

mapserver

a completely unbiased overview

by

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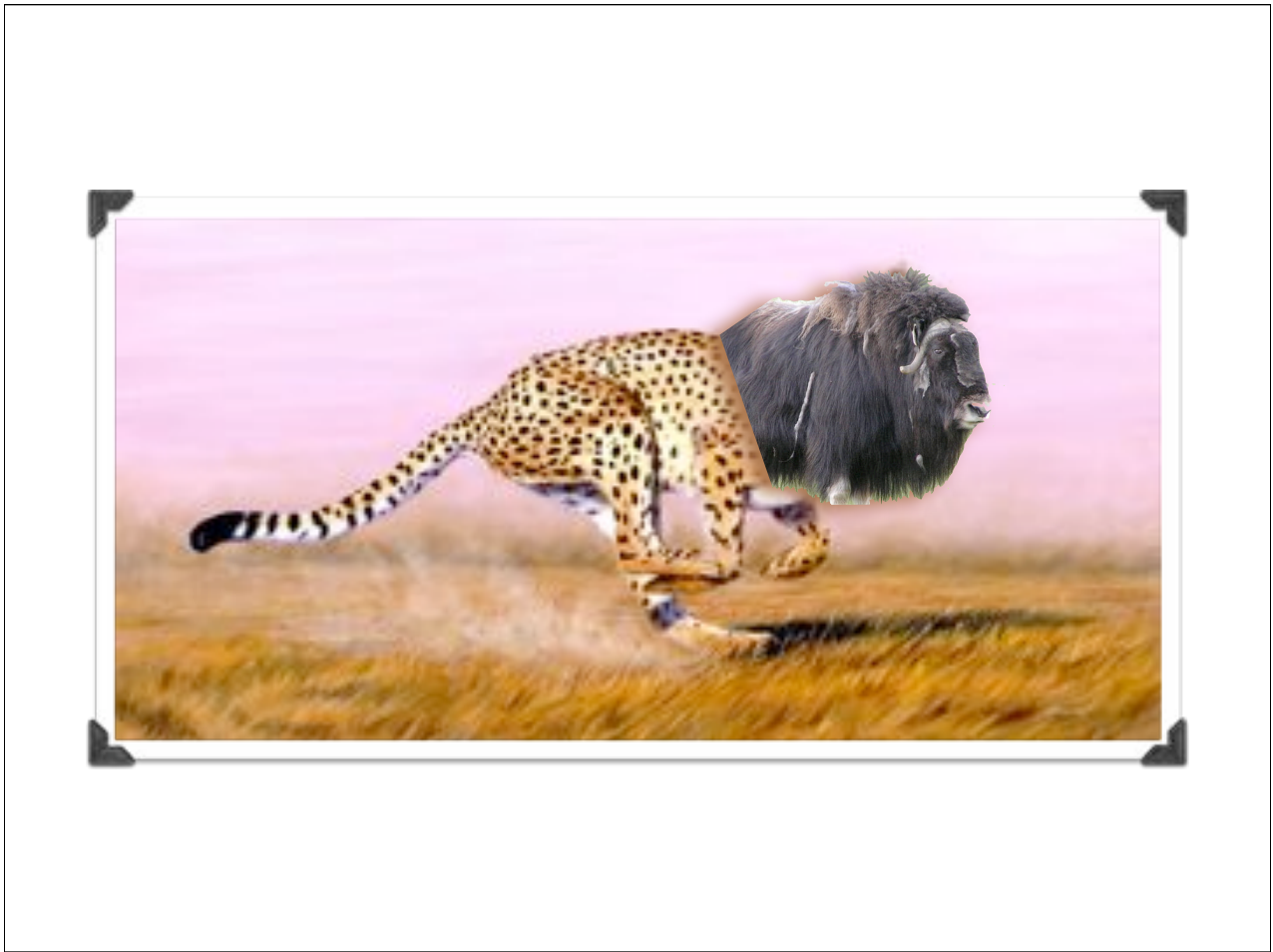
I am here to present an unbiased overview of MapServer web mapping server.



MapServer is strong like ox!



