## Use and Implementation of DIGGS: **Technical Workshop and** Demonstration



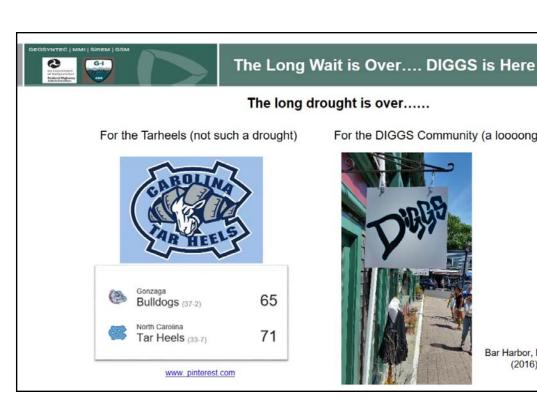




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> Geo3T2 Conference Raleigh, NC 12 April 2017





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# Use an Implementation of DIGGS: Technical Workshop and Demonstration

#### Session Organization

- · History of DIGGS and Examples of Other Systems
- Technical Workshop Tools that you can start to use now
- · Future of DIGGS and Your Role

#### Acknowledgements

- The DIGGS initiative was initiated in 2005 by a pooled-fund study supported by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and coordinated through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The project was completed by the Geo-Institute (G-I) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The vision and support of these organizations are the reasons that DIGGS is where it is today.
- The authors/presenters of this Technical Workshop acknowledge that the current developments and functionality of DIGGS would not be possible without the (ongoing) efforts of Brad Keelor (G-I), Allen Cadden (Schnabel Engineering), Roger Chandler (Keynetix), Scott Deaton (Dataforensics), Peter Narsavage (E.L. Robinson), and Jamey Rosen (Geosyntec).



# Use an Implementation of DIGGS: Technical Workshop and Demonstration

### Session Organization

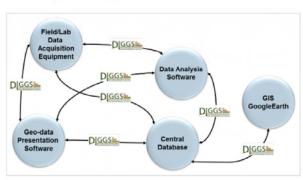
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# 1. History and Evolution of DIGGS? (www.diggsml.org)

The DIGGS project involves development of a GML (XML-based) geospatial standard schema for the transfer of geotechnical and geoenvironmental data within an organization or between multiple organizations. DIGGS can work with existing software, hardware, databases and data storage facilities to easily transfer and share your data.



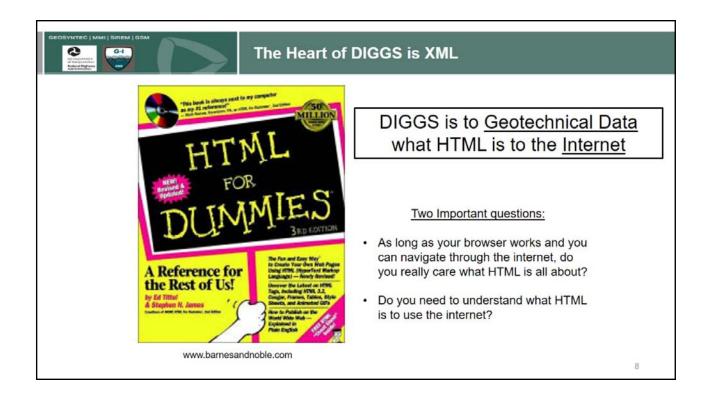
Once implemented by your organization, the DIGGS data transfer standard will help meet your needs for information and data asset management. It is anticipated that DIGGS will save state and federal agencies, and other public and private organizations millions of dollars. Savings will be realized through a combination of avoided drilling and laboratory testing costs, and efficiencies afforded by the availability of geotechnical data for multiple projects in a standard format.

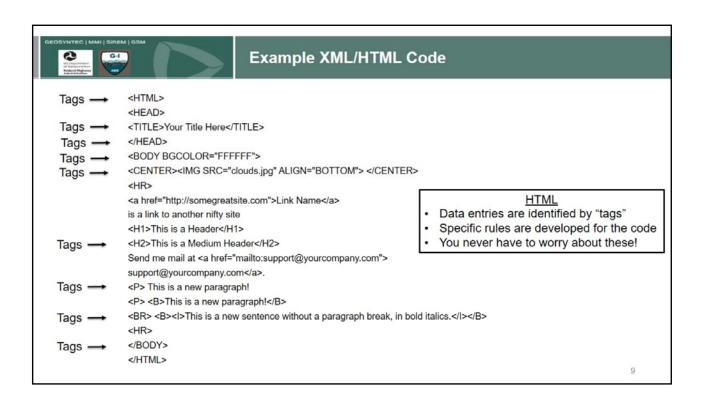
Imagine a world where you do not have to cut and paste seven different times to get your "data" ingested

