



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Collaborate.org?

Collaborate.org is the most advanced global collaboration platform on the planet. It is an easy-to-use online community comprised of people working together, sharing their experiences and expertise, empowered with advanced technologies such as an integrated suite of collaboration tools and all of the world's geospatial data at your fingertips. It is an open, inclusive platform of shared resources, abilities, and enthusiasm that enables people to work together to accomplish Great Things.

What is Collaborate.org's tagline?

Connect. Share. Change the World.

Who came up with the Collaborate.org concept?

Dr. Kevin Montgomery came up with the concept after discussing and working with many organizations in government, academia and industry, including NSF, United Nations, WHO, NOAA, EPA, Stanford University, The Nature Conservancy, HP and Cisco. What he found were a set of common themes that they all possessed, including the need to access and integration of all kinds of information from many sources, and importance of collaboration across organizational boundaries, irrespective of geographic distances. All were trying to develop a unified, shared vision, better decision-making, and a coordination of action in order to be effective. Collaborate.org was developed to address this need across all groups and enable people to work together much more effectively and thereby be a tremendous multiplier for humankind.

When was Collaborate.org first conceived?

The Collaborate.org idea was first conceived approximately 8 years ago.

Why is this the right time for Collaborate.org?

In the future, the challenges will be greater, but our resources will be fewer. These problems are greater than any group can tackle on its own. Moreover, different organizations are reinventing the wheel and limited by their own resources. Collaborate.org was developed to address that gap between individuals, groups and resources not just from a local perspective, but a global one as well. The time is right to work together more effectively, to share resources, and coordinate our efforts.

Why did you choose FiRe to make this announcement?

The Future in Review conference is the perfect venue for the Beta release of Collaborate.org. The theme of the event is "Digitizing the Planet" coupled with the enthusiasm from Mark Anderson and the SNS staff, and the opportunity to share this story and engage with others at this conference, made this the ideal opportunity to promote our solution.

What are the reason(s) why Collaborate.org was developed?

As we started to work across many different organizations (federal and state governments, academia, industry, international organizations, NGOs, etc), the same themes/needs emerged - the need to work together across these organizations and independent of geographic distance to accomplish something important.

How many people are involved with building Collaborate.org?

Currently, our core team is 15 developers, mostly from NASA, Stanford University, and other Silicon Valley groups. We are all motivated and passionate about making a positive impact on the world. Beyond our core team, we have partners in many other organizations in government, academia, and government around the world.

What are the markets that you plan to penetrate first? Why them?

Given our experience, we decided to initially address the following application domains: environment and conservation, defense and security, municipalities and public sector, education and research, media, and commercial applications.

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What do you think excites people the most about using Collaborate.org?

Initially, the fact that a user has access to all of the world's data at one's fingertips is very empowering. As time progresses and our network of organizations and individuals gets larger, finding others who share your experiences and interests is very exciting.

What is/are the pricing model(s) for Collaborate.org?

We are exploring a multi-faceted approach across subscription models, such as premium data and services, collaborative development, as well as many other methods. We will provide more details as we move closer to when we formally release Collaborate.org.

How do you plan to promote Collaborate.org?

The core concept of Collaborate.org is working with others to accomplish Great Things. As people, organizations and companies learn about us, we expect others to join due to the increased momentum to do so. We also have other plans in mind, that will be announced shortly.

How long do you think the Collaborate.org beta program will last?

Approximately six months.

Are you planning on having an "open" or "closed" beta program?

As of the release at FiRE, this is now an open Beta.

Do you have any pre-beta customers using Collaborate.org? What are their thoughts?

Yes- we have had thousands of users that have used our legacy offering, creating well over a hundred portals developed by organizations in the markets we currently are pursuing. The biggest testimony will be their adoption of the new system.

Do you have an advisory board? If so, who is on it? Can we speak with them?

We are putting together our scientific and business advisory boards now. Stay tuned.

What requirements (hardware/software) do you need to run Collaborate.org?

The Collaborate.org site should run on any major computing platform (PC/Mac, iOS/Android), but individual components may be limited.

Do you envision any other platforms where a person would access Collaborate.org?

We always are exploring new ways for our collaborators to access Collaborate.org. We will keep everyone informed as we come up with others.

What technologies did you use to create Collaborate.org?

We have really pushed cloud computing, big data, streaming data, and other technologies to their limits to create a truly worldwide geospatial data infrastructure.

What types of data are included with Collaborate.org?

Collaborate.org has data from a variety of sources including GIS data, news and social media feeds, data from sensor networks, weather feeds, AIS feeds as well as many others. At last count, we have over 2.2 million different data layers which we estimate point to between 5-10 PB (Petabytes) of information. Keep in mind, the amount of data is growing every day since data will be uploaded by users in the Collaborate.org community.

How will you incentivize users to use Collaborate.org, return to the site and share with others?

We are currently exploring a number of interesting possibilities for increasing the excitement and enthusiasm of the site. Stay tuned.

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