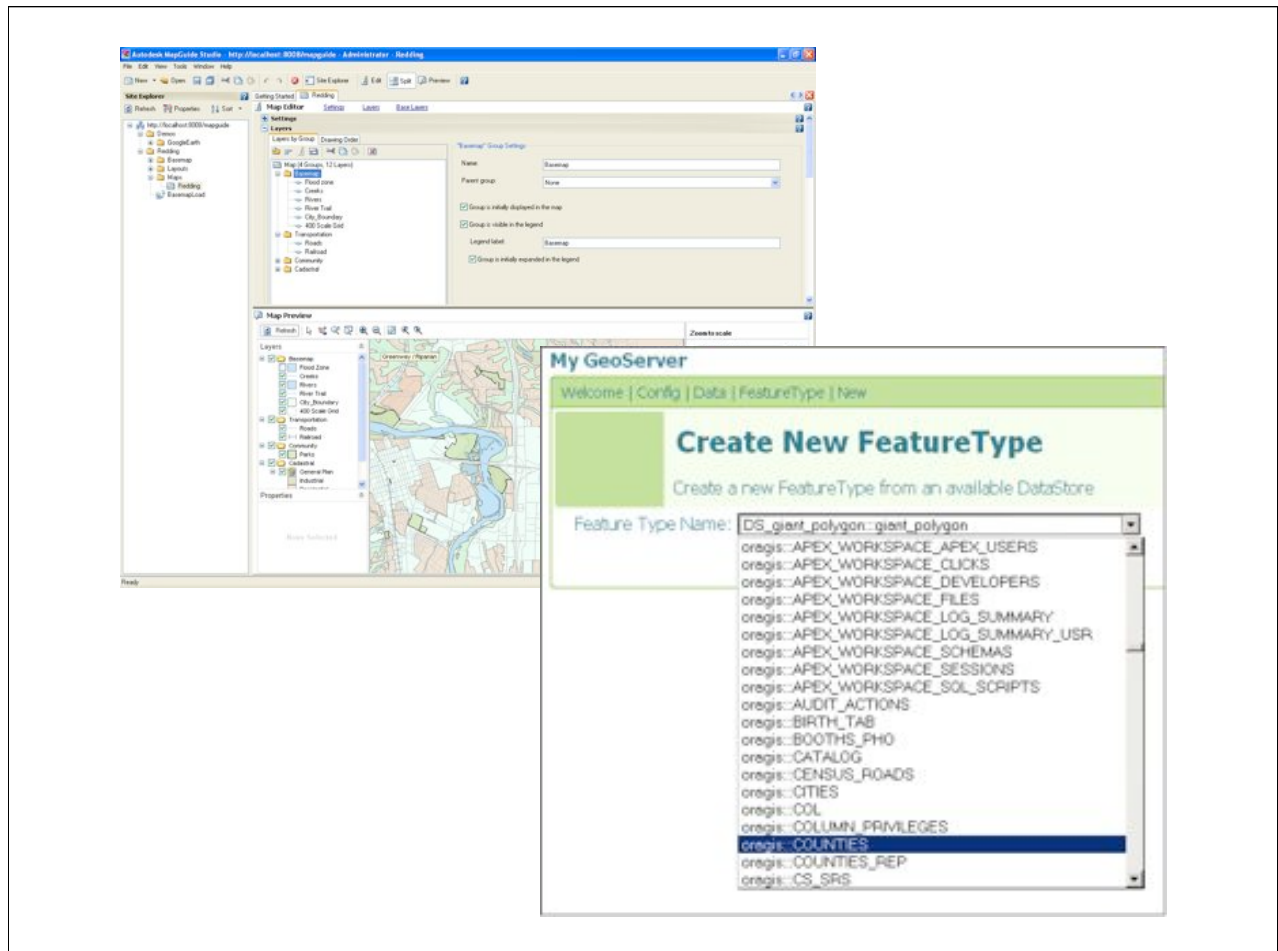
MapServer is fast like cheetah!



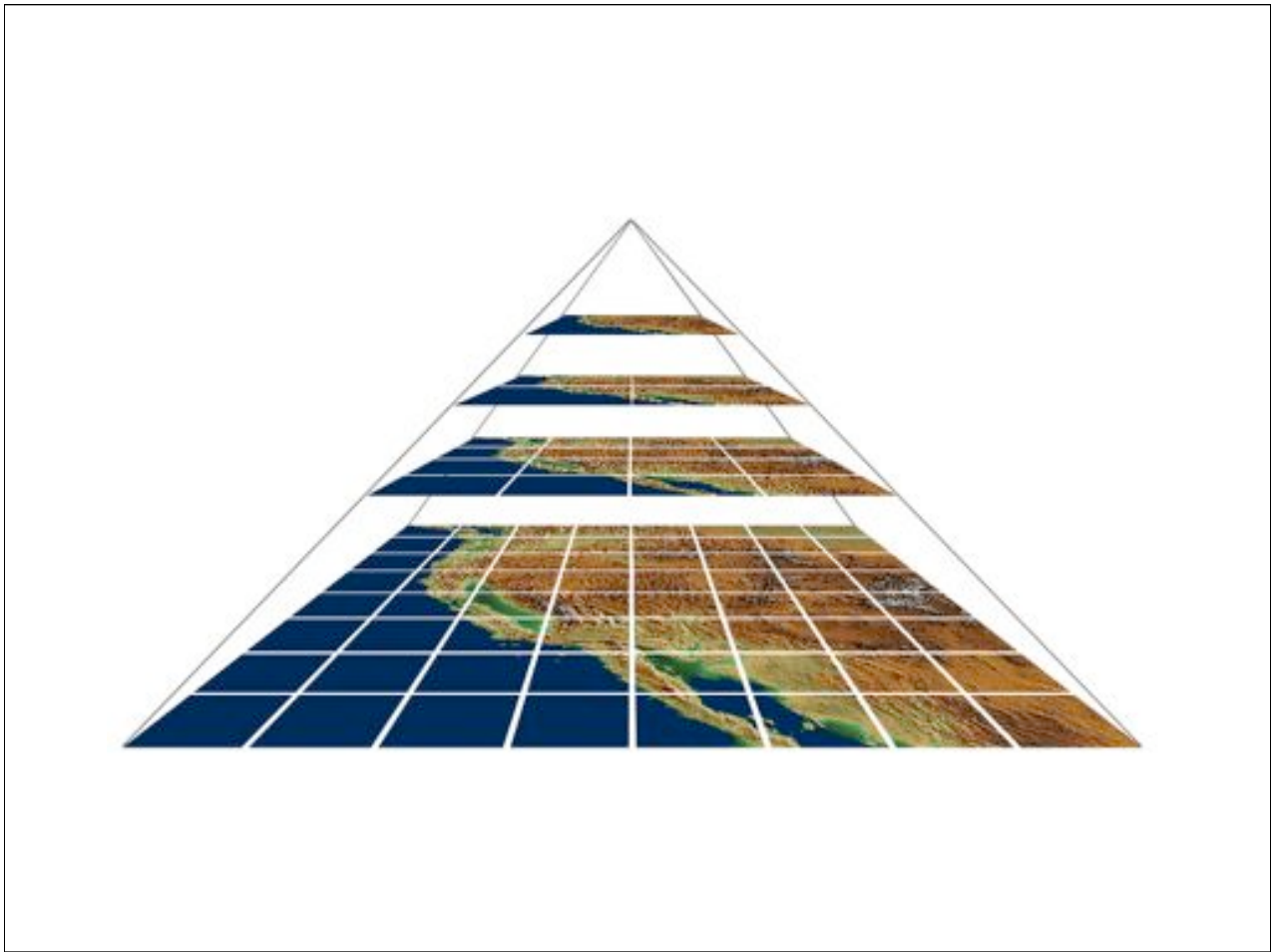
MapServer is kind of a cheetox.
Or an oxtah.
Is fast **and** strong.