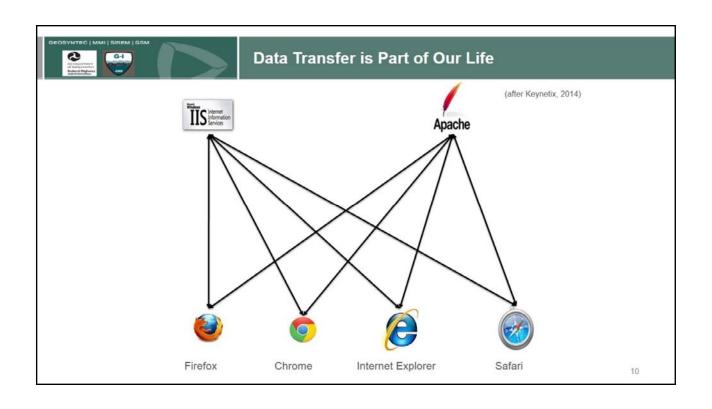
#### Very Important

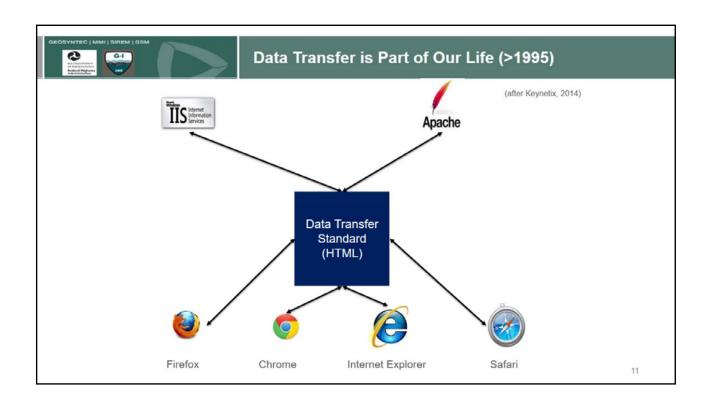
- DIGGS is NOT a database.
- DIGGS is how you get data into and out of a database.

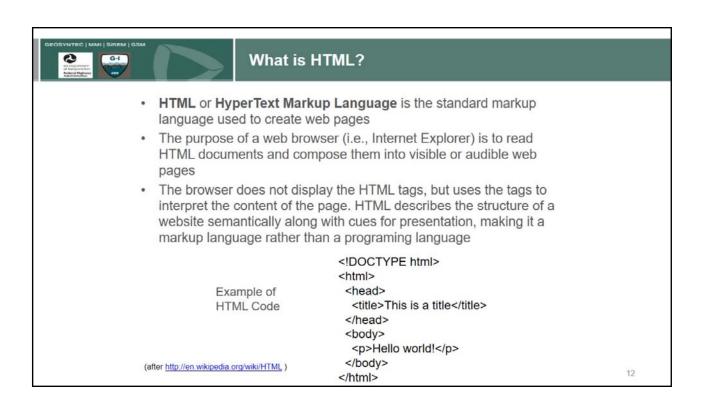














### **Data Transfer Using HTML**

So here is the HTML Markup

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<title>This is a title</title>

</head>

<body>

Hello world!

</body>

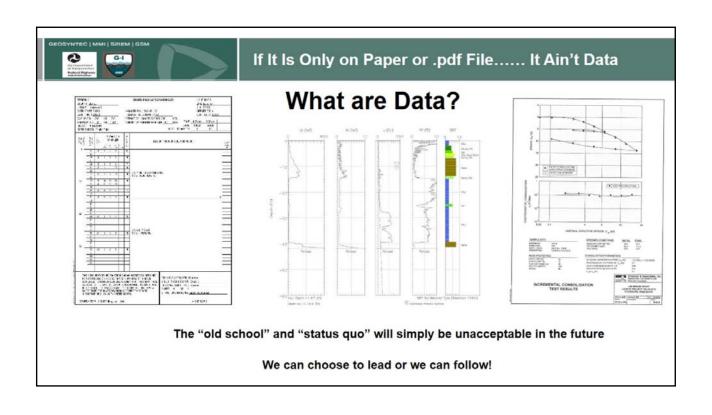
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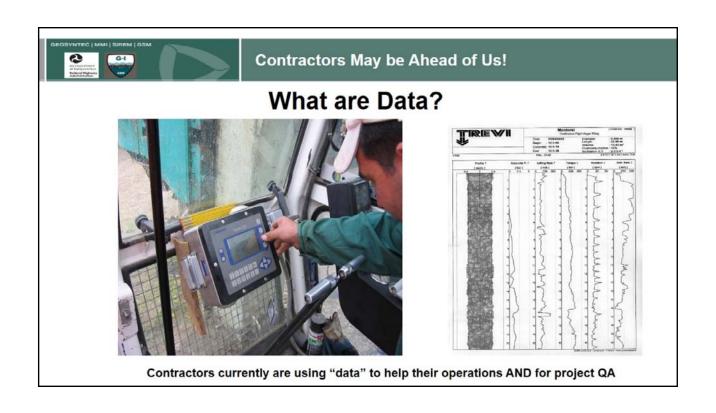


