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THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE

Presented at the FIG Working Week 2025,
6-10 April 2025 in Brisbane, Australia
FIG **Geospatial**
Council of Australia

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation

Brisbane, Australia 6-10 April

Advancing Urban Digital Twin Implementation Through Discrete Global Grid Systems

Dr Matthew B.J. Purss

Co-Founder and CEO



Pangaea
Innovations Pty Ltd



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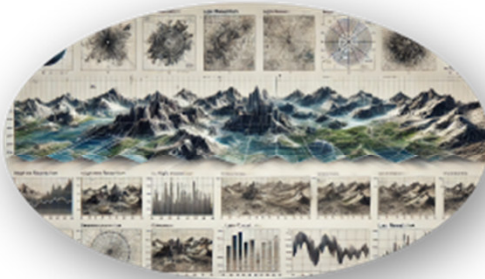
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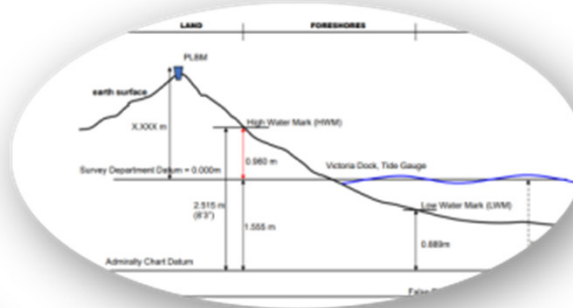
Overview

- The Challenge of Digital Twins
- Discrete Global Grid Systems - a new approach to data interoperability
- The Digital Nexus is already here

The Challenge of Digital Twins - Why are they hard to build?...



Multiple Sampling Resolutions



Multiple CRSs



Multiple Data Formats



Multiple Jurisdictions



~40% of the world's population (~3.3Bn people) live **≤ 100km of the coast**

• **~10%** of the world's population (~800Mn people) live **≤ 10m above sea level**

• **~40% of the world's largest cities** (~200 cities) are on the coast

• **significant implications for climate change mitigation**

Some challenges facing Marine Digital Twins



Digital Twin
Data Discovery Requires
Data Harmonisation
Before Anything Else



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WORKING WEEK 2025

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Geospatial Council of Australia

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Equal Area Tessellations of the Earth's Surface Model

Tetrahedron Cube Octahedron Dodecahedron Icosahedron

Simple cell Types:

- Rectangular
- Triangular
- Hexagonal

nD Spatial Analyses
↓
1D Array Processes

Globally Unique Cell Indices

00	01	02	03	10	11	12	13	20	21	22	23	30	31	32	33
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

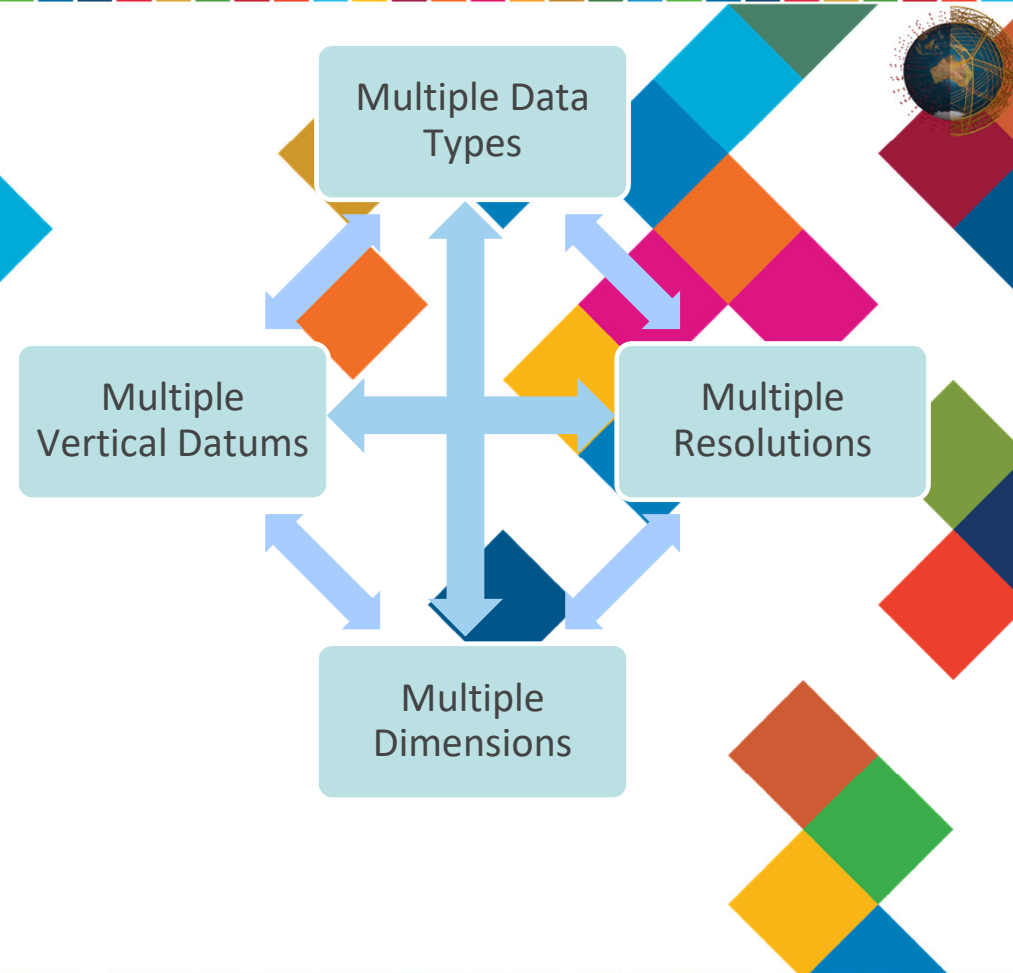


Spatial Data Analytics Without "Flattening"



