



# FME Server Apps: Interactive Data Requests

Kieran O'Donnell



**LOCUS**

Manage your data with Locus  
and Safe Software's FME®



Data Serenity



# Agenda:

1. Data Requests are still a problem
2. Solution: FME Server Apps
3. Example: Address Strings
4. Example: Data Extracts
5. Summary





Data silos will always exist, until you  
can provide information to those who  
need it, exactly when they need it



# Repetitive Data Tasks

---

An ongoing challenge, even with  
FME

**Are you still spending time with tedious data requests?**



Teams who are the gatekeepers to enterprise data are still tasked with the burden of capturing and distributing that data

Customers are far removed from the process of data capture and analysis, weakening the process and output as a result

Users see the maintenance of their own data as 'specialist', despite data's importance to all roles, regardless of technical skills



# Use FME: Let it take care of the work for you

With the technology available now, I don't believe there is a need for analysts or technicians to perform many data related tasks any more

If there's a process which you have to perform on a regular basis, always think about how you can design a solution which no longer requires your involvement



# How? FME Server Apps

I'm going to take you through two examples of FME Server Apps which demonstrate how you can build solutions where the user can get to what they need, exactly when they need it

These two examples use common requests which fill up a lot of a GIS team's service requests, no matter that industry they're working in



# What are FME Server Apps?

---

- An interface which allows you to run an FME Server Workspace without logging into FME Server
- Server Apps were first released in FME Server 2019.1 so are still in their early iterations
- Supports the use of User Parameters, to allow for an interactive experience
- Accessed via a web page, meaning users of all skill levels can be comfortable using them



# Problem: Spatialising Addresses

---

Turning spreadsheets of unformatted address strings into a map is a particularly time consuming and tedious task which often yields poor results

- Inaccurate/incomplete results which can frustrate the customer and the technician
- Slow turnaround time
- Disconnect between customer and the process





# Address Solution

---

- Interactive solution, where the customer performs the task rather than a technician or analyst
- Customers have the power to perform this task as and when required
- Feedback loop where the customer can see what worked, and what didn't, giving them the power to rectify any issues immediately
- Connection between the customer and the process, giving a broader understanding of how spatial technology works



# Problem: Data Extracts

---

Despite advancements in technology, data requests can still be a time consuming task which leave customers and technicians alike, largely unsatisfied

- Slow turnaround time
- Inaccurate extracts
- Format compatibility issues





# Simple but effective solution

---

- Ability to extract data on demand, eliminating the lengthy wait times and leaving your customers satisfied
- Customers have the power to define exactly what data they want, removing the possibility for erroneous exports which can frustrate the customer and technician
- Using FME Server Apps, you unlock the power of FME to an end consumer which removes any potential data compatibility issues



A dark, textured background with a small bowl of black pebbles and two green leaves in the top left corner, and a grey towel in the top right corner.

# Summary

---

FME Server Apps are the interactive link between your workspaces, and the customer

Allowing your customers to run processes saves you time, yields more accurate results, and seriously improves the level of customer service

By utilising FME Server Apps well, you can eliminate the need to perform repetitive data tasks, freeing up time to deliver even more value-add services





# Summary Tips

---

For Creating Server Apps

## Think of the Customer

- Use simple, non-industry specific language
- No Jargon or Acronyms (FME & GIS included)
- User Parameters for both interaction and restriction
- Use the most appropriate FME Service
- Invest in documenting your solution well



There's no need to perform repetitive data tasks yourself, let FME and your customer take care of it.





**What tasks can you  
automate, completely?**





WORLD TOUR  
2 0 2 0

Data Serenity

Thank you!

ZEN  
and the  
Art of  
FME



LOCUS

Manage your data with Locus  
and Safe Software's FME®

