

COMMUNITY LEARNING SPACE PROJECT
Canada's Technology Triangle – Pilot #2
Site Review #1
Tuesday July 15, 2003

URL: <http://csg.uwaterloo.ca/beta/learningspace/>

And follow the link to **economic development**

User Name/Password: ctt/ctt

The economic development learning space is under development. This initial view shows “proof of concept”. Your feedback will provide direction for the development.

This site is not intended to replace or duplicate the CTT web site. It accesses the same data but provides another view of the data and provides additional features such as geo-mapping. During development of the learning space, we are using a copy of the CTT database taken several months ago. For production the learning space will either connect directly to CTT's database or synchronize with it frequently.

Site Design

Colour Scheme

The colour scheme for titles, background, links etc. is a combination of colours from the three cities' sites and CTT.

Do you have a preference for another colour scheme or more use of CTT's scheme? This colour scheme seems a little dull.

Topic menu

The list of topics is generated. Topics can easily be added, modified and deleted. The current list is based on the pilot objectives. These topics can change as the pilot progresses.

Please review the content for “about this site” that includes the logos for the data partners. Is it appropriate to include the logos? Yes, it's definitely appropriate to include logos.

Applications

Business Directory

1. List all businesses – uses a generic display format and lists 3 fields.

What fields are important to display? Company Name, Description, Location

What should be the sort order? Company Name / Type of Business

Do you have formatting preferences (e.g. more consistency with the CTT site)? No

2. Each business name links to the details for the business.

What fields should be included? Contact information, maybe link to website (should not leave this site to follow the link to the company website).

3. One of the proposed applications is a form to submit a business directory information change.

Where should the “information change” link be included (e.g. link from the detail page, link from the topic menu, or both)? Both

4. The current site contains a “generic” submit an information change form that can be accessed from the “contact us” page. (Submit information has not yet been implemented.)

Should the business directory information change be a copy of the business directory data form or should it be a generic like the “submit an information change” form? It should be specific to the directory data.

5. Business Search - This form currently has only one field. More fields can be added.

What are key searchable fields? Company Name, Type of business, location

6. Business map search – By zooming and selecting an area, you can find all businesses in that area. The application could be refined by adding additional criteria; for example, “type of industry”.

Would additional criteria be useful? Same as searchable fields

If yes, what would be useful criteria?

Real Estate

The building and land use applications will be extended to include detail listings, map search and search forms.

1. “List all available land” displays all records formatted for display with a stylesheet.

Should the listing be consistent with the CTT site or is another format preferable? This could be answered by what normally is required (Thom Ryan or Bill Elliot)

2. “List all available buildings” displays several fields.

Should the listing be consistent with the CTT site or is another format preferable? Same answer as above.

3. Would it be useful to add menu items for listings such as “list all for lease”, “list all for sale” or some other category? Yes, maybe future availability for lease.

4. A search form will be added for buildings and another for land.

What are key searchable fields for buildings? Size (square feet), location (Bill and Thom?)

What are key searchable fields for land? Size (acreage), location (Bill and Thom?)

5. Map search will be added when we resolve geo-referencing issues. There could be a map search to find all land in the selected area and a map search to find all buildings.

What is the preferred geo-referencing mechanism for land and buildings (e.g. postal code for urban entries, UTM for rural, UTM override for urban entries)? Not sure.

Would a single map search with criteria to select land or buildings be better? Not sure.

Would additional criteria be useful? Yes. Outside investors (often international) will not have the slightest idea what our postal codes are.

If yes, what would be useful criteria? Waterloo Region or City of xxx, or close to main transport arteries, etc.

Resources

Resources contains an archive of news items. This application was not one of the agreed pilot applications.

1. Would this application be useful to include for “business” research? Yes.

2. Keyword search could be added to search the archive to look for information about a business. Would this be useful? Yes.

3. Is there other information that could be included as a useful resource? Statistical information of the area.

Feedback Form

The feedback form is intended to allow comments regarding the site. The information is stored in a database table and an email message is sent to the site administrator (currently CSG).

Is there additional information that would be useful to record? Type of business where person who is visiting the site represents.

Data

Working with the sample data has generated some questions regarding display criteria for the data.

1. What are the criteria for including (or excluding) business records (e.g. are businesses that no longer exist removed)? Include as many businesses as possible, to make sure the database is representative of the area, but move the closed businesses to a history file for later reference.
2. Real Estate Buildings – The data contains records with many empty fields such as city and address and also includes “test” data.

Is the criteria for including (or excluding) building records the “Approved” column? Bill/Thom

How do you know which records have been leased/sold? Is “Approved” set to “No”? Bill/Thom

3. Real Estate Land

How do you know which records have been leased/sold? Thom/Bill

Lot size value will be rounded; some of the values are shown with numerous decimal places. How many decimal places should be displayed? None.

Additional Comments