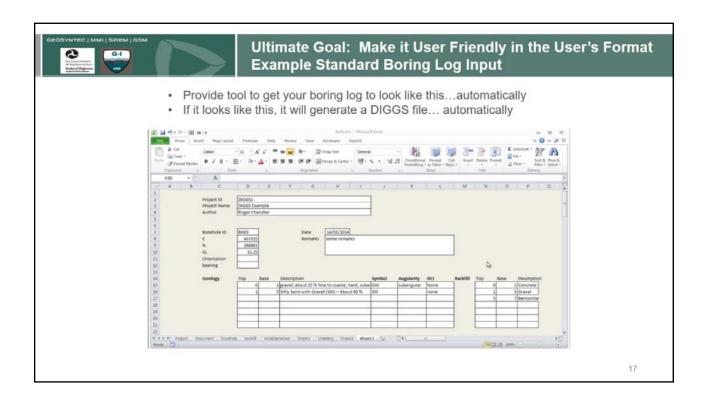


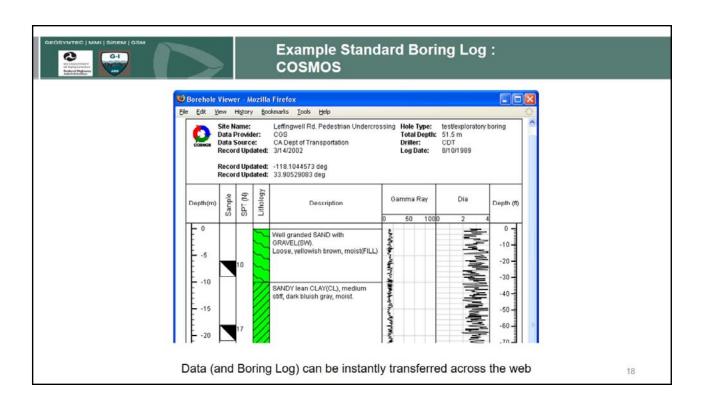
- So I ask again:
  - As long as your browser works and you can navigate through the internet, do you really care what HTML is all about?
  - · Do you need to understand what HTML is to use the internet?

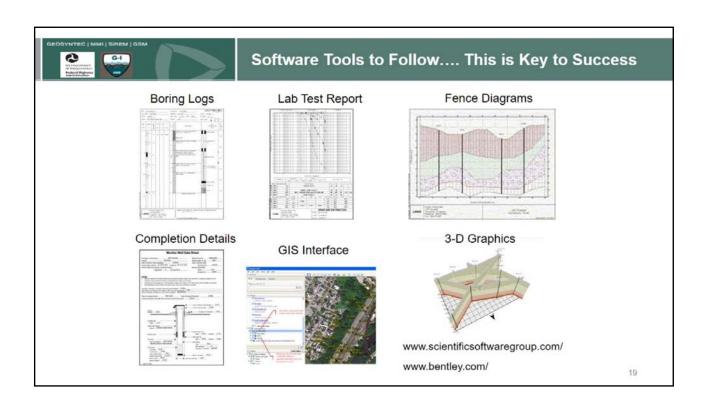
















ASSOCIATION OF GEOTECHNICAL & Geoenvironmental Specialists

http://ags.org.uk/data-format

In 1991, the AGS set up a method for transferring data between industry organizations. This is known to many simply as 'AGS Format' or 'AGS Data Format' and provides a standard way to transfer ground investigation, laboratory testing and monitoring data between the contributing parties of a project which involves geotechnical or geoenvironmental elements.

Put simply:

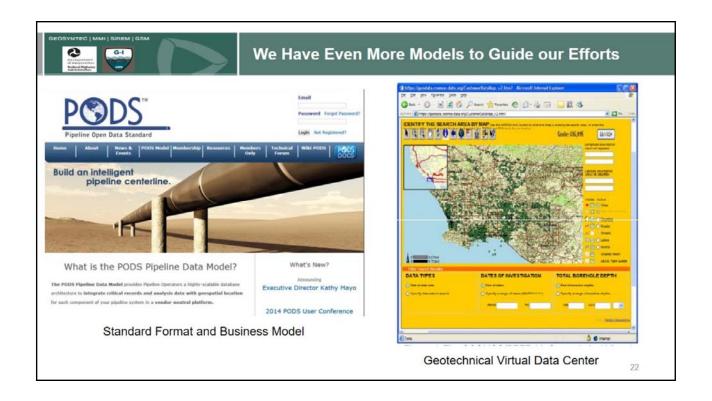
"The AGS Data Format allows for seamless sharing of data between different software used within the geotechnical/geoenvironmental industry".





https://www.nzgd.org.nz/

The New Zealand Geotechnical Database (NZGD) is an online database that provides a searchable repository for new and existing geotechnical information. It builds on the success of the Canterbury Geotechnical Database (CGD), which was developed for the Christchurch rebuild following the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquake sequence. It also incorporates data previously held on the Auckland Geotechnical Database, which was initially set up by Watercare