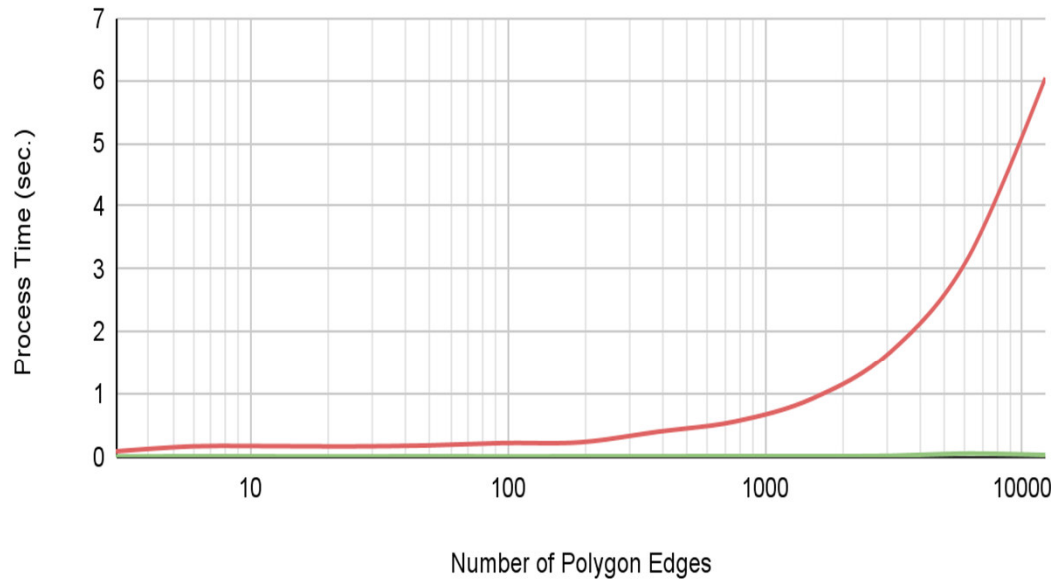
DGGS can bring massive value to Spatial Data Infrastructures in addressing the data interoperability Challenge.

Removing the need to reformat, resample or perform multiple coordinate reference transformations of the data before it can be used in a Marine Digital Twin context.



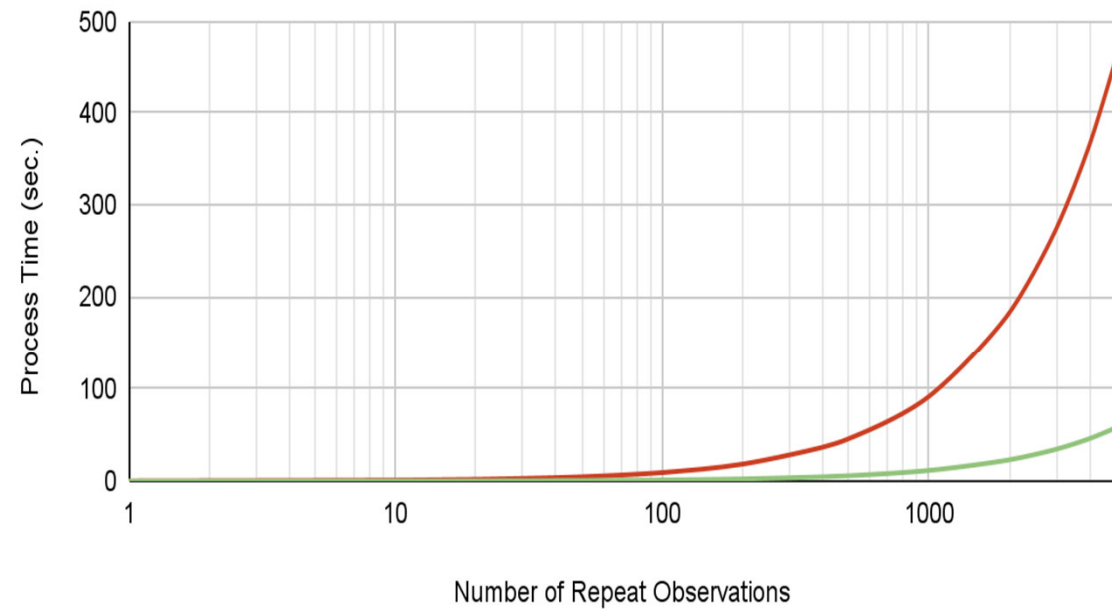
Single Point in Polygon vs Polygon Complexity Test (Process Time)

Conventional Approach TerraNexus



Point in Polygon vs Repeat Operations Test (Process Time)

