The Cabinet Office uses GIS to drive savings within the government

The Cabinet Office has showcased a new way to improve transparency and generate savings within the government property estate with the launch of its public-facing GIS application. The web-based solution, 'Find Me Some Government Space', makes information about government-owned property far more accessible to the public and those wanting to buy or rent government property.

One of the defining policies of the UK's current Coalition Government is to make data about its operations, services and assets more accessible. To support this agenda, the Cabinet Office has developed a web-based GIS that allows members of the public to easily search for, and find, land and vacant properties owned by Central Government which are available for sale or rent.

Designed to be responsive across a wide range of systems and devices in the public arena, the application receives over 4,000 hits every week, a strong testimony to its success in making government data open and accessible.

The Cabinet Office anticipates that the 'Find Me Some Government Space' application could generate significantly more requests to rent or buy unused property owned by Central Government. Indeed, in the long run, it believes that the solution could notably decrease the amount of under-utilised space in Central Government, creating added revenue for government departments and delivering a better 'return' on assets for the taxpayer.

The Cabinet Office used Esri's ArcGIS for Server platform to create 'Find Me Some Government Space' and, as it already had an Enterprise License Agreement with Esri UK, was able to develop the solution highly economically, with no additional software costs. The Cabinet Office also took advantage of Esri UK's Data Services to stream up-to-date mapping data directly into the web application, reducing its in-house data storage and management costs.

> **"The Cabinet Office has a very strong transparency policy and is committed to making data more accessible to the public. Our new GIS application supports that policy by making it far easier for people to find out about available property assets for sale, or for rent."**
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> **Chris Statham, Head of Data Services, the Cabinet Office**