherent GIS system, accessible by Web technologies particularly geared to water supply and waste water management. Migration to the Elyx Suite will be underway by the end of the year. At that time reference and specific application data will be managed by Elyx Manager and accessible by Elyx Office and Elyx Web.

Other new references : Hainaut maintenance, Office de la Topographie et du Cadastre of Tunisia, Port Authority of Lomé, Syndicat mixte des Transports pour le Rhône et l'Agglomération Lyonnaise (SYTRAL), Syndicat mixte des transports pour le Rhône, municipality of Satolas et Bonce.

Partners

STAR-APIC commitment to the students of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of Tangier

A partnership was signed in March between the Tangiers Faculty of Science and Technology in Morocco (a geomatics and engineering school) and STAR-APIC. This three-year agreement provides the students and the trainees of this school with free STAR-APIC licenses so that they may use STAR-APIC software to develop key skills in mapping and GIS.

Geo4Map chooses Mercator to help realise its business intentions

At the start of 2010, a number of ex-employees of the Istituto Geografico De Agostini formed a new company Geo4Map in Novara. The company aims to supply services to spread excellence in cartography and geography. It was only natural that they chose Mercator to help realise this aim. Geo4Map offers

comprehensive services ranging from the development of geographic information systems and cartographic data to the creation of new editorial content.



Events



The audience - Issam Tannous (CEO STAR-APIC Group) - Alan de Hepcée (General Director STAR-APIC Belgium) and the Minister for Land-Use Planning, Philippe Henry.

Launch of Elyx in Belgium

On March 19, STAR-APIC organised a major event for the launch of its new Elyx suite in Belgium.

The event, which was held in the STAR-APIC Group's office in Liège, was attended by Philippe Henry, Minister for Land-Use Planning and a representative of the Minister for the Economy and New Technologies, Jean-Claude Marcourt. In his speech, the minister talked about the problems linked to the management of networks in Wallonia, the challenges related to the sharing of metadata within the scope of the INSPIRE directive, and the benefits of spatial technology applied to land-use planning.

STAR-APIC introduced the new Elyx suite with presentations and demonstrations to an audience of almost 80 users and journalists. A long-time user, Albert Collignon from the Public Service of Wallonia (SPW), also explained how he used STAR-APIC software.

The event continued in the afternoon with workshops focusing on the different Elyx modules and applications dedicated to network management and data sharing.

Alan de Hepcée, General Director of STAR-APIC Belgium, said: « Our customers are facing increasing challenges: never before has so much geographic data been available, now it is time to organise, share and distribute it. Today, we have heard about sustainable management and about the integration of citizens in this process. The new STAR-APIC Elyx suite is our response to these challenges».



Mercator User Group 2010 in brief

This year's Mercator User Group meeting took place in Sint-Niklaas (Belgium). It started with a guided tour of the Mercator museum, famous for its collection of antique maps and globes. Highlights of the meeting included a preview of the revised interface of Mercator Suite 10 and well-prepared presentations by the users themselves. These led to several interesting discussions on Mercator in all its aspects: print on demand, data-

base-assisted publishing, map series production, colour management...

To conclude the meeting, the participants confirmed Sven-Öje Martinsson (Swedish Maritime Administration) and Anders Ek (Lantmäteriet) in their positions as Chair and Vice-Chair of the User Group Committee. Jelle De Zwaef (media swiss ag) was elected as Secretary, replacing Garry Heaton (Ordnance Survey), who was rewarded with Honorary Membership of the Group for his outstanding contributions.

Two STAR-APIC UK customers win prestigious awards

Northumbrian Water (NWL) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD) were successful at last year's prestigious Association of Geographic Information (AGI) awards held in London.

DARD was awarded Best Practise in Central Government for their system to manage the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS). This 7-year, £220 million agri-environment scheme is designed to help

farmers and landowners. It aims to improve biodiversity, water and soil quality, and mitigate climate change. NWL were awarded Best Practise in the Private Sector for their Operational Planning and Management (OPM) application, a bespoke addition to NWL's GIS, designed to manage and display the impact of planned and unplanned water supply events to aid incident management.