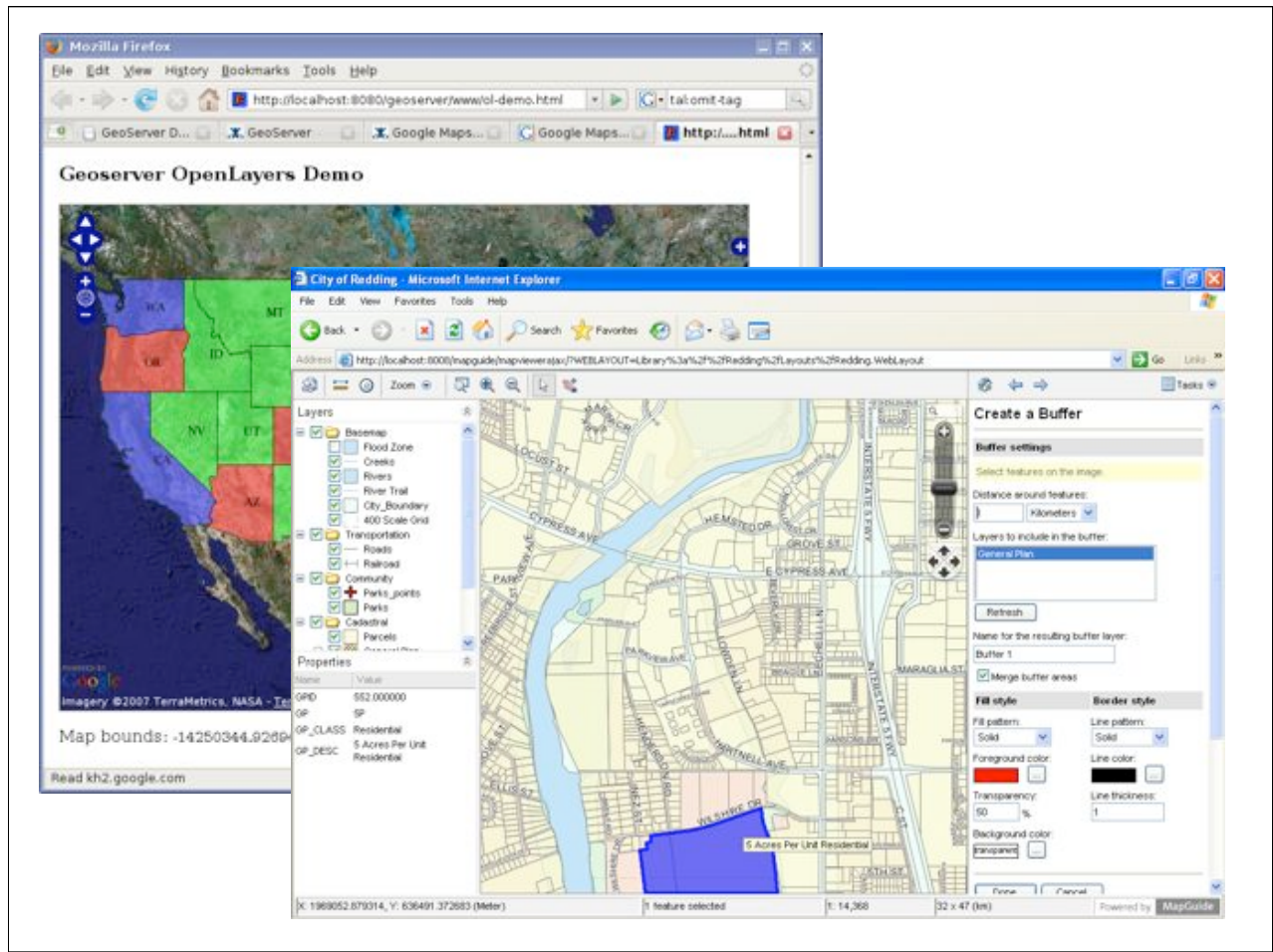
MapServer is not for lazy people! lazy people, you may leave now!