# 2. Use an Implementation of DIGGS: Technical Workshop and Demonstration

### Session Organization

- History of DIGGS and Examples of Other Systems
- Technical Workshop Tools that you can start to use now
- · Future of DIGGS and Your Role

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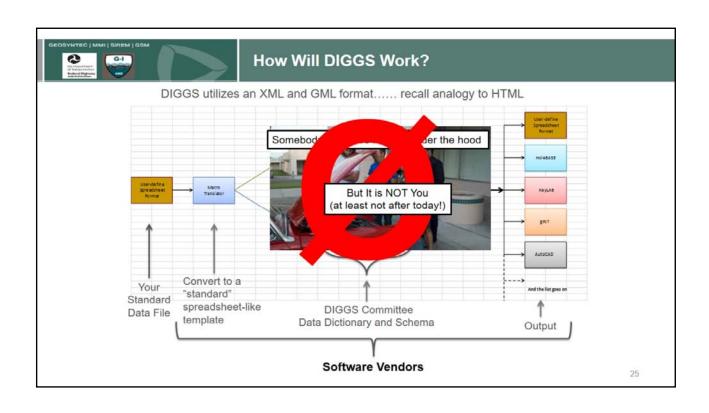


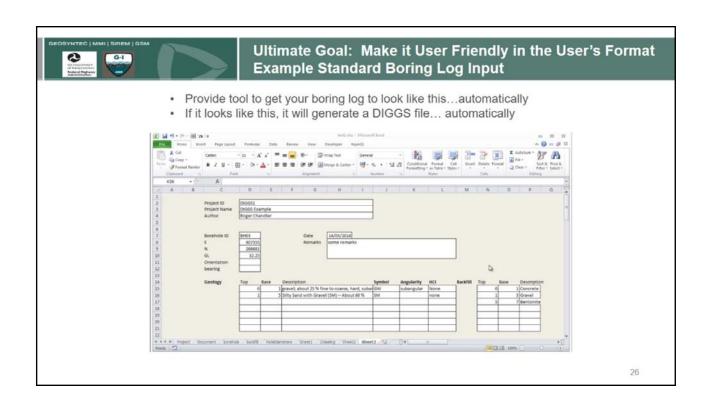
### What is DIGGS and Why XML?

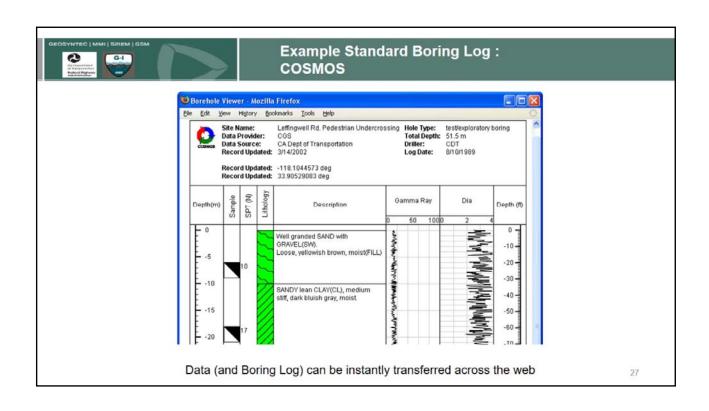
- DIGGS is a data transfer protocol.
- DIGGS is not a database, but rather a way to transfer data into and out of a database.
- XML is the industry standard for transferring data across the web.
- XML organizes data in a hierarchal format...think of each data entry representing a line in a spreadsheet. A database organizes data in a relational format...think of a table or a spreadsheet.

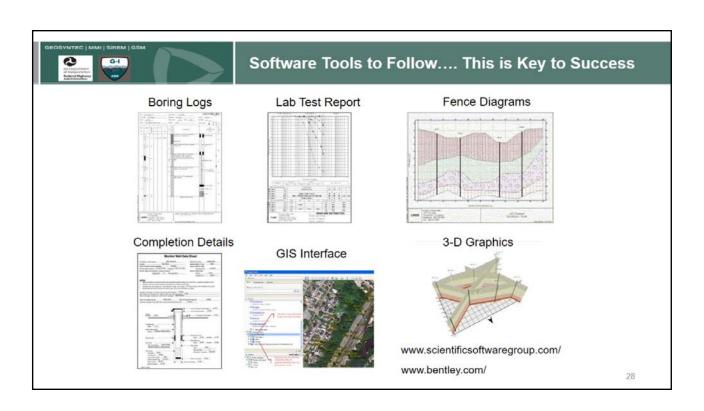
#### A Valid Question and Reasoned Answers

- Why not develop a standard spreadsheet tables or a standard database structure?
  - XML represents essentially machine-to-machine communication, whereas Excel or Access represent an application-to-application form of communication.
  - Once adopted, the transfer protocol will hopefully be "transparent" to the user.