Calendar

- **September, 24 2010**
French interoperability day
 «Interoperability standards for the environment»
 Météo-France - Toulouse
<http://www.forumogcfrance.org>
- **September, 28 -30 2010**
AGI GeoCommunity Conference
 Stratford-upon-Avon - United Kingdom
<http://www.agi.org.uk>
- **September, 28 2010**
STAR2Elyx Information Day
 STAR-APIC offices - Cachan
 Registration required, places limited
info@star-apic.fr
- **October, 13-14 2010**
3D Technologies Conference :
 What benefits for the city of tomorrow?
 Arts & Métiers ParisTech
 Chalons en Champagne
<http://www.pi3c.com>
- **November, 10 2010**
GeoDATA 2010
 Hastings Stormont Hotel
 Belfast (Northern Ireland)
<http://www.citiesrevealed.com/events/geodata10/>
- **November, 16 2010**
GeoDATA 2010
 Audi Glasgow - Glasgow (United Kingdom)
<http://www.citiesrevealed.com/events/geodata10/>
- **November, 24-25 2010**
STAR-APIC 2010 Users Club
 The STAR-APIC Francophone User meeting will take place on November 24 and 25 2010 in Liège, Belgium.
[Liège \(Belgique\)](http://www.star-apic.com)
<http://www.star-apic.com>

More information...
www.star-apic.com



DARD and NWL staff with their awards and Tom Timms, STAR-APIC UK Director (3rd from left).

Focus on Elyx

The Elyx Suite: version 2 ELYX



Elyx is the GIS platform designed and developed by STAR-APIC, which forms the core technology behind all of our industry-focused solutions. Elyx V2 is now available and Pierre-Jean Lautier, STAR-APIC's R&D Director, explains what new functionality is now available.

What is the key new functionality of this new release?

This new version provides both an improved architecture and new functionality:

- **Elyx Web is now available.** This new solution is based on a new Web client and a new server sharing the same GIS kernel as Elyx Office,
- **A workflow engine** that enables complex processing based on a succession of simple predefined processes (already available for Office and Web),
- **Cumulative profiles:** from now on, any user may have several profiles at the same time,
- **Custom tooltips,**
- **Management of history** with an ability to view change through time
- **Raster plan positioning tool,**
- **New formats for vector backgrounds:** this release supports the import of standard GIS formats such as SHAPE, DWG, MIF/MID and DGN as vector backgrounds.

What are the advantages of this new Elyx release ?

This is the first real version that offers a common GIS kernel for our Web and Office solutions and, consequently, the same map rendering, and increasingly centralised administration and common services. Besides, with a powerful and scalable Web server, our Web solution is now interoperable because it is based on open and secure standards (WMS).

The STAR-APIC Francophone User meeting is planned for November 24 & 25 in Liège. Can you give us an idea of what you will be demonstrating there ?

Of course, we will show our customers the benefits of our homogeneous solutions, simplifying the global administration of the software and providing interoperability via open standards to other applications. We will also show the future in terms of 3D research and how we plan to integrate this new component into our range of products.

More information...

www.star-apic.com

More information...

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Who else but STAR-APIC can make your GIS evolve?

This section is the perfect place to remind our readers that STAR-APIC attaches the highest importance to upwards compatibility of software. We aim to ensure that customers are supplied with methods and tools to ease the migration from STAR and APIC software products to the new Elyx platform.

How to migrate to Elyx

Migrating from STAR or APIC software to Elyx requires firstly an excellent knowledge of both the data assets and functionality of the source system. Then, it is necessary to analyse the current GIS applications, and to define the scope of the migration by making an inventory of data and control tasks, and to select the data to be migrated to Elyx.

STAR-APIC recommends checking the state and quality of data (for example, the topology of a network or the consistency of a data model). This can be organised in three steps:

- definition - with full user consultation of the data to be migrated,
- a detailed analysis of the graphic aspects, links and tables to determine feasibility,
- specification by the customer of the data model for the migrated system accounting for display characteristics and attributes...

Migration to Elyx offers real added value with the help of a range of free tools including :

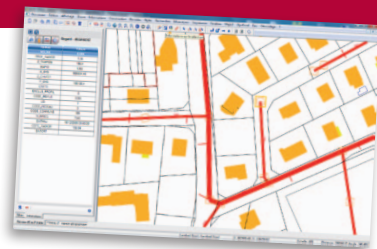
- a tool to find all types used in map layers to rationalise legends and symbols,

- a plugin for FME (the market leading tool for transforming GIS and CAD data),
- a tool to transfer STAR symbology to Elyx,
- a page layout transfer tool (plot templates),
- migration guides.

Please contact your business manager or the STAR-APIC support team for more details.

