Next Steps in Point Cloud Data Standards - an OGC Perspective
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The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) has been developing Standards and demonstrating interoperability amongst Standards for more than 20 years. OGC members are broadly interested in evolving the ability to store, integrate, and distribute point cloud data in a number of domains including: LiDAR/laser surveying, bathymetry, meteorology, photogrammetry, and citizen science.

The OGC recently created a Point Cloud Domain Working Group to identify where the OGC process can contribute to improving the access to and analysis of point cloud data. This Working Group is now assessing best practices for the encoding of point cloud data, including potential endorsement of one or more current Standards as well as evaluating next steps to improve interoperability. For instance, is there a need for an OGC “Web Point Cloud Service” to provide point cloud data in a number of encodings to a web browser? A survey has been distributed to the communities which use point cloud data for feedback on their requirements and priorities.

This presentation will discuss progress to date in the Working Group and summarize the results of the survey from the perspective of both the general user community and the OGC membership. OGC staff will discuss existing strategic alliances with other Standards Development Organizations with interest in this space and how these alliances can benefit the community.

Finally, OGC staff will present an assessment of the relevant benefits of new work initiatives that might be pursued in the context of various industry segment requirements. Given the broad acceptance of current Standards and methods, the OGC is carefully working to ensure that value is added to the market, not confusion.