

# Introduction

GeoNetwork opensource is a standards based, Free and Open Source catalog application to manage spatially referenced resources through the web. It provides powerful metadata editing and search functions as well as an embedded interactive web map viewer. This website contains information related to the use of the software.

*Current stable version: [v2.4.2 \(12 October 2009\) \(also the manuals\)](#)*

*Previous stable version: [v2.2.0 \(4 April 2008\)](#)*

The software is released under the [GPL](#) license and can be used and modified free of charge.

**GeoNetwork opensource** is a standardized and decentralized spatial information management environment, designed to enable access to geo-referenced databases, cartographic products and related metadata from a variety of sources, enhancing the spatial information exchange and sharing between organizations and their audience, using the capacities of the internet. This approach of geographic information management aims at facilitating a wide community of spatial information users to have easy and timely access to available spatial data and to existing thematic maps that might support informed decision making. [Read more...](#)

## Technical Specification

**GeoNetwork opensource** implements both the Portal component and the Catalog database of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) defined in the OGC Reference Architecture. It provides tools for managing and publishing metadata on spatial data and related services. **GeoNetwork opensource** allows a distributed search providing access to a huge volume of metadata that come from different Clearinghouses and also provides a web-based interactive map viewer that allows people to composite maps picking layers from distributed servers on the internet. [Read more...](#)

## About this site

The main sections of the website are the [Documentation](#) and the [Software](#) area to download the application.

This web site targets users of the software. If you're interested in the development of the software, you probably want to **visit the Developer web site** at <http://trac.osgeo.org/geonetwork> and check out the **Connect!** section on this page.

As for the software itself, also the content of this website is considered "Free and Open" and released under the [Creative Commons license](#). You are warmly invited to join, contribute content, provide feedback, experiences et cetera.