This is a fancy graphical configuration interface.
MapServer does not have a fancy configuration interface.



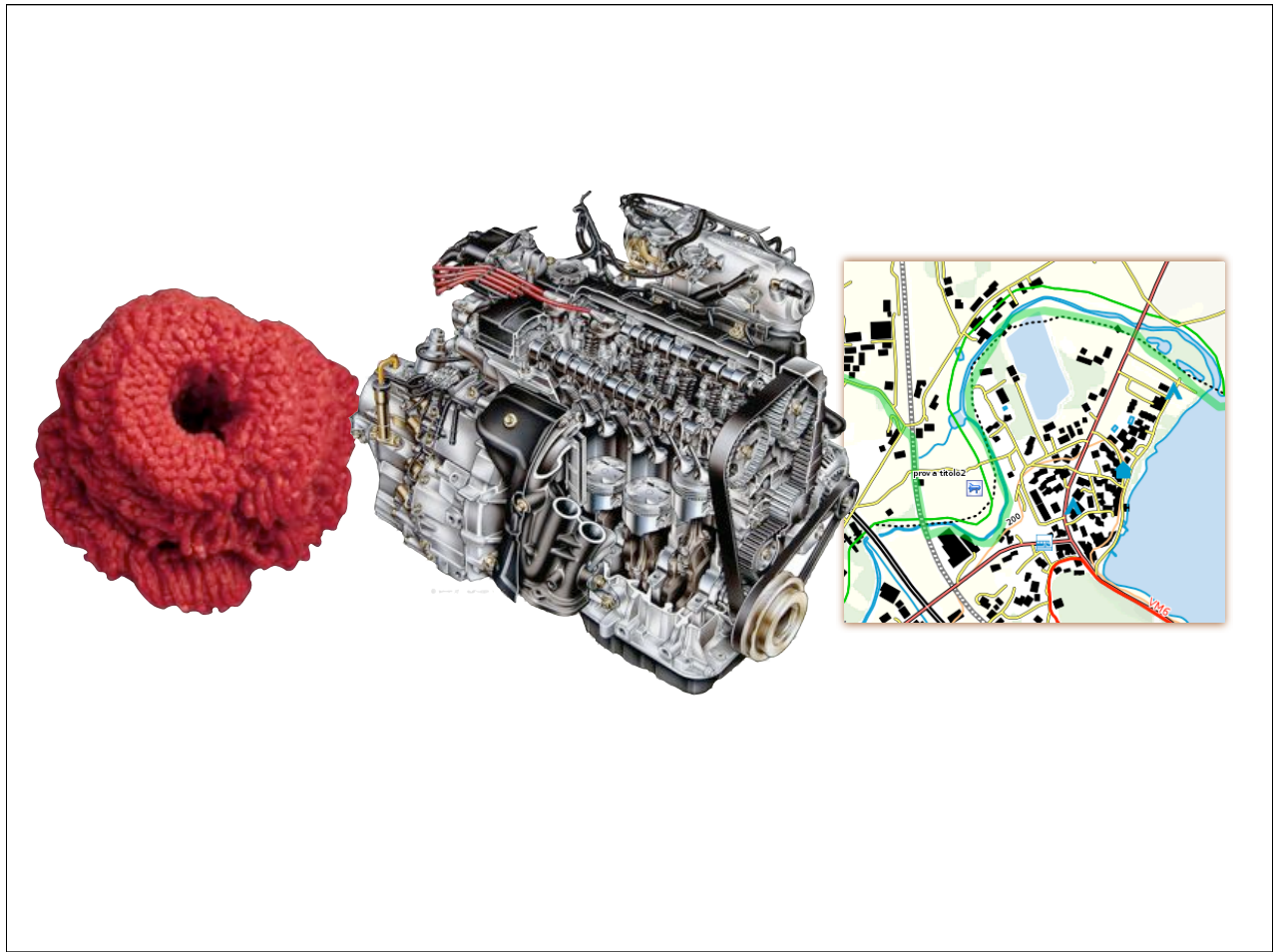
This is a built-in tile cache.
MapServer does not have a built-in tile cache.



This is a built-in map interface.
MapServer does not have a built-in map interface.



Also, MapServer does not have hipster Web 2.0 ReST interface or hipster GeoWeb 2.0 formats.



What MapServer does is
MapServer takes in raw data and
MapServer spits out beautiful maps

MapServer



mapguide



geoserver

MapServer is an engine! A rendering engine!
Geoserver, MapGuide, these are cars!
Cars, with comfy bucket seats to hold lazy people's bums!