Conventional Approach TerraNexus

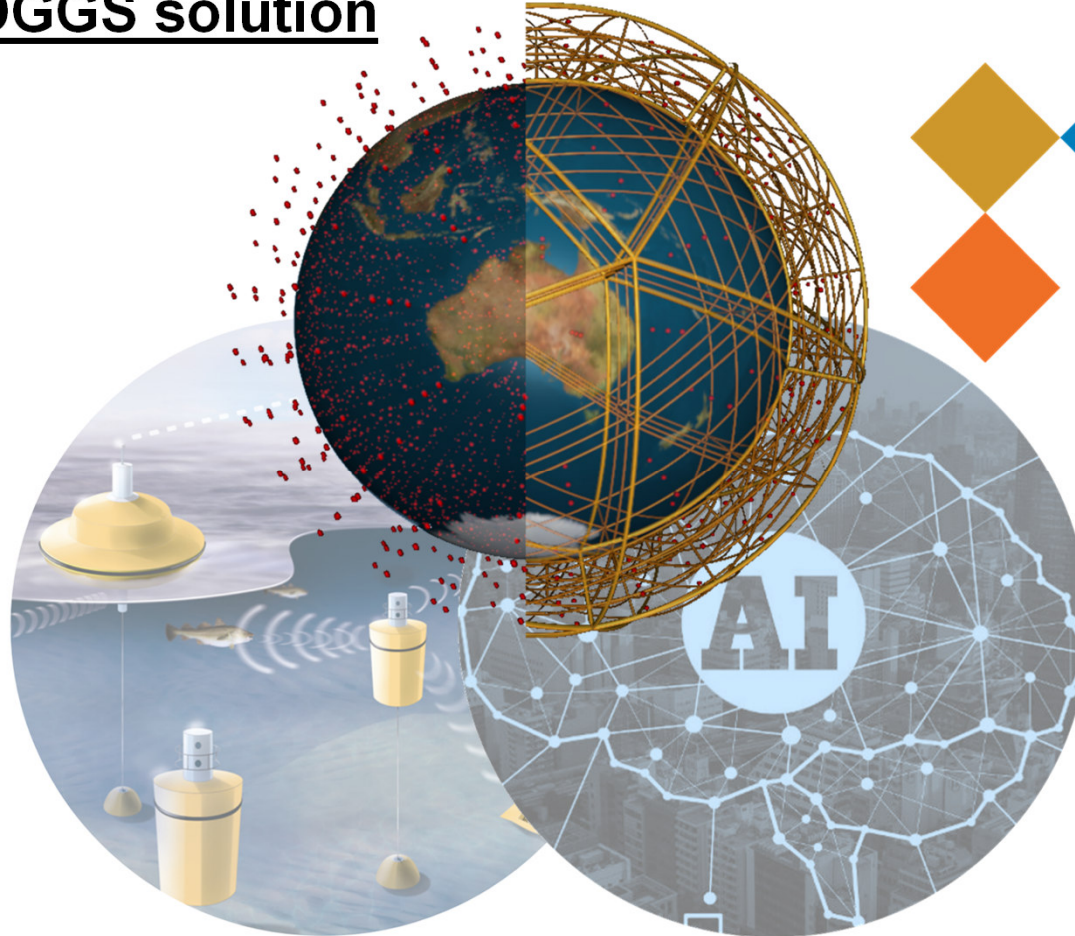


TerraNexus – A 4D DGGS solution

4D Indexing with real world context baked in

Equal Volume Zones

Solid Earth DGGS



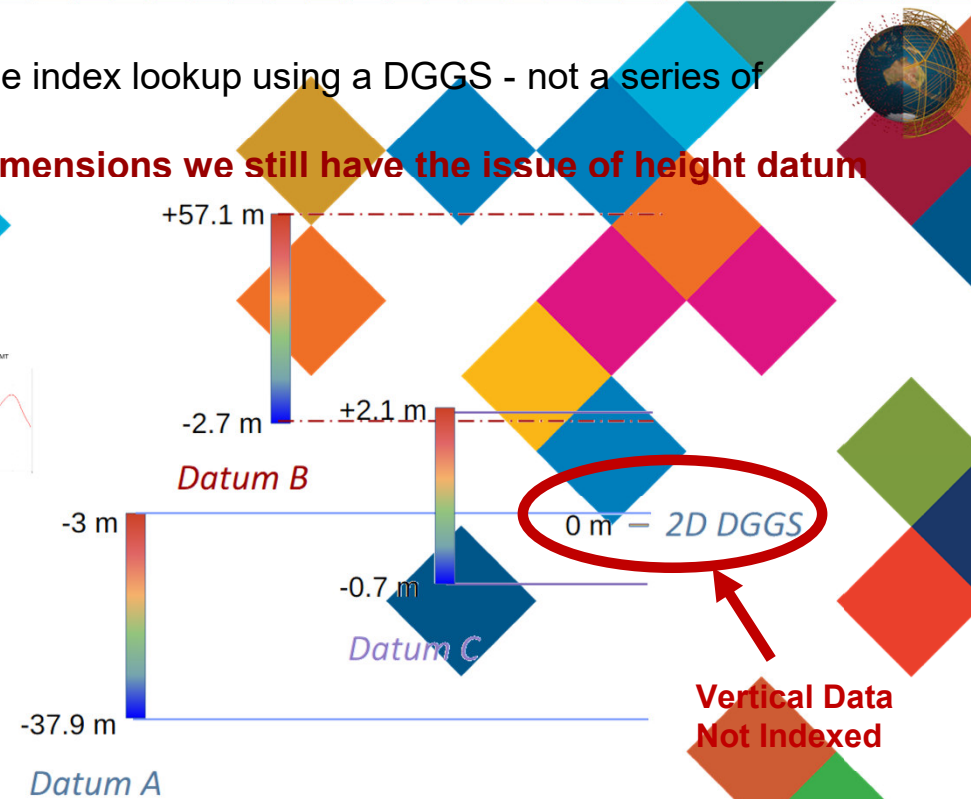
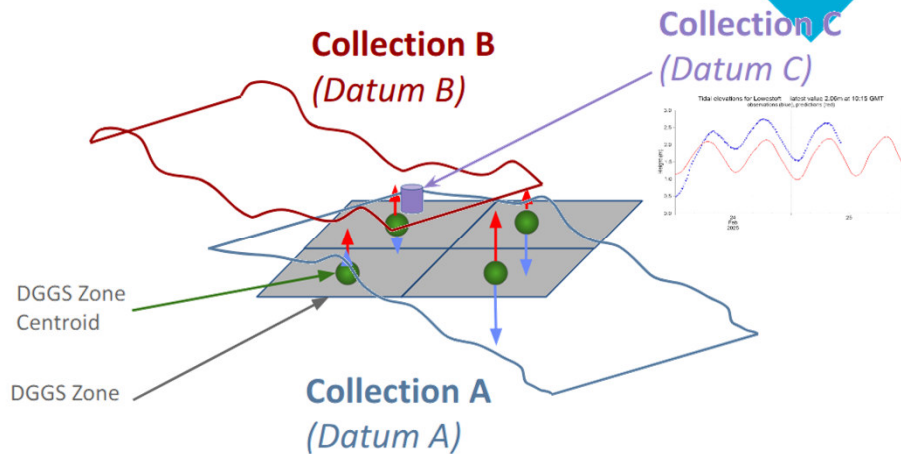
Leverages OGC and W3C Semantic Standards

Builds Trust Through Provenance

Designed with Multi-Jurisdiction Interoperability in mind

2D DGGS

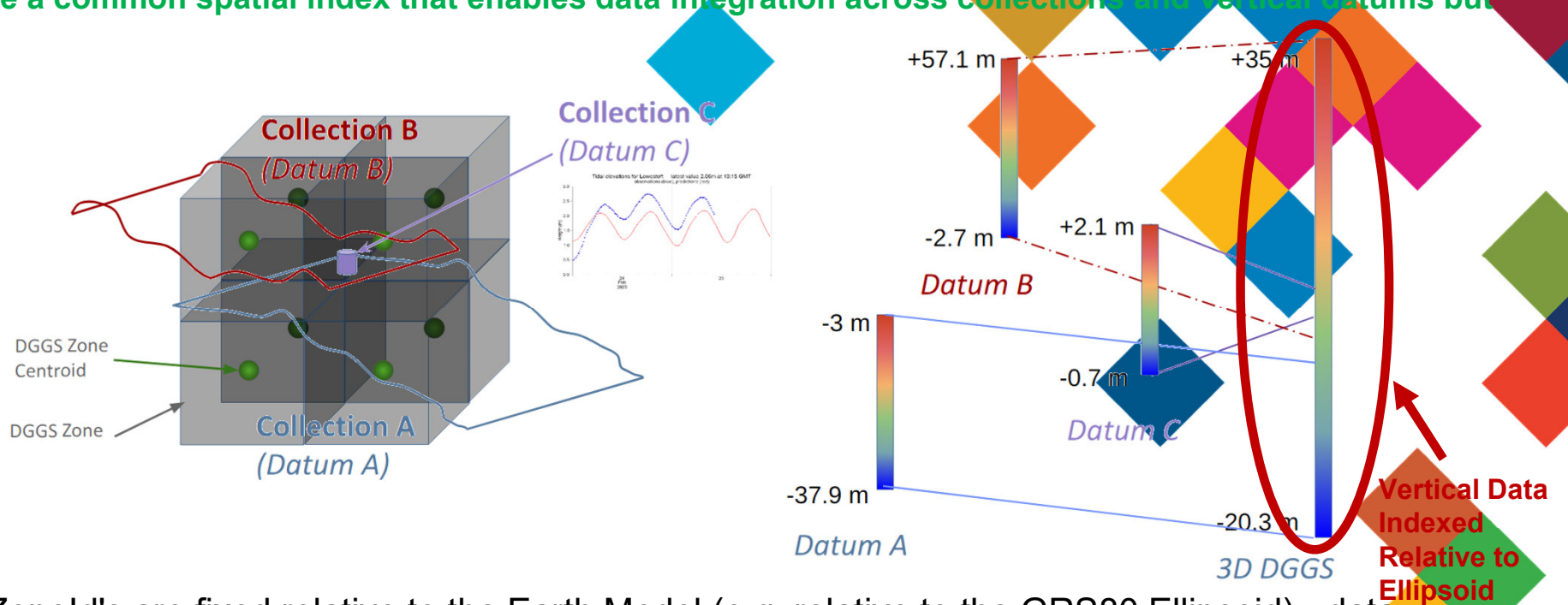
- Discovery and selection/subsetting of data across collections is a simple index lookup using a DGGS - not a series of complex mathematical operations
- **But... for 2D DGGS indexing only applies to the lateral (e.g. x,y) dimensions we still have the issue of height datum differences**



