



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

Status:

Laureate

Year:

2013

Organization Name:

Bexar County

Organization URL:

www.bexar.org

Project Name:

My Bexar Community Dashboard

Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry

Emerging Technology

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

Last fiscal year the IT budget was reduced by 15% (approximately \$1.5 million) & we have been challenged to do more with less. Over the past decade, Bexar County has grown 23% & we expect this growth to continue. In an effort to keep residents informed, involved & proactive, Bexar County Information Technology's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Group consolidated local, regional & national information into an easy-to-use platform: My Bexar Community Dashboard. This GIS Web Mapping Application is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 day a year. The interactive application allows its users to click a location on a map or enter an address, which will bring up nine windows of jurisdiction information about that location (along with links to related emails, websites and social media). "Places" shows what city jurisdiction the location is under, along with County, State and National representation; "Bexar County Elected Officials" presents the elected representatives to major offices; "Political (Local)" shows the area's elected representation, including the County's Commissioners Precinct, Constable Precinct, Justice of the Peace Precinct & City Council District (where applicable);

"Political (Regional)" shows the State & Federal legislators; "First Respondents" shows the Law Enforcement & Fire/Rescue jurisdiction; "Residential" shows neighborhood association, school district & local college board of trustees information; "Elections" contains a direct link to the Elections Department & Elections Administrator; "Water" shows aquifer, watershed & floodplain information; & "Reference" provides map grid, satellite quad & postal information. Before, citizens had to browse various websites to access the same information & navigate to find emails, representation & social media accounts. Bringing dozens of jurisdictional boundaries together & locating all the provided information was a challenge that was well managed by our GIS software (ESRI's ArcGIS) & allowed us to expand our service mission to the public.

When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

The latest version of My Bexar Community Dashboard was launch on January 8, 2013.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

Yes, the implementation is complete.

Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

Members of the represented jurisdictions (congress members, senators, school districts, board of trustees, etc.) utilize and promote the application with their constituents. My Bexar Community Dashboard is also being utilized by other local agencies, like the City of San Antonio's Police Department to inform City Council Members of Graffiti removal efforts, and by the local Gas & Power company to contact local representatives regarding their community projects. San Antonio is a Military city and the My Bexar Community Dashboard has served as a portal to keeping Military constituents residing or deployed connected and informed. For example, the links to the Elections Department provided detailed information on how to vote while deployed and who are the new local Elected Officials.

Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

Yes, we believe the Bexar County Community Dashboard is innovative and is being used by a variety of businesses and citizens (and other organizations as mentioned above, see #9). Before, citizens had to browse various websites to access the same information. Now, it's essentially one simple click on the detailed map with a wealth of information immediately displayed. For example, if you need to reach your congressional representative, or simply know who your senator is, click and that information is immediately displayed with links (and even a picture where applicable).



If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)

The concept of providing easy-to-use GIS web mapping applications to the public for their information and engagement has prompted Bexar County IT-GIS to continue the information sharing efforts with several sister" interactive mapping applications such as the Bexar County Foreclosures Map, the Bexar County Economic Development Map, and the Bexar County Maps App Project (these and other applications can be found at <http://map.bexar.org/>).