Cars are nice, if you are driving on the road, but what if you are building airplane?
How do you fit a car in an airplane!?! It does not work,
MapServer is a great engine!

anti-grain geometry (AGG)



MapServer renders beautiful pictures!
It uses the AGG graphics library for sub-pixel rendering,
anti-aliased lines, alpha-blended features, and other niceties.



clever
labeling

including
curves

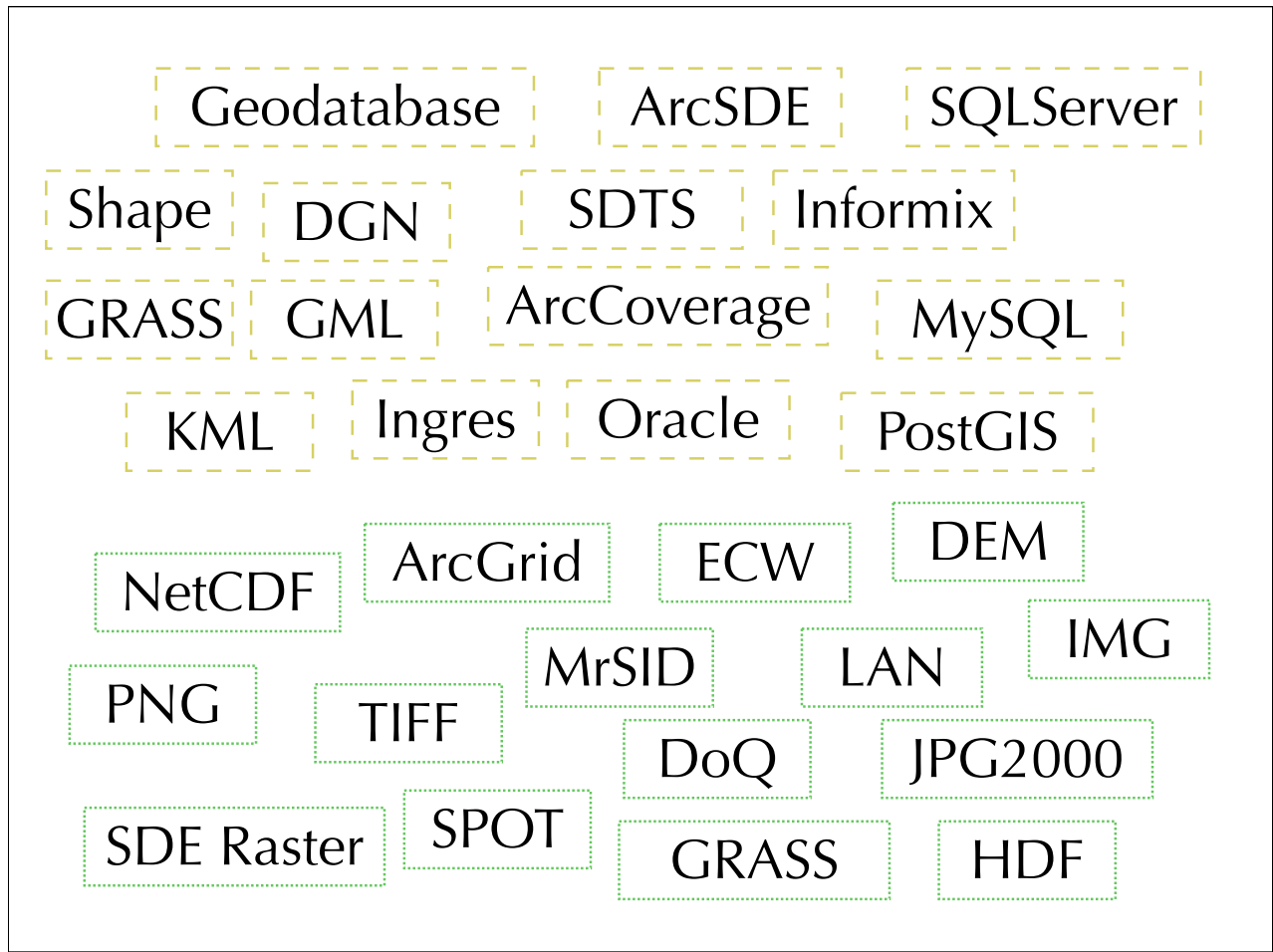
MapServer has curved labeling support,
supports numerous labeling hits,
scalable labels, truetype fonts and more.
MapServer has pixmap symbols and vector symbols.

```

LAYER
  NAME taxlots
  METADATA
    "wms_title" "Taxlot Outlines"
  END
  PROJECTION
    "init=epsg:2270"
  END
  TYPE POLYGON
  DATA taxlots
  STATUS ON
  LABELITEM "TM_MAPLOT"
  LABELMAXSCALE 1500
  CLASS
    NAME "Tax Lot"
    MAXSCALE 30000
    STYLE
      OUTLINECOLOR 200 200 200
      WIDTH 1
    END
    LABEL
      OUTLINECOLOR 200 200 200
      COLOR 120 120 120
      MINSCALE 10

```

MapServer has an easy terse configuration syntax
 you can edit in any text editor!
 It's easy!
 Even for lazy people!