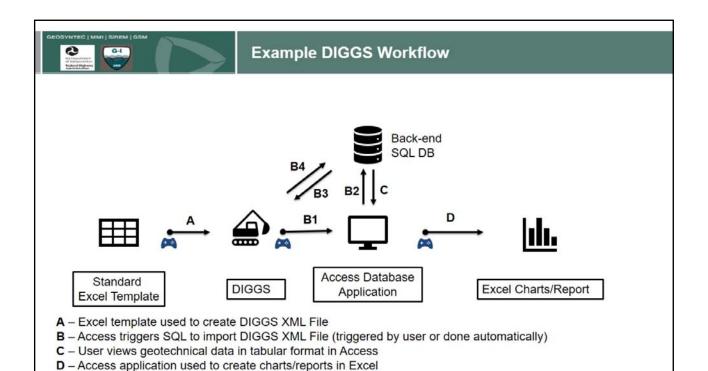






### Technical Workshop and Demonstration (w/ caveats)

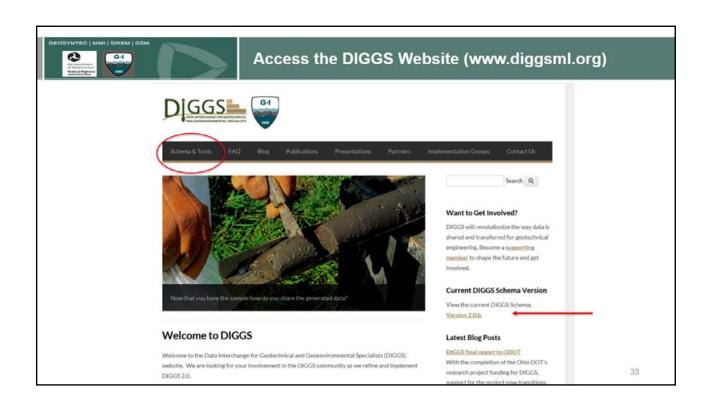
- · This is just one example of a cradle-to-grave DIGGS application
- We will walk through a step-by-step demonstration of what is being done and why it
  is a necessary component
- Ultimately, these steps can be (and will be) consolidated into a single step....and ultimately there will likely be an easier way to get to the end result
- Recognize that we are geotechnical engineers and database advocates who are venturing into the world of "software development," so the road may be a bit rocky until the "big boys" step up and help
- After this workshop/conference, we will post this application and provide instructions for its use on the G-I website
- We invite others to participate and add functionality to the application and to develop new applications
- Our ultimate goal is to spawn user/practitioner enthusiasm and user/practitioner demand. Software vendors will hopefully react to the demand.

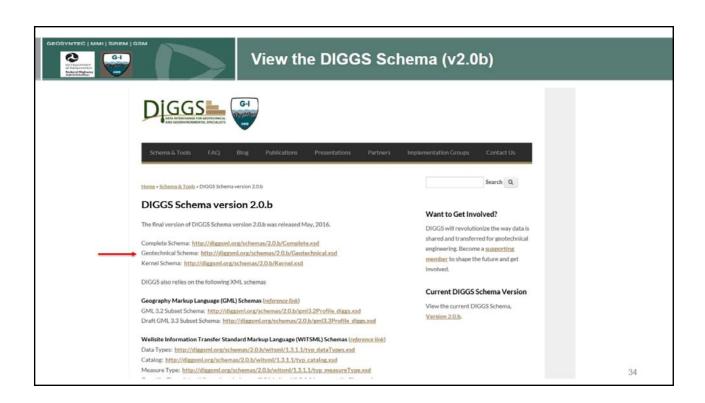




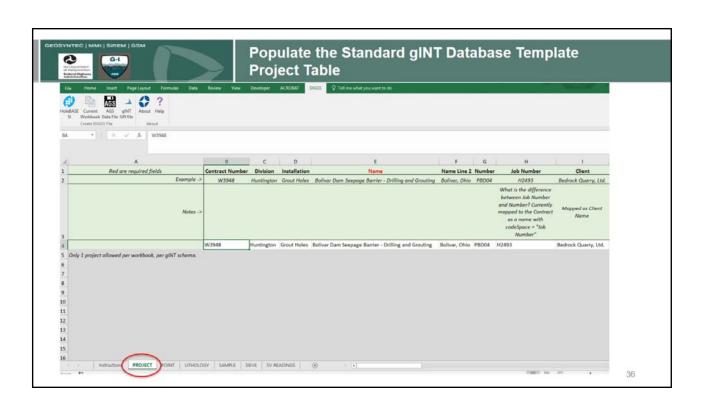
## What are We Going to Do in the Workshop?

