

COMMUNITY LEARNING SPACE PROJECT
Canada's Technology Triangle – Pilot #2
Site Review #2
Friday September 12, 2003

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

Follow the link to **economic development**

User Name/Password: ctt/ctt

The economic development learning space is under development. 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.

Summary of changes since first version

Home page – partners names added to the “information provided by” text.

Added logos and partner names to each learning space page except the home page

Added images to the topic “folder” pages – CTT can update the content of “folder” pages as outlined in the “Evaluation” section below.

About this site – simplified the page

Business Directory

- Listing – added location, NAICS and removed email
- detail listings – more detail and maps zoomed in where detail maps are available
- added Update link to a form to update a business directory entry (see Outstanding Issues below)
- business search – additional search fields

Real Estate

- Land Listing – added zone, fixed lot size formatting, sorted by city and lot size, added link to detail page
- Land Detail – added a detail listing with geo-mapping
 - o mapping reference coordinates are UTM
 - o Update application lets you add/modify UTM coordinates and/or data
- Land search – search form added
- Land map search – added map search – speed issue – not yet resolved
- Building Listing – sorted by city, added link to detail page
- Building detail – added a detail listing with geo-mapping
 - o mapping reference coordinates are postal codes added to existing db field
 - o coordinates could be UTM and could be added as per land
- Building search – search form added
- Building map search – added – speed is a huge issue but will be resolved

Resources

- News archive – added link to news release title to display details
- keyword search added for news archive
- added related links

Evaluation

1. Briefly review the changes and record any feedback.

2. Changing the colour scheme

The feedback provided several comments about the colour scheme – some wanted CTT’s colour scheme, others did not and some found the colour scheme dull. Because there was no consensus, the colours were not changed. However, you can experiment changing these values using the Environment Expression administration tool.

To access the tool enter:

<http://csg.uwaterloo.ca/beta/learningspace/ctt/AdminListings.cfm?ListType=EnvExpressionsCTTAdmin&SubMenu=Styles>

You can modify values for style related fields such as: ActiveLinkColour, BodyColour, HighlightColour, LinkColour and so on. For example, to change the colour of the learning space name “economic development” from yellow to CTTs colour (referenced as B20121): scroll down the list to the entry for TitleColour, click on the title, change the Variable Value field from EEAD0E to B20121, and choose Update. Refresh the page in the learning space to view your changes.

Is changing the layout/style useful?

Is the tool easy to use?

3. Updating “folder page” content

A “folder page” (e.g. about this site, business directory...) contains a description of the enclosed menu items. The content is text that can include HTML tags or could be a simple paragraph. The partner administrator can easily modify the content using the Topic Edit administration tool.

To access the tool enter:

<http://csg.uwaterloo.ca/beta/learningspace/ctt/topicedit.cfm?SubMenu=Styles>

Click on the topic title, edit the Description field and then choose Update. Refresh the page in the learning space to view your changes.

Did you make a change?

Is the tool easy to use?

4. Updating a business record

The detail listing for a business includes a link to an update form that specifies several of the fields from the business directory (company) table. The form shows proof of concept for updating a business record but additional fields can be easily added.

When a change is made, the production copy of the table is not modified so that the change can be vetted and then moved to the production table (public view) when the change is approved. The application is not yet complete; the notification of the change and the “vetting” application are not yet implemented.

Is this a good way to provide an update?

5. Adding UTM coordinates

The detail listing for a real estate land entry includes an “Update” link to a form that shows a map and any current UTM settings and data fields.

If the coordinates do not yet exist (a red dot does not appear on the map):

- Select the zoom out tool and click on the map to zoom out until the map includes your land location.
- Select the mark point tool (fourth icon) and click on the map location for the land.
- To save the coordinates, click on the **Update** button.

To change existing UTM coordinates (red dot appears on the map):

- Click on the red dot and drag it to the new location. The UTM coordinates will be modified on the form when you release the mouse button.
- Use zoom in or zoom out if needed to move it to the appropriate location.
- To apply the change, click on the **Update** button.

Is the tool easy to use?

Outstanding Issues

The following have not been resolved from the first version:

- Business directory update application is not complete
How will the validity of submissions be evaluated?
- Map search is slow
- Need to follow-up on Linda’s mapping error – check browser and SVG viewer versions
- Geo-mapping from CTT’s site – see below for considerations

Geo-Mapping Considerations

1. Database changes would be required in order to use UTM coordinates
 - added columns for UTM coordinates (UtmX, UtmY, UtmZone)
 - added table postal_utm
2. Postal Codes or UTM coordinates could be used with real estate buildings. The individual adding/modifying the record would need to record the postal code or the UTM coordinates.
3. UTM coordinates would be used for land since postal codes likely do not exist. The individual adding the record would need to record the coordinates.
4. The current set of map images is not complete and map images are only available for the research project. These should not be used for production.
5. To incorporate a link from CTT’s site (a public site) to the CLS geo-maps, the following changes should be addressed:
 - EDOs need to geo-reference real estate entries
 - CTT’s web site and production databases would need to be modified
 - Include credit for the “learning space”