Assignment #1
URPL 590 – Mapping Mashups
Spring 2009

Mapping Mashup Gallery

Discover an innovative mapping mashup in your area of interest (step 1), prepare a summary and post it on a collaborative weblog (step 2), and share your discovery through a presentation to the class (step 3).

The Programmable Web (http://www.programmableweb.com/) is a good place to start your search. Click on the "Mashups" tab and then select "Maps Mashups" from the list of "Popular Directory Searches." Remember that this is only one of many ways to search for an interesting mashup.

Here are some questions you may want to answer in your summary:
- What is the purpose of the mashup?
- Does the mashup provide information that you find useful?
- Is the mapping interface a critical component of how the website functions?
- Would the site be possible without a mapping interface?
- Can you identify any of the web mapping services that support the site?
- Is the website easy to use?
- How quick is the response time?
- Do you have any suggestions for how the site could be improved?

To get started on step 2, you will need to open a Wordpress account (http://wordpress.com/) and send David Hart (dahart@wisc.edu) the user name and email address you used to open the account. You will then be added as a user to the blog at http://urpl590mashups.wordpress.com/ and you will be able to login and post your summary. Keep the summary reasonably short, but provide enough information so that we can understand your opinion of the mashup. You may want to include a graphic or two in your summary to help convey your message.

Remember that you will present from the blog to the class on Thursday, March 5th (step 3). Please keep your presentation under 5 minutes, including questions. [We are aware that relying on a live demo contains certain risks and are hoping that the network behaves during class!]

If you have questions or run into problems, please contact David and AJ (lwortley@wisc.edu) by email.

To make this work, you should probable shoot for completing your post on the evening of Wednesday, March 4th, so that it is available at beginning of class on Thursday.