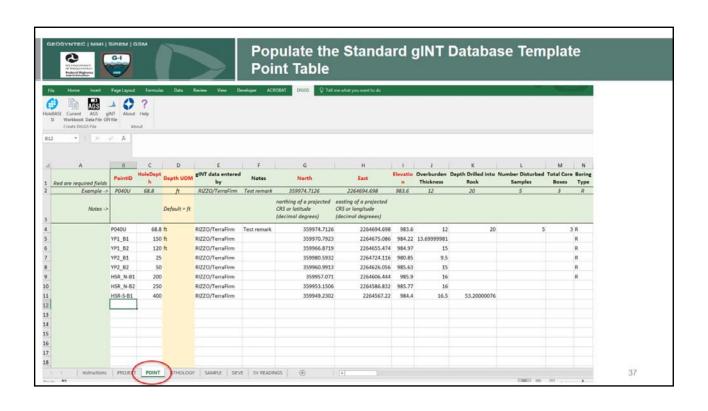
- Recognize that there is a standard data schema for generating a DIGGS file (thanks to the work of Dan Ponti at USGS)
- Start with an Excel file, a handwritten data sheet, the output from a laboratory LIMS, etc. to generate a "standard" spreadsheet or database file. For this demonstration, we elected to use a conventional gINT database structure as our "standard" (thanks again to Dan Ponti)
- Convert the standard gINT database tables into and XML file to generate what we reference as a valid DIGGS file (thanks to the work of Roger Chandler at Keynetix and Scott Deaton at Dataforensics)
- Transfer the DIGGS file to a conventional database. This is accomplished by mapping a DIGGS file to a series of SQL tables (because of enhanced XML parsing functionality in SQL) and then mapping the SQL tables to Access where they can be used by the user on a local machine (thanks to David Sardella at Geosyntec)
- Query the Access database to generate Excel files and tabulate/graph the results (thanks to Raphael Siebenmann at Geosyntec)