More information...

info@star-apic.com



Optimise the use and productivity of your water networks with Elyx Aqua

STAR-APIC has strengthened the promotion of its solution dedicated to water and sewerage network management with Elyx Aqua, the solution that, uses the Elyx GIS platform together with specific application modules.

In 2004, only 40 % of French municipalities had an IT system for at least part of their network. At the same time, the volume of leakage was estimated at 1.3 billion cubic metres, which is more than 20% of production. In other words, 5.2 cubic metres per day per km of pipe were being lost. These figures emphasise the importance of having accurate information on network assets.

Elyx Aqua as an operational and documentation tool, contributes to a better understanding and knowledge of network assets, improved decision making and ultimately better quality of service. Elyx Aqua can be the base on which the whole process of managing buried assets relies but also can contribute to the definition of network renewal and extension plans to optimise future investment.

Elyx Aqua is designed for local communities, municipal associations, consultancy firms and utility companies.

MERCATOR

Now in its 3rd decade, Mercator continues to address user requirements



For the last 20 years, Mercator, STAR-APIC's cartographic production solution, has continued to meet the needs of its users by keeping up to date with industry trends and technology. This will be no different in Mercator's third decade. In the next two releases special attention will be given to making the Mercator user interface more visually-oriented, as this will make it even easier for the new, "visual" generation of operators to get to work with the software. The next release, Suite 7-2 (mid 2011) will focus on changes in the editors, amongst others to the MSF style selector.

After 7-2, the version numbering will jump to 10. As demonstrated at the Mercator User Group meeting, Suite 10 (end 2011) will allow the automated production lines in MercatorServer to be set up by means of a new and very powerful graphic interface. All this will also make the software more accessible to users without a genuine cartographic background and who may only need to use Mercator occasionally.

Certification

STAR-APIC announces ITIL certification for consultants

Within the scope of its activities in supplying datacenter management solutions, STAR-APIC is pleased to announce the ITIL certification of its consultants specialising in the development of its DATACENTER ONE solution.

DATACENTER ONE meets the needs of datacenter managers by controlling the resilience and capacity planning of their installations as well as optimising allocation of resources and budgets. These objectives comply with ITIL philosophy: Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and service continuity.

Practically speaking, DATACENTER ONE helps to integrate change management applications (Help Desk, Asset Management, Change Management) and production monitoring applications (technical building management, data acquisition and load reporting) and in providing management reports contributes to improved decision-making.

STAR-APIC and its partners have to supply customers with solutions within a well-proven methodology, such as ITIL, meeting new challenges in terms of service level control and continuity.

Bruno Brottier, who was appointed Director of the Building One Business Unit in September 2009, says: « DATACENTER ONE is a structured solution to manage the critical information systems of our customers. It offers a key technology to consolidate IT change management applications and IT monitoring applications. This integration provides key information to improve organisation, planning and risk management. These issues are expressed in the majority of tenders and offers we have been responding to since the beginning of the year and we are very pleased to have anticipated the requirements of the market ».

Today, 50% of STAR-APIC staff in France and in Belgium are certified ITIL V3; and by 2011 this should be 100%. STAR-APIC has already won three projects in the banking and energy sectors where its ITIL competence is synonymous with successful implementation.

Customer survey

The Inspire Directive and metadata

At the end of 2009, STAR-APIC ran a customer survey of its French users. The aim was to collect their opinion on INSPIRE, metadata, the roles of administrators in a GIS team and the obligations prescribed by CNIL (an independent authority protecting privacy and personal data). The survey was successful and STAR-APIC would like to thank everybody who responded.

The STAR-APIC France training manager, Annick Abby who initiated the survey, explains: « We are trying to meet the expectations of our users. The survey helped us to verify our understanding of our customer requirements. Our support teams are here to help our users. Do not hesitate to contact us ».

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Check the results at : www.star-apic.fr/easiwcm/easibs_wcm.nsf/_/95367FFB6F5DB12EC125772E0053A898?opendocument

Mass market solution

geolives For Outdoor Enthusiasts What's New...



In spring 2010, Geolives, the STAR-APIC subsidiary dedicated to mapping applications for the general public, announced the release of its free iPhone application that integrates with the French géoportail and is available on the AppStore.

Many features are available in the free version such as the ability to search for trails (from community sites) around a specific location, save and share trails with the inbuilt GPS, and access Google Maps worldwide.

In Europe high quality topographic maps are also available including French maps from the GeoPortal. For 14.99 € a year users can register with Geoportal and download unlimited IGN maps or aerial photos..

