

# GRASS status and future development

Paolo ZATELLI\*, Markus NETELER\*\*

\* Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile e Ambientale,  
Università degli Studi di Trento,  
Via Mesiano 77, 38100 Trento, Italy.  
*tel. +39-0461-88-2618, fax +39-0461-88-2672,*  
*e-mail Paolo.Zatelli@ing.unitn.it*

\*\* ITC-irst,  
via Sommarive 18, 38100 Trento, Italy.

## Abstract

GRASS is unanimously recognised as the leading Free Software/Open Source Geographic Information System project. It is part of a vast and correlated set of FOSS projects for the management of geographic information.

This paper reports an up to date review of GRASS status and its future development.

## 1. Introduction

The development of Free Software/Open Source Geographic Information Systems has known a significant acceleration during the last years, acceleration probably more sensible than that of all the rest of FOSS software. While this is certainly due to the growing interest in GIS, a strong reason is the increasing demand of integration and interoperability which is not always met by proprietary GIS. In fact, despite the lack of central development coordination, all the FOSS systems for the management of geographic information offer good interoperability and adherence to open standards. The new GRASS 6.0 release brings significant enhancements in many aspects of the management and elaboration of geographic information, in particular for the vector data which benefit from the reimplemented vector library.