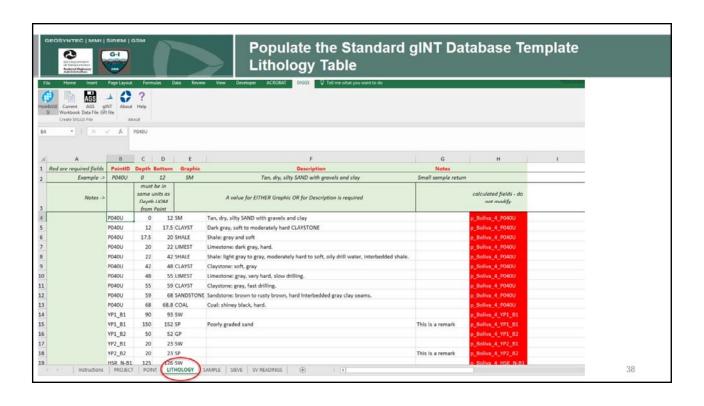


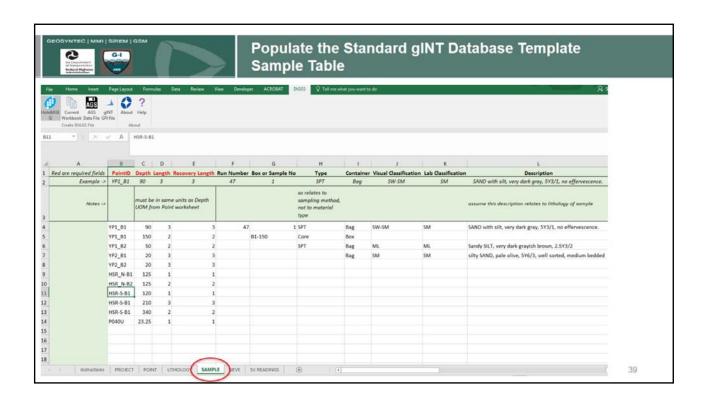


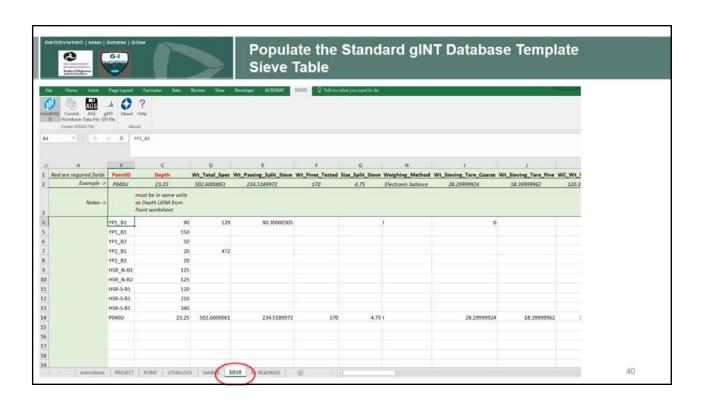


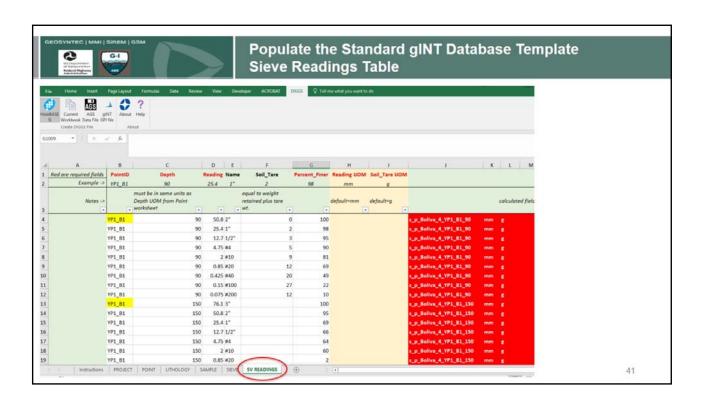


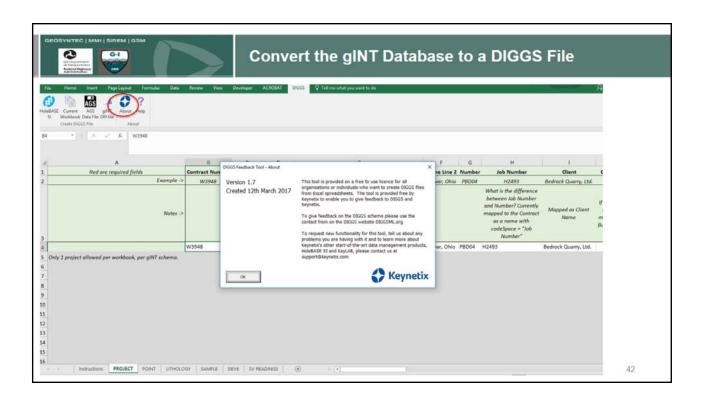


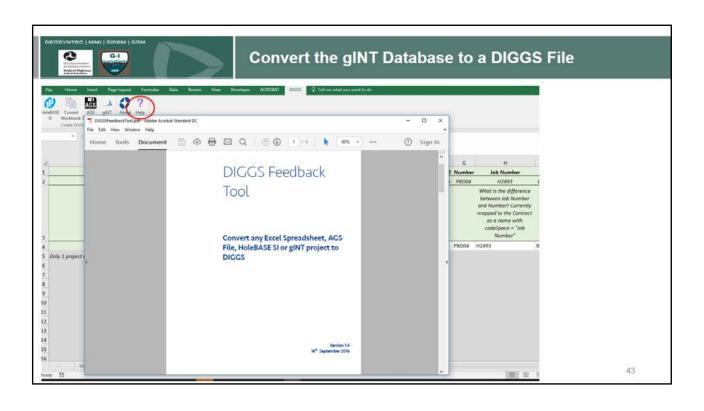


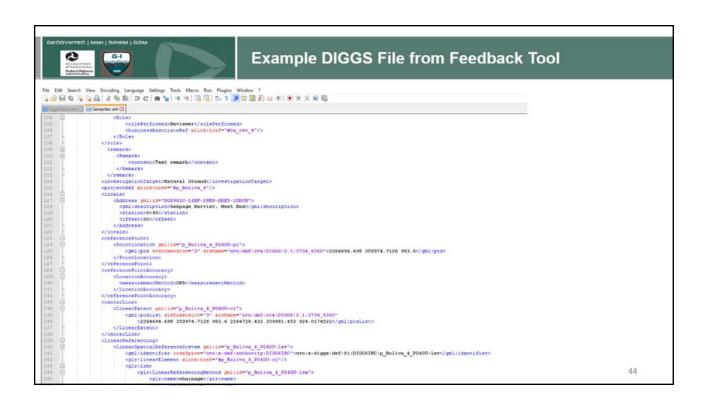


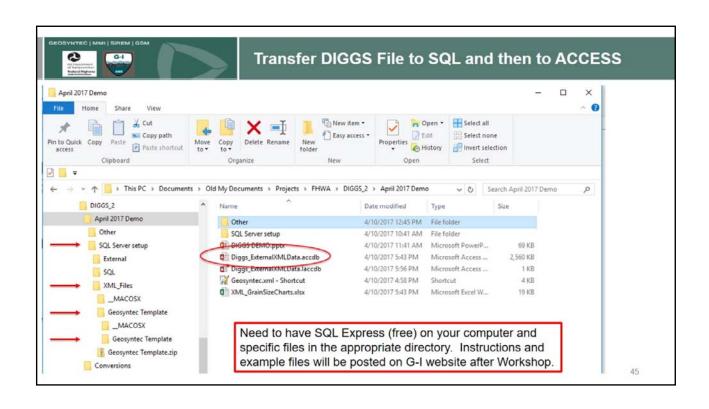


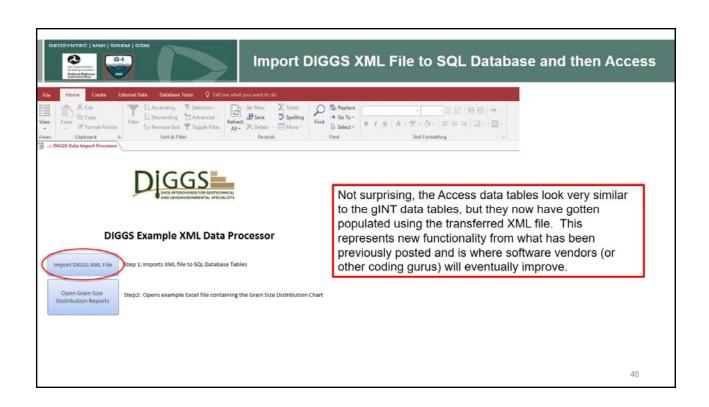




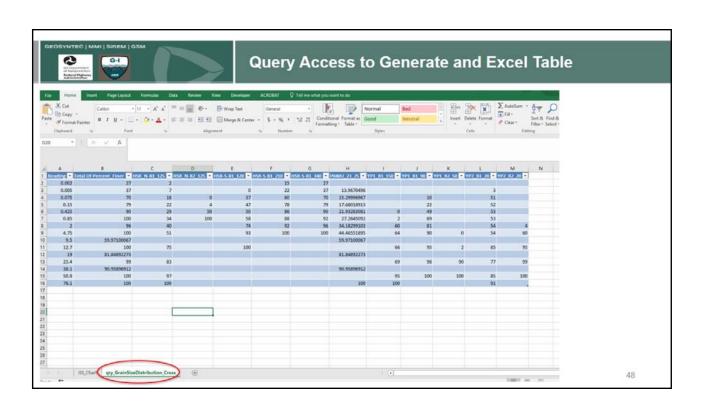




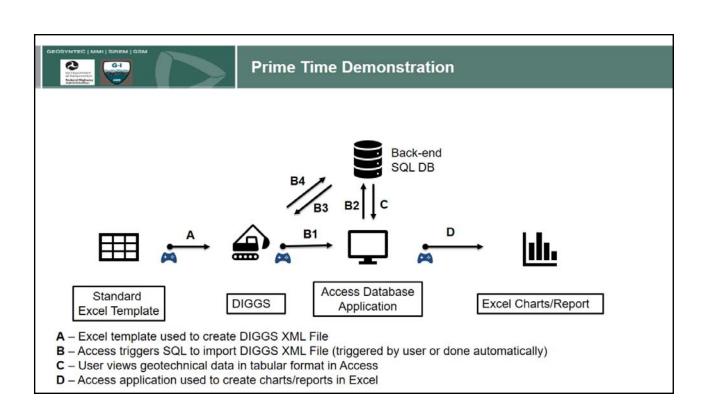














#### **Prime Time Demonstration - Observations**

- Because the DIGGS file is used for "data transfer" it is not needed after the data has been transferred into the user-defined database or data management system
- In its present form for this demonstration, we only present a particle size distribution example as a "proof of concept." This compliments the recent work by Roger Chandler and Scott Deaton to demonstrate the "round trip" of data from gINT to HoleBASE and back to gINT using DIGGS.
- The purpose of these demonstrations is to not only demonstrate the proof of concept, but to also provide the user with working examples that will allow them to generate their own DIGGS files and database systems. Using the DIGGS schema, those not of the faint of heart can develop their own applications.... and hopefully post them on the G-I website.
- Hopefully, the users/participants can see the value and utility of the DIGGS system and will encourage software vendors (e.g., Bentley, Keynetix, RockWare, etc.) to add this functionality in the next generation of their software.

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# 3. Use an Implementation of DIGGS: Technical Workshop and Demonstration

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#### Status and Opportunities for Support and Participation

