Portable GIS: GIS on a USB Stick
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Introduction

- Beginners need help,
- BUT:
- Not everyone has the facility/time to learn programming or l33t ninja command-line skillz,
- The learning curve is steep,
- Mailing lists are occasionally intimidating...
Modus Operandi

- Make it easy to use,
- Totally portable,
- Upgradable,
- Provide info on learning more,
- Contribute something myself
Where to start

- Gather together programmes that work portably,
- Figure out how to get them to work independently from the drive letter,
- Add a menu system for configuration and use,
- Add documentation on use, updating, and where to find more
What's on the stick

- Desktop GIS: GRASS, QGIS,
- Tools: FWTools,
- Web Server: XAMPPlite,
- Databases: Mysql, PostgreSQL,
- Web Mapping: Mapserver, GeoServer, OpenLayers, Mapbender
My own learning curve

- Batch files,
- Open Source Licensing

```plaintext
if NOT "%WD%" == "x" set WD=

rem ember command.com only uses the first eight characters of the label.
goto _windowsNT

rem ember that we only execute here if we are in command.com.
::_windows

if "%COMSPEC%" == "x" set COMSPEC=command.com
start %COMSPEC% /e:4096 /c %0 GOTO: _Resume %0 %1 %2 %3 %4 %5 %6 %7 %8 %9
goto EOF

rem ember that we execute here if we recursed.
::_Resume
for %F in (1 2 3) do shift
set WD=\bin\

rem ember that we get here even in command.com.
::_windowsNT

if "%WD%" == "x" set WD-%dp0\bin\

rem ember Set up option to use rxvt based on value of %1
if "%MSYSCON%" == "x" set MSYSCON=rxvt.exe
if "%1" == "x-norxvt" set MSYSCON=sh.exe
if "%1" == "x--norxvt" set MSYSCON=sh.exe
if "%MSYSCON%" == "xsh.exe" shift

if "%SYSTEM%" == "x" set SYSTEM=MINGW32
if "%1" == "MINGW32" set SYSTEM=MINGW32
if "%1" == "MSYS" set SYSTEM=MSYS

if NOT "%DISPLAY%" == "x" set DISPLAY=
```
Problems

• Installation of PostgreSQL and GRASS both quite complex,
• Difficult to upgrade cleanly,
• Size of package (currently 800MB including data),
• Won't work if the windows machine is locked down,
• Some antivirus packages think it's a threat,
• Security- not for production use
Ways forward

- Add new programmes (particularly web-based),
- Update existing programmes,
- Improve documentation,
- Sourceforge/Launchpad,
- Make versions for mac and linux?
Where to get further information

http://www.archaeogeek.com/blog/portable-gis
http://thehumanjourney.net/geospatial
http://launchpad.net/portable-gis

Thanks!