MapServer reads thousands and thousands of vector formats!

shape, igds, mapinfo, arccoverage, sdts, postgis, oracle, ingres, informix, sde, sqlserver, mysql, esri personal geodatabase, gml, grass, kml, sdts, sqlite, grass

MapServer reads thousands and thousands of image formats!

tiff, ecw, mrsid, jpeg2000, gif, png, jpg, sde rasters, arc/info, spot, doq, grass, hdf4, hdf5, usgs dem,



web map server (1.0, 1.1, 1.3)
web feature server (1.0, 1.1)
web coverage server (1.0, 1.1)
sensor observation service (1.0)

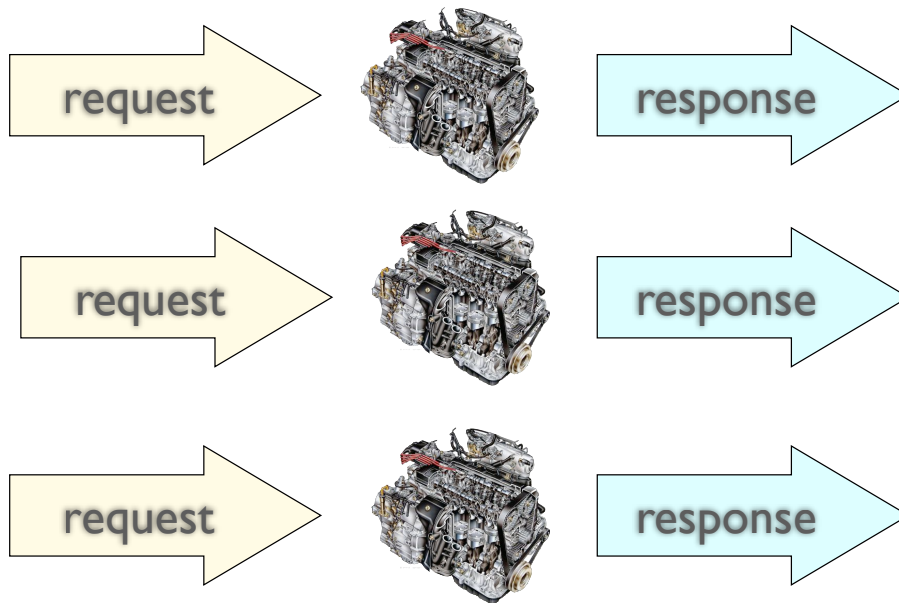
MapServer speaks OGC standards!

web map server, web feature server, sensor observation server, web coverage server



MapServer is strong like ox!

- Common Gateway Interface (CGI)
- Invented in 1993!

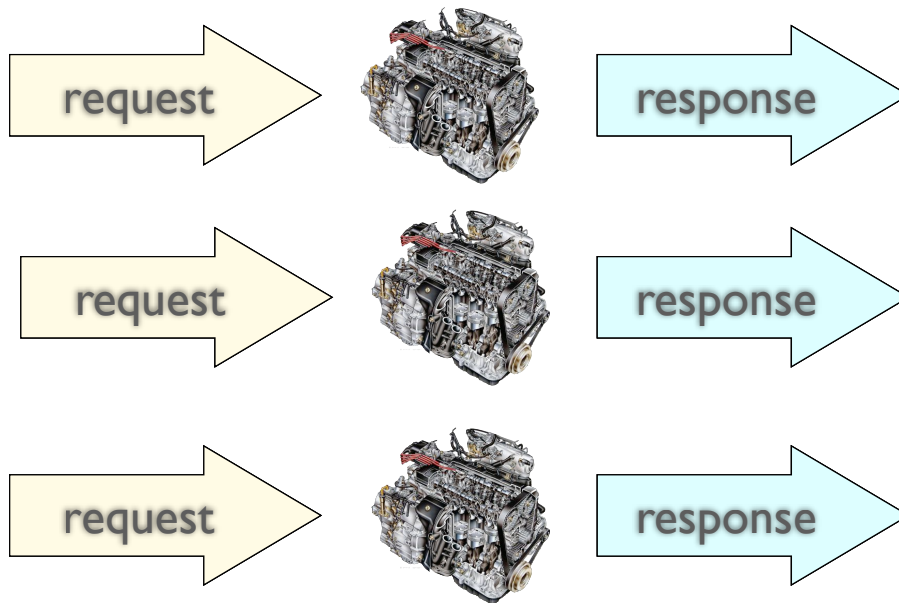


MapServer uses proven CGI technology, from 1993!
Every map request gets individual an MapServer instance.
If one instance fails, another leaps in to take its place,
so MapServer is very robust, and has no service interruptions,
ever!