2D DGGS Zoneld's are fixed to the Earth Model (e.g. ellipsoidal 0m level)

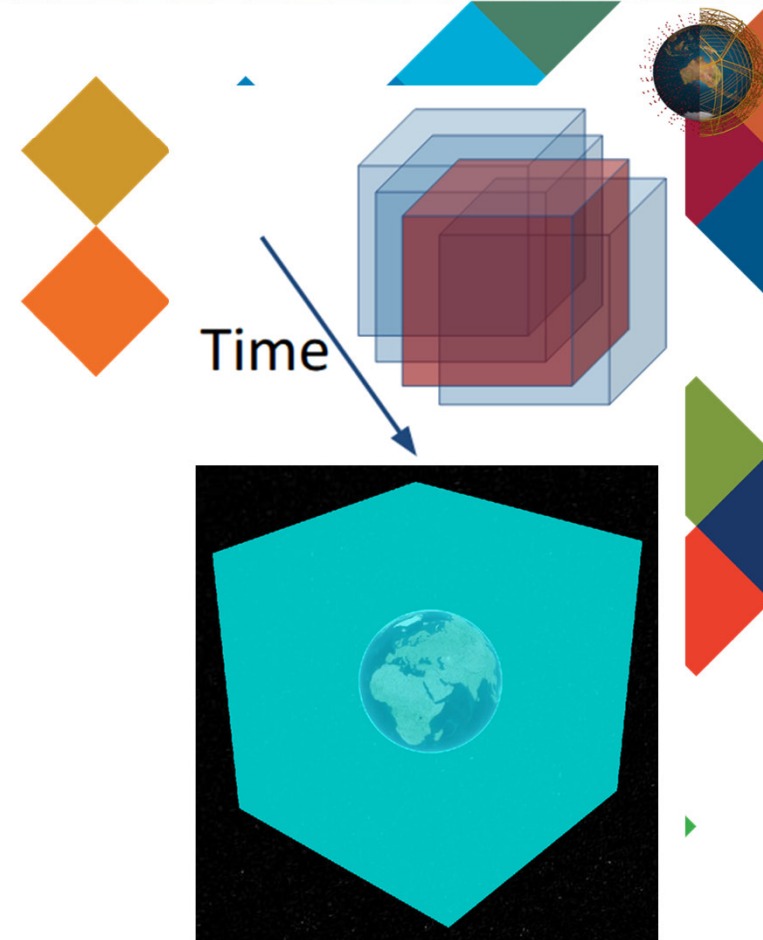
3D DGGS

- Discovery and selection/subsetting of data across collections is a simple index lookup using a DGGS - not a series of complex mathematical operations
- **3D DGGS enable a common spatial index that enables data integration across collections and vertical datums but not time.**



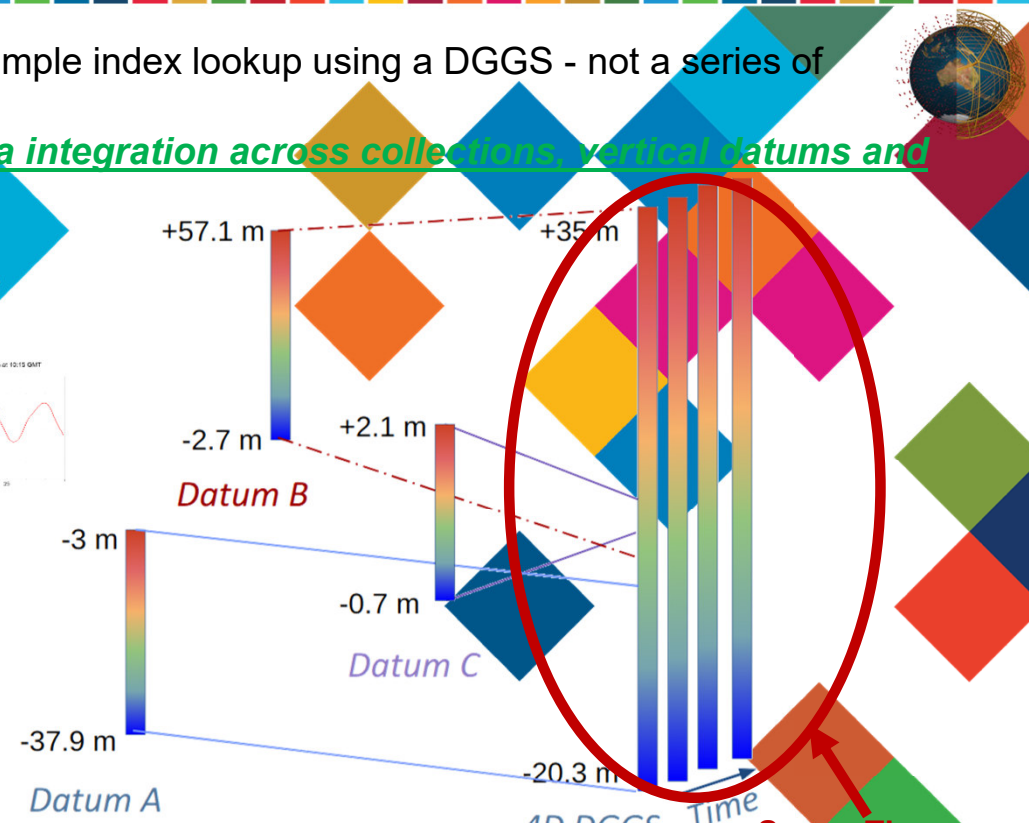
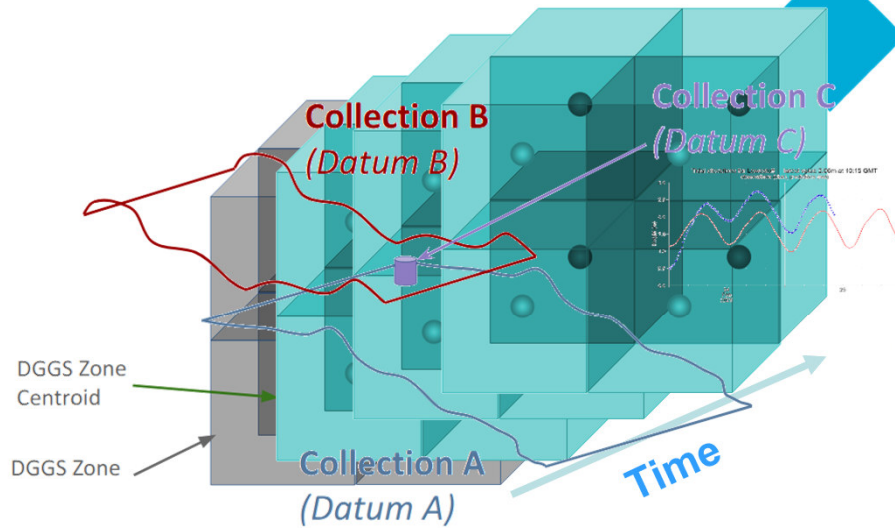
3D DGGS Zoneld's are fixed relative to the Earth Model (e.g. relative to the GRS80 Ellipsoid) - data is indexed relative to the DGGS spatial context but not resampled