- Final Report from G-I Submitted to Ohio DOT
- Data Dictionary and Schema Developed for >40 Tests
  - Need community support to QA the test input models
- DIGGS Feedback Tool Developed to Automatically Develop DIGGS Files
  - Need community support to QA the test input models
- Solicit Commitment from Organizations
  - Private and public organizations
  - Seek R&D funding to advance DIGGS 2.0
  - Establish Web "blog" to communicate and inform
  - Identify the "next generation" DIGGS files
- · Work with Software Vendors to Support DIGGS
  - Ongoing positive response, but we need your help and encouragement
- · Develop Training Materials
  - Feedback Tool and Workshops like this are the tip of the iceberg

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Log in for more information

www.diggsml.org





## Your Critical Role in Success of DIGGS Field of Dreams (1989)





We will Make DIGGS User Friendly and Provide Quantifiable Benefits



http://speakoutsarasota.com



http://franklymydearmojo.com

Software Vendors Will Help if They are Confident of Owner Support

You hold the key! Insist that software be developed to incorporate DIGGS



### Planning for the Future

#### **FHWA**

- · Develop guidance and education for:
  - Management of Geotechnical Information
  - Communication of Geotechnical Information
- · Advocate research on "Big Data" management
- · Promote DIGGS as transfer protocol for communication of geotechnical data

#### Geo-Institute

- · Solicit support and participation from public and private organizations
- · Identify a sustainable business model to ensure growth
- · Establish committees to help future development
- · Solicit software vendor support