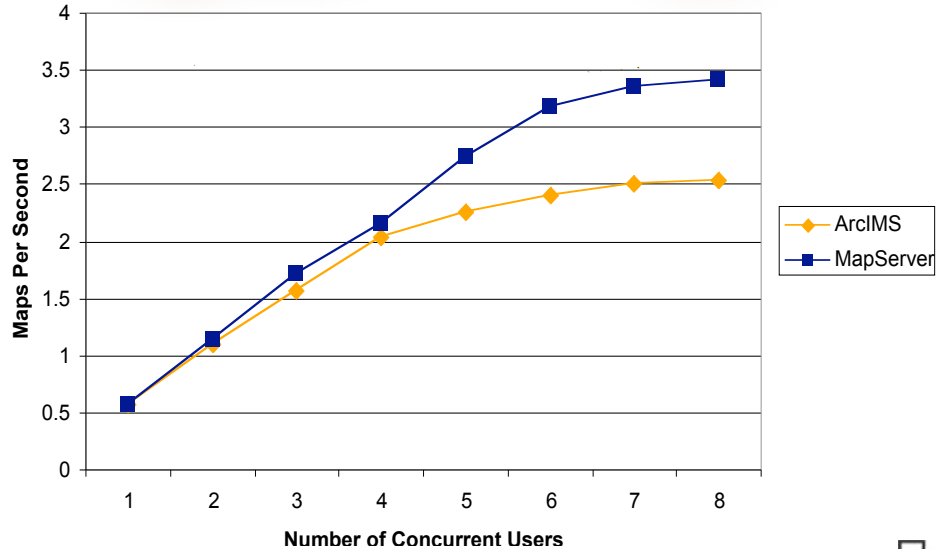


MapServer is fast like cheetah!

FastCGI

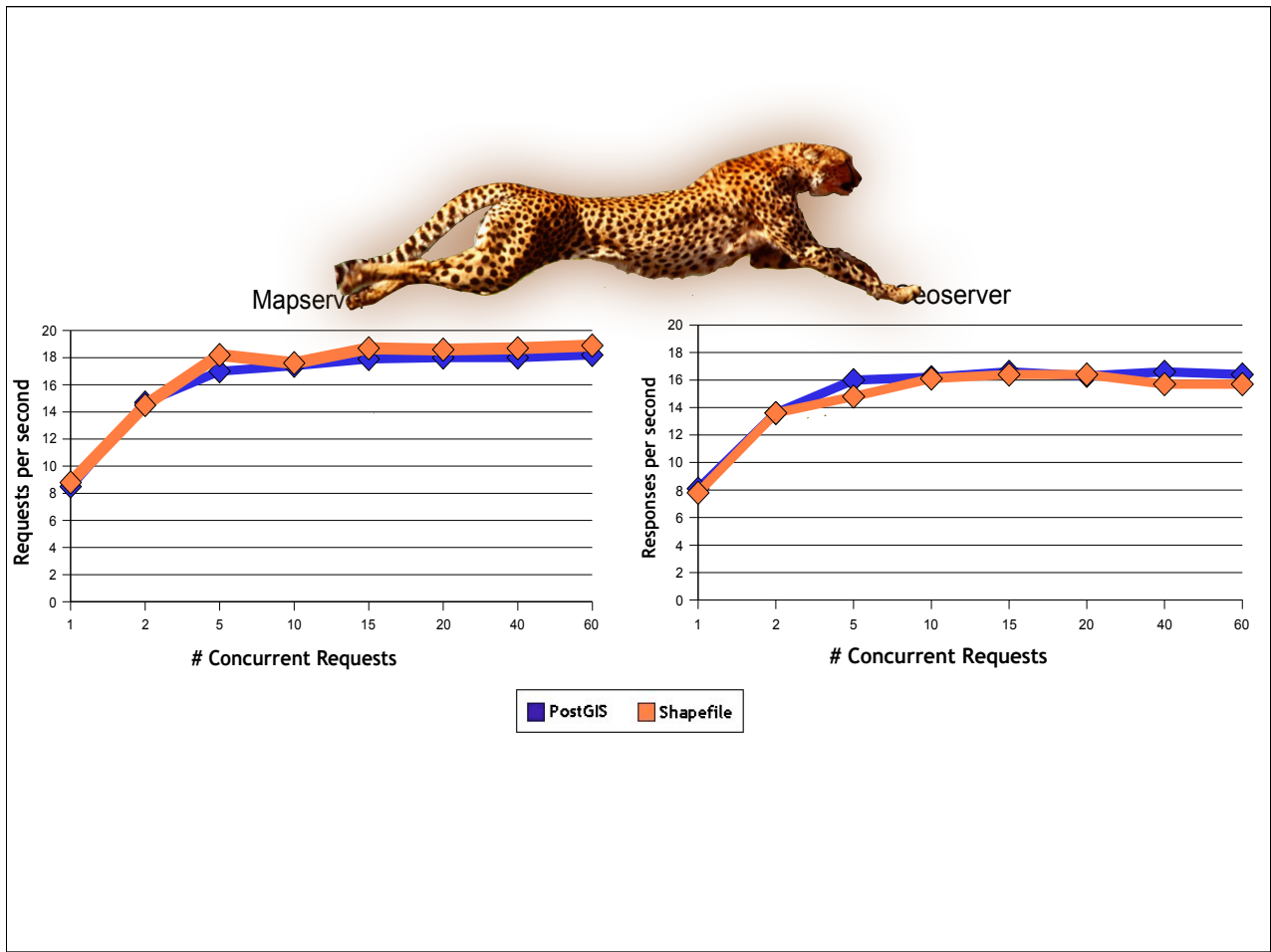


MapServer uses FastCGI technology to get around database connection overheads.
Just like CGI, if one instance dies, another leaps in to take place!
So no service interruptions, ever!
You know it must be fast, because it says "fast", right in name!