- **4D (Spatio-Temporal) DGGS** take the concept of 3D DGGS into the tessellated temporal dimension.
- TerraNexus does this using a **Tesseract (Hypercube)** centred on the Geodetic Earth Centred Earth Fixed (ECEF) coordinate space and scaled to enclose the entire Earth.
- Why do this?
 - The advantage of tiling and indexing spatial objects is well established (not just by the DGGS community)
 - We are extending this indexing capability to include time.



4D DGGS

- Discovery and selection/subsetting of data across collections is a simple index lookup using a DGGS - not a series of complex mathematical operations
- 4D DGGS enable a common space-time index that enables data integration across collections, vertical datums and time.



4D DGGS Zoneld's are fixed relative to the Earth Model (e.g. relative to the GRS80 Ellipsoid) at specific time intervals - data is spatially indexed relative to the DGGS spatial context but not resampled

Space-Time Data Indexed Relative to Ellipsoid

DGGRS Type	DGGRS Name
2D (Surface)	TerraNexus_s_IT9_2d10b58e2088c7e2-TM
2D (Surface)	TerraNexus_s_IT9_2d10b58e2088c7e2-GM
4D (Spatio-Temporal)	TerraNexus_Tesseract_e065a3f5b27a8795
3D (Volumetric)	TerraNexus_v_IT9_2d10b58e2088c7e2-TM
3D (Volumetric)	TerraNexus_v_IT9_2d10b58e2088c7e2-GM

2D Surface DGGs

4D Spatio-Temporal DGGs

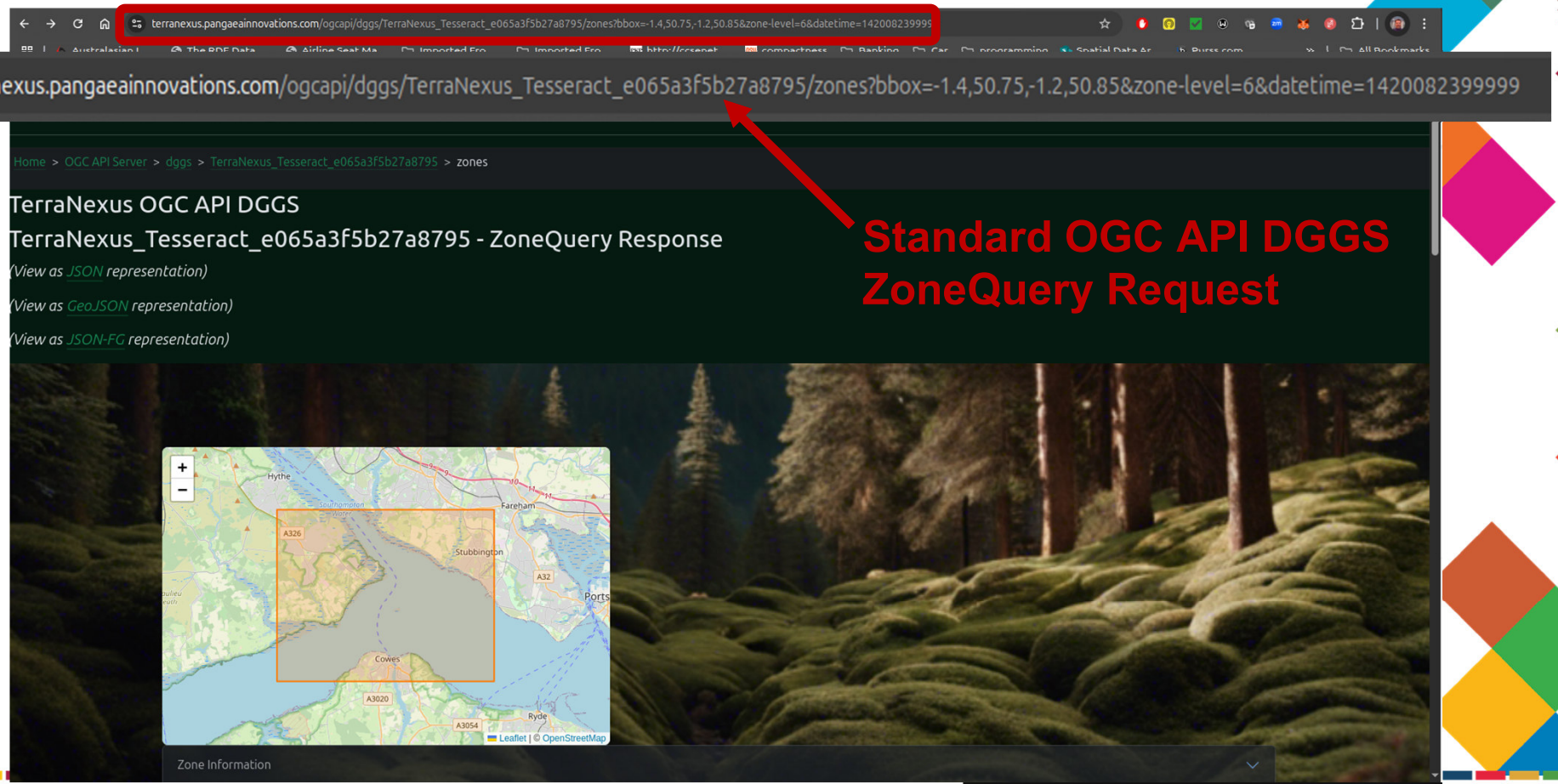
3D Volumetric DGGs

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Data Services for the Digital Earth