In July, Geolives signed a 3-year contract with the Commissariat général au tourisme (CGT) of the Walloon Region to offer interactive trail maps of the Walloon Region of Belgium. At the end of August, IGN France validated the new Geolives version, compatible with Android smartphones.

More information : <http://www.geolives.com>

focus on products...

Successful end to Terra Magna R&D Project

The Terra Magna project, which has been described in previous editions of BCO, ended in May. Thanks to this project, STAR-APIC and its partners developed and improved key applications in the field of 3D GIS data management.

STAR-APIC, with IGN, have developed the foundations of the first true 3D GIS with capabilities for storage and direct access to large volumes of data stored in Oracle and full interoperability allowing the use of data by external applications (via standard file exchange and web services).

BIONATICS, CIRAD, IGN and ECP have developed applications connected to the 3D data warehouse for development and urban planning. CSTB, THALES, INRETS and ECP have meanwhile, profited from the 3D Warehouse and demonstrated potential uses for sustainable development (including noise mapping and other environmental issues).

Finally, SPACEYES and DRYADE have used 3D GIS Web services to experiment with a collaborative 3D Wiki type environment for updating the 3D database.

All these tools were presented at two closing events which took place at the Communauté d'Agglomération de Cergy Pontoise (a pilot site) during the 2010 week of research and innovation in the Val d'Oise and at the Ecole nationale des sciences géographiques (ENSG) during the 2010 Rencontres SIG la Lettre.

These two successful events aroused the interest of the media (including BTP Informatique, la Gazette des communes, InnovCity...).

The valuable results of the STAR-APIC project are now visible in Elyx 3D with a first commercial release planned for 2011.

Financial support : Direction générale de la compétitivité, de l'industrie et des services (DGCIS), the Île-de-France region, departments of the Val de Marne, Seine et Marne, Val d'Oise, Hauts-de-Seine and Yvelines.

Competitiveness cluster support : Cap Digital et Advancity ville and mobilité durables

More information...

www.star-apic.com

The webmapping application of the City of Orléans and of the Communauté d'Agglomération Orléans Val de Loire

A focus on the Internet mapping application of the urban community of Orléans which uses STAR-APIC technology. A prefecture of the Loiret department (45), Orléans is classified a « City of art and history », an official title granted by the ministry of Culture to communes that commit to policies of supporting artistic development and heritage.

Created in 1993, the SIGOR (Geographic Information Service of Orléans) is responsible for managing the GIS for the city. Four people work in the department, part of the directorate of information systems (DSI). As early as 2005, the activity of the SIGOR was extended to the Communauté d'agglomération Orléans Val de Loire (the « AggLO ») which brings together 22 communes around the city.

The city and AggLO GIS

The first GIS used at SIGOR was the STAR WinSTAR application. This was later augmented by STAR GIS and a number of specific applications as the use of GIS was extended across most of the departments in the city. More than 70 regular users made use of the wide range of datasets that have been captured and maintained. Today more than 1,400 PCs are connected to the intranet with large numbers of users able to access mapping data put online by SIGOR.

The Orleans intranet application

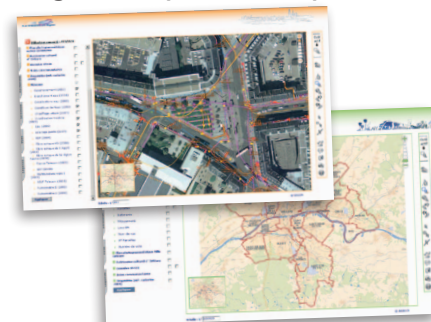
With a need to share services and increase coordination across the City and communes, the GIS group were tasked with implementing a common intranet GIS for both the city and all of the communes of AggLO. The STAR NeXt application was selected to integrate data and provide the intranet mapping functionality for the city and the Communauté d'agglomération.

The web application is now available to all computer users within the City administration and AggLO. Depending upon their profile, users can query geographic information of general interest (common data sets and mapping) together with application specific data (such as cadastre, town planning, water and sewerage networks, public lighting, street management...).

This Web platform provides significant benefits: IT resources to host and manage the application (storage and backup) are centralised but shared; IT tasks (management of the system) are reduced, there's no more duplication of tasks such as data loading. The smaller communes now have access to GIS functionality while personal data is secure (to meet new CNIL legislation).

SIGOR is now giving access to the web mapping application via an extranet to the 22 member communes of the AggLO.

Like other STAR-APIC customers SIGOR are monitoring the evolution of the new Elyx suite.



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