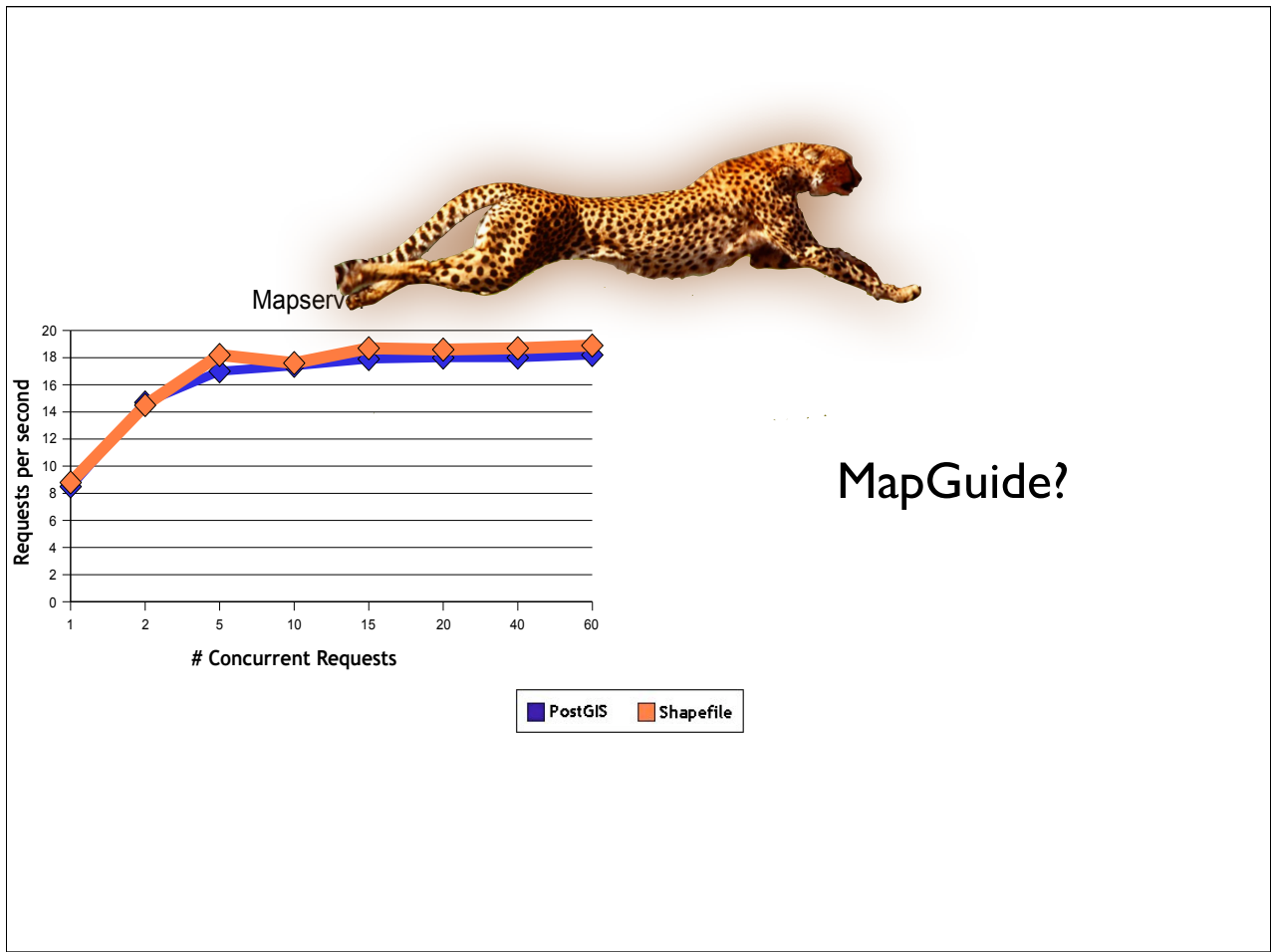
MapServer is faster than ArcIMS!

This test from 2005 shows, the more requests it has to handle, the faster MapServer gets!



MapServer is faster than Geoserver!

This test from 2007 shows, Mapserver can produce more throughput than GeoServer!



MapGuide?
MapGuide is not fast!



MapServer is built by a real diverse open source community,
including mostly geeky white men, but also few geeky white women!
A very diverse community!

Name	Commits	Employer
Steve Lime	371	Minnesota DNR
Howard Butler	291	Independent
Daniel Morissette	275	MapGears
Tom Kralidis	241	Environment Canada
Y. Assefa	240	DM Solutions
Frank Warmerdam	228	Independent
Tamas Szekeres	148	Independent
Thomas Bonfort	142	Camptocamp
Umberto Nicoletti	43	Independent
Paul Ramsey	36	Independent

But the MapServer community is diverse in a more important way!
The top 10 committers since 2005 all work for different organizations,
so MapServer is not the creature of any one organization.



MapServer is a founding project of OSGeo!
We are still in incubation, but that's only because we are too lazy to get out!
Much too busy with code!

mapserver 5.2

- better query templates
- web coverage service 1.1
- native SQL Server 2008 support
- Google Map / Virtual Earth tile API
- faster large shape file (factor of 10!)
- faster AGG support (factor of 10!)
- more alpha support in AGG
- sensor observation service 1.0.0 (SOS)
- web feature service 1.1.0 (WFS)

MapServer 5.2 is released!

remember



Remember!
MapServer is an engine!
MapServer is strong like ox!
MapServer is fast like cheetah!