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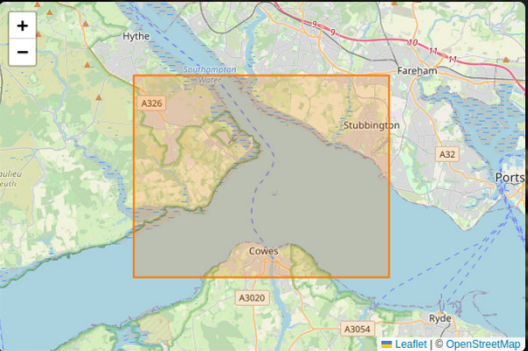


Home > OGC API Server > dggs > TerraNexus_Tesseract_e065a3f5b27a8795 > zones

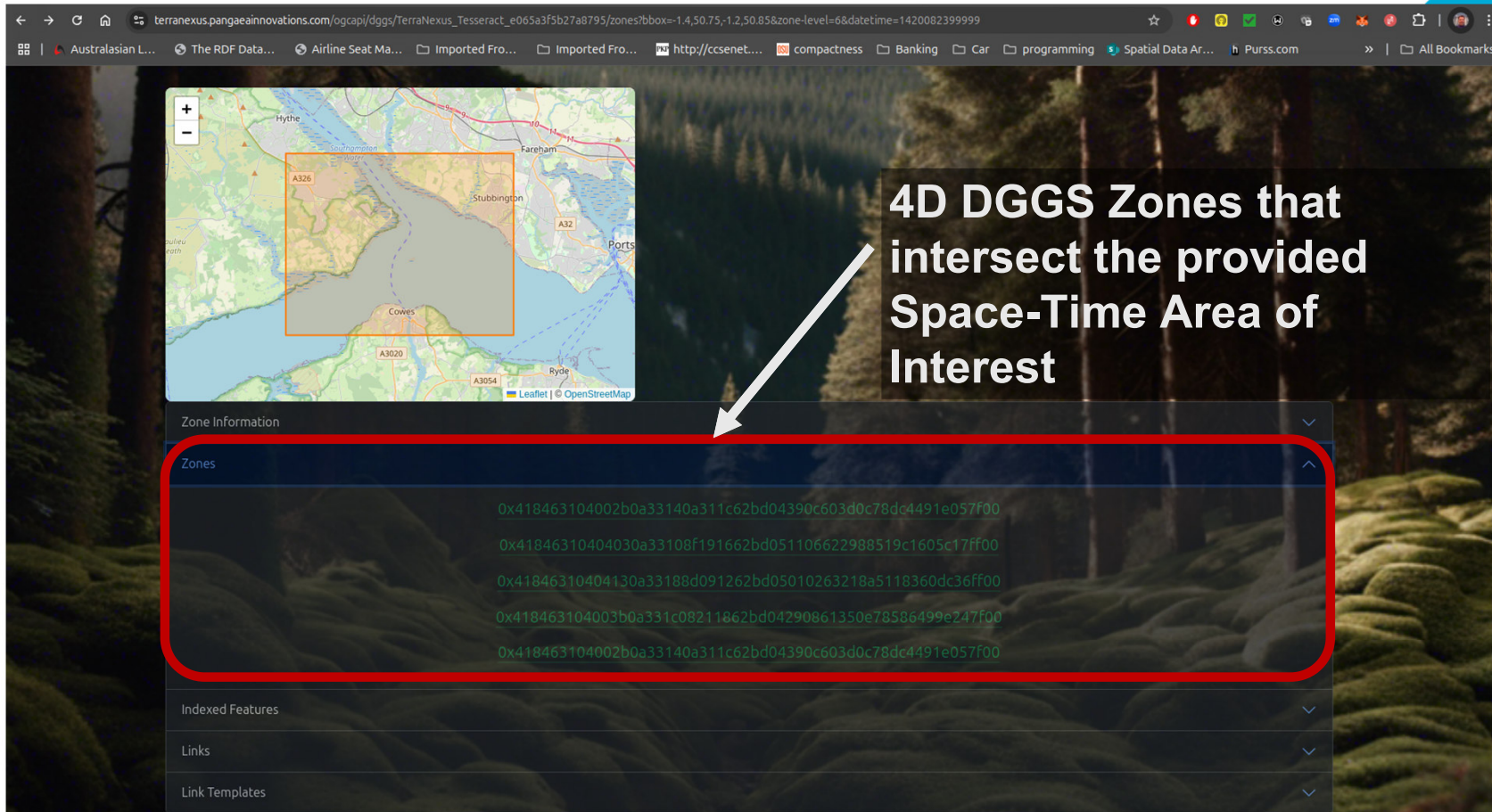
TerraNexus OGC API DGGs

TerraNexus_Tesseract_e065a3f5b27a8795 - ZoneQuery Response

[\(View as JSON representation\)](#)
[\(View as GeoJSON representation\)](#)
[\(View as JSON-FG representation\)](#)



Zone Information



4D DGGs Zones that intersect the provided Space-Time Area of Interest

Zone Information

Zones

- 0x418463104002b0a33140a311c62bd04390c603d0c78dc4491e057f00
- 0x41846310404030a33108f191662bd051106622988519c1605c17ff00
- 0x41846310404130a33188d091262bd05010263218a5118360dc36ff00
- 0x418463104003b0a331c08211862bd04290861350e78586499e247f00
- 0x418463104002b0a33140a311c62bd04390c603d0c78dc4491e057f00

Indexed Features

Links

Link Templates

Data Visualisation Controls

Execute DGGS Zone Query

Configure query parameters in the "DGGS Query Parameters" section below

Clear All DGGS Zones

Show Earth's Interior

DGGS Query Parameters

Custom AOI:

Min Lon:	Min Lat:
<input type="text" value="-1.4"/>	<input type="text" value="50.75"/>
Max Lon:	Max Lat:
<input type="text" value="-1.2"/>	<input type="text" value="50.85"/>
Min Height (opt):	Max Height (opt):
<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1000"/>

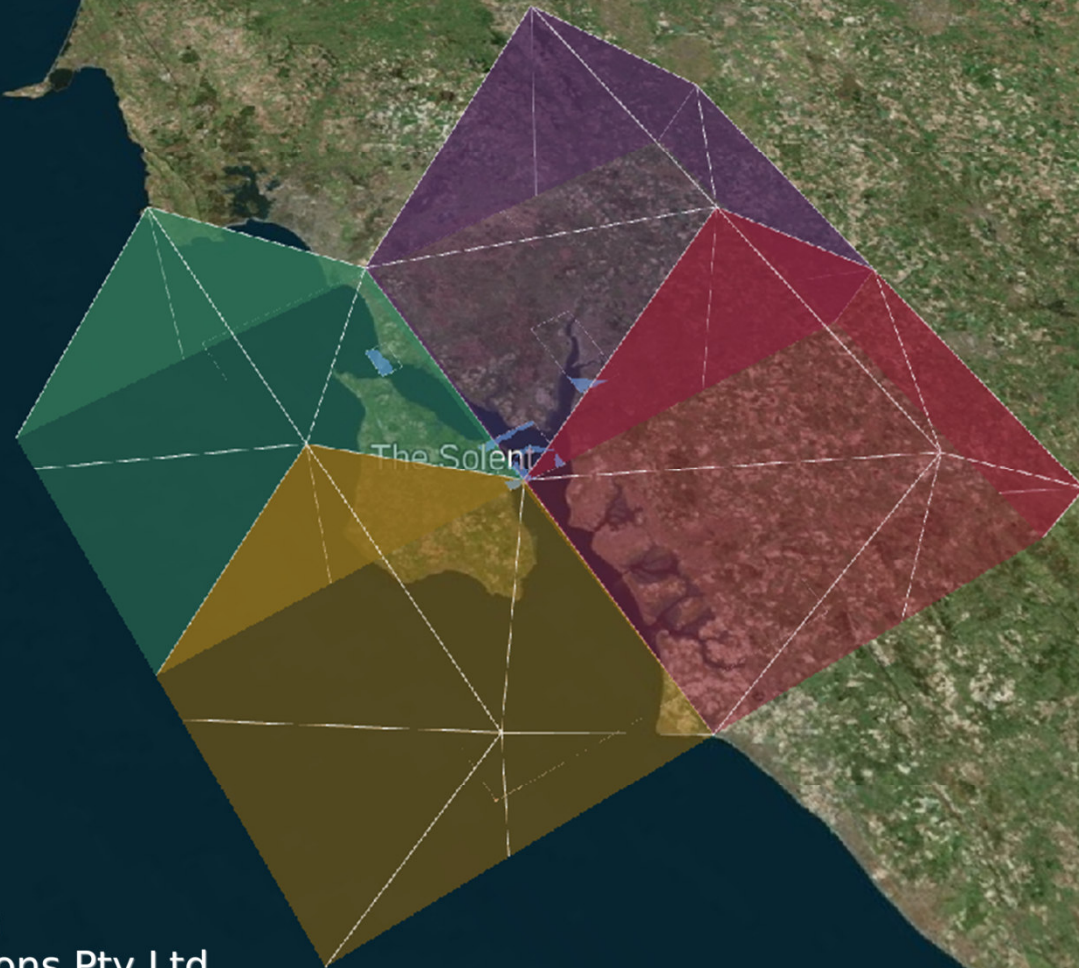
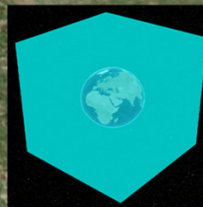
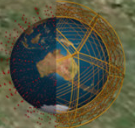
Update Custom AOI

DGGS Refinement Level:

Minimum Time:

Maximum Time:

- Only Show Indexed DGGS Zones
- Show DGGS Zone Geometries
- Show Wireframes

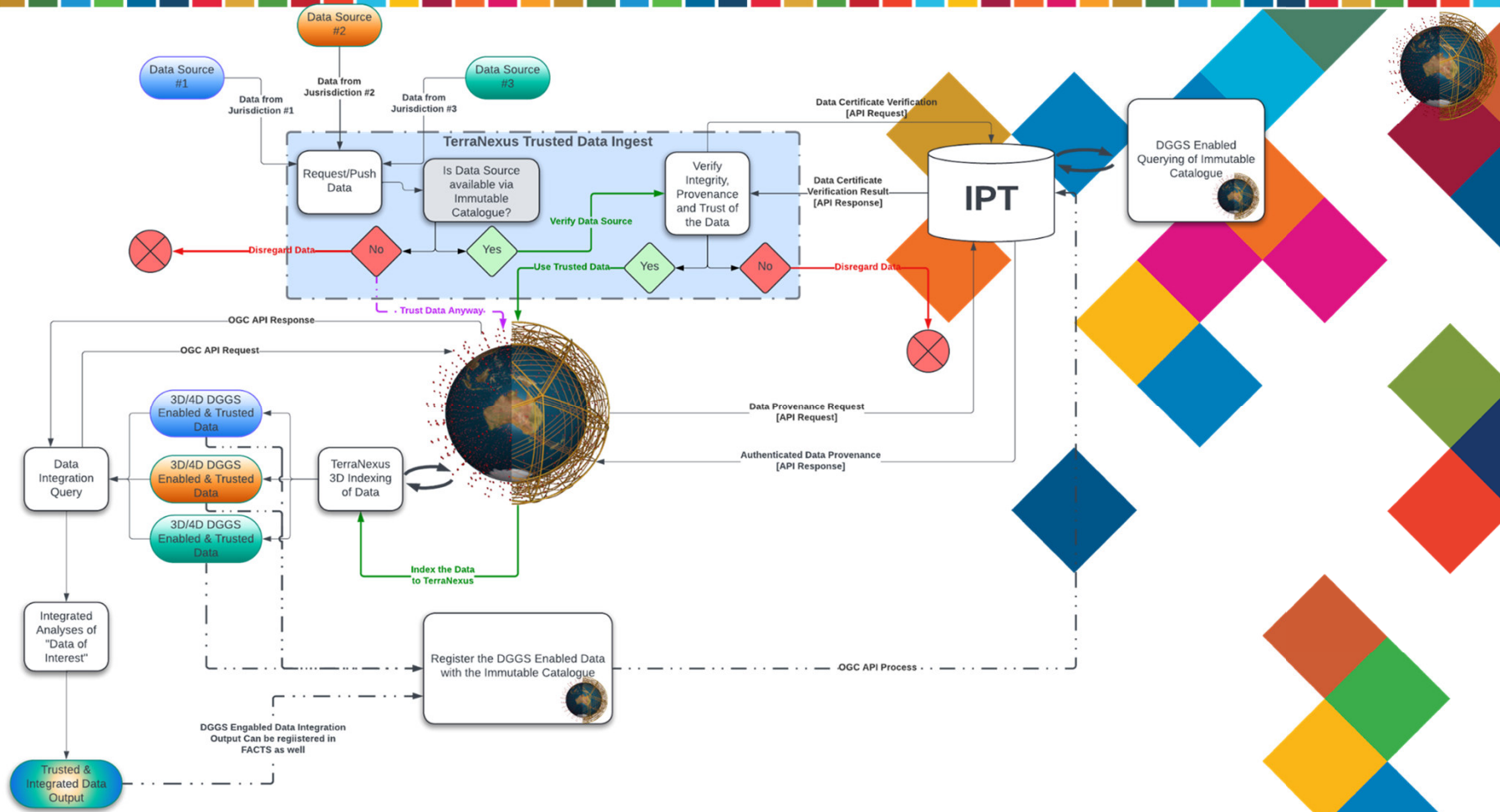


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Apr 6 2025
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Apr 7 2025 00:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 02:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 04:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 06:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 08:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 10:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 12:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 14:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 16:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 18:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 20:00:00 UTC Apr 7 2025 22:00:00 UTC



OGC/ISO Standards

- ISO 19170 / OGC Topic 21 - DGGS
 - Part 1 (published) - Core Data Model and 2D Equal Area DGGS
 - Part 2 (draft) - 3D Equal Volume DGGS
 - Part 3 (draft) - Spatio-Temporal DGGS
 - Part 4 (draft) - Axis-Aligned DGGS
- OGC API DGGS
- OGC API Features
- OGC API Common
- OGC API Processes
- GeoJSON
- Features & Geometry JSON (JSON-FG)
- Linked Data JSON (JSON-LD)
- ISO 8601 - Date and time format

IHO Standards

- \$100

Standards Enable Integrity, Provenance and Trust (IPT) in Data

The most relevant SDGs related to the presentation and theme of this session

1st relevant SDG

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



2nd relevant SDG

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



3rd relevant SDG

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

International Federation of Surveyors supports the Sustainable Development Goals



WORKING WEEK 2025

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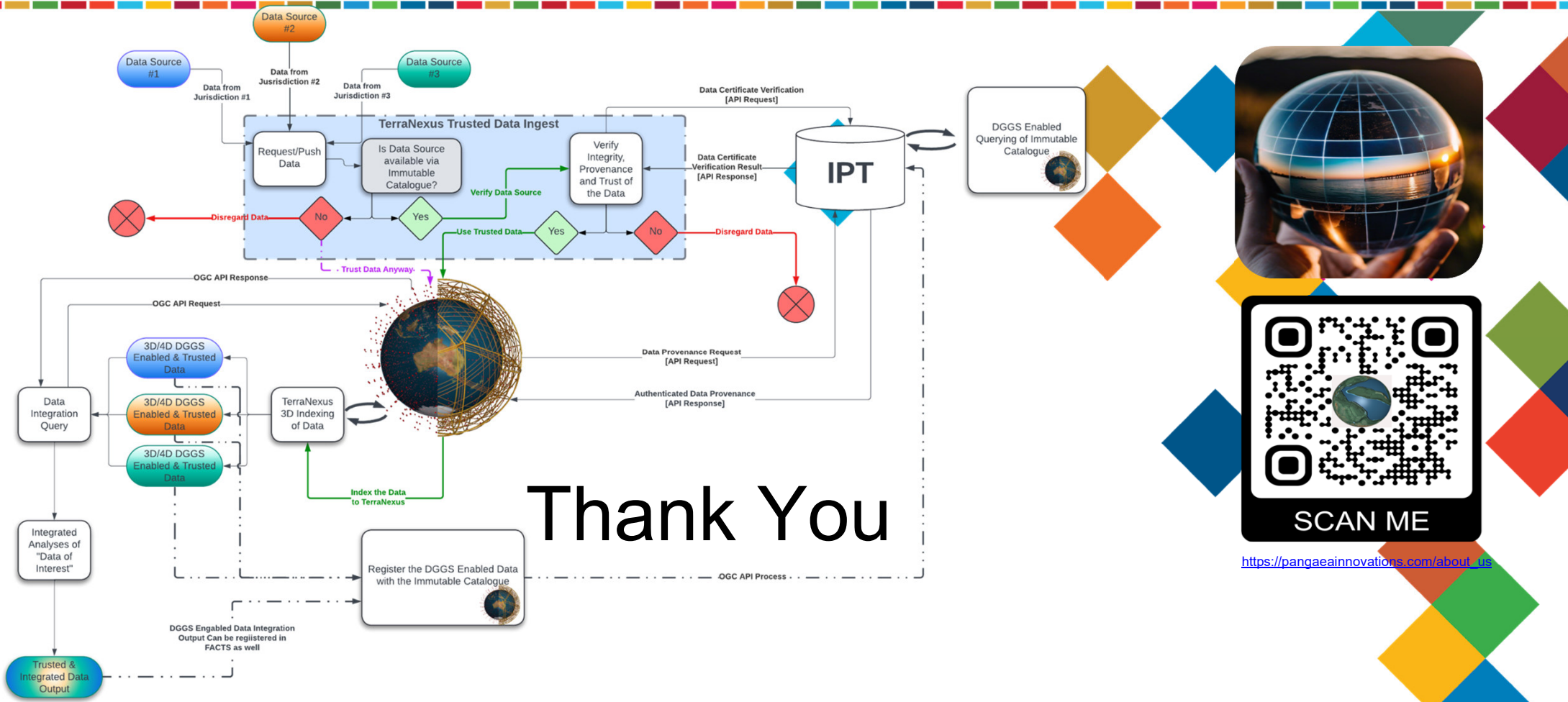
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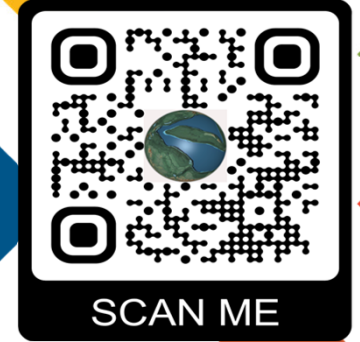


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Thank You



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