Mapping: balance of purpose and joy

BalticGIT 2026

Mapping for purpose

Because I want to use it

Practical uses

- General information used in all maps:
  - Road network
  - Places
  - Landuse
  - Waterway network
  - Points of interest
  - Addresses
- …but what if everything is mapped…?

Practical uses

- Improving some existing app or map:
  - Investigate which data is actually used
  - Improve that data

Practical uses

- Data for own idea:
  - Investigate which data will be required and actually used
  - Decide if data can go into OSM DB:
    - legal part
    - will it be stable there?
  - Collect the data

Mapping for joy

Because I like it

Joy

- I just like mapping
- I have a spare time
- I want to do something with my friends
- I want to do some school project about gis

What is a problem?

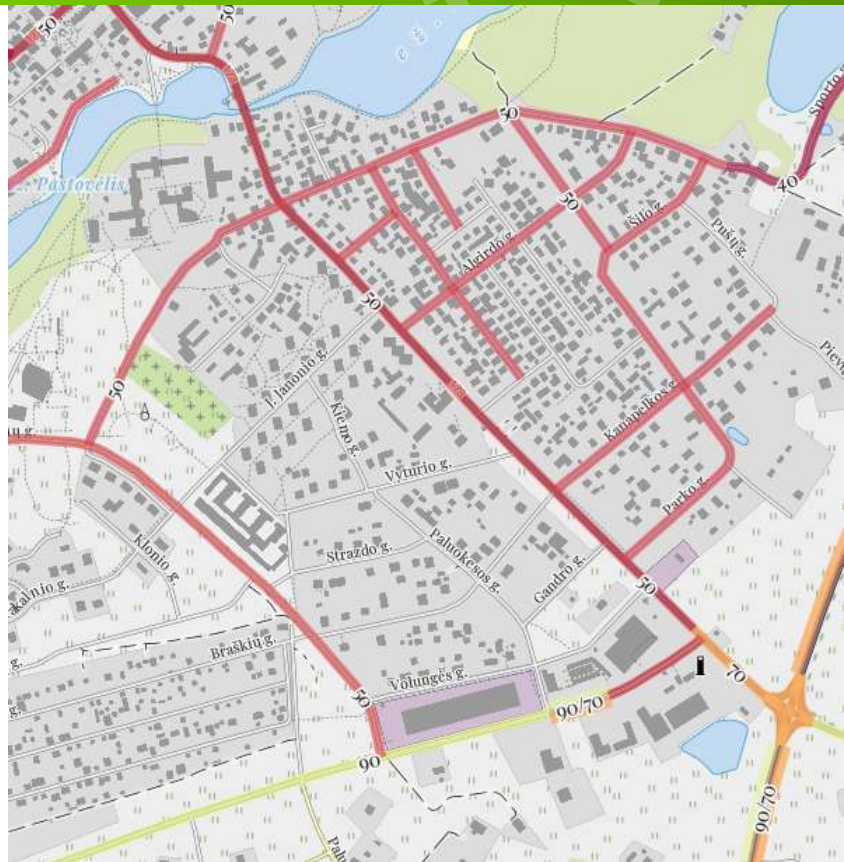
What are you talking about?

Practical uses

- Data for other apps:
  - which those other apps are not actually using (and not going to)
- Data for own hypothetical app:
  - ...that you will never actually build

Practical uses

- Will it be possible to collect data for considerable area?
- Will it be possible to take care of the data?
- Will others want to take care of the data?



Joy

- Is it important that what you do is actually useful?
- Is the stream of new types of tasks in “collecting apps” useful?

Joy

- Maybe somebody can guide you?

What is wrong with it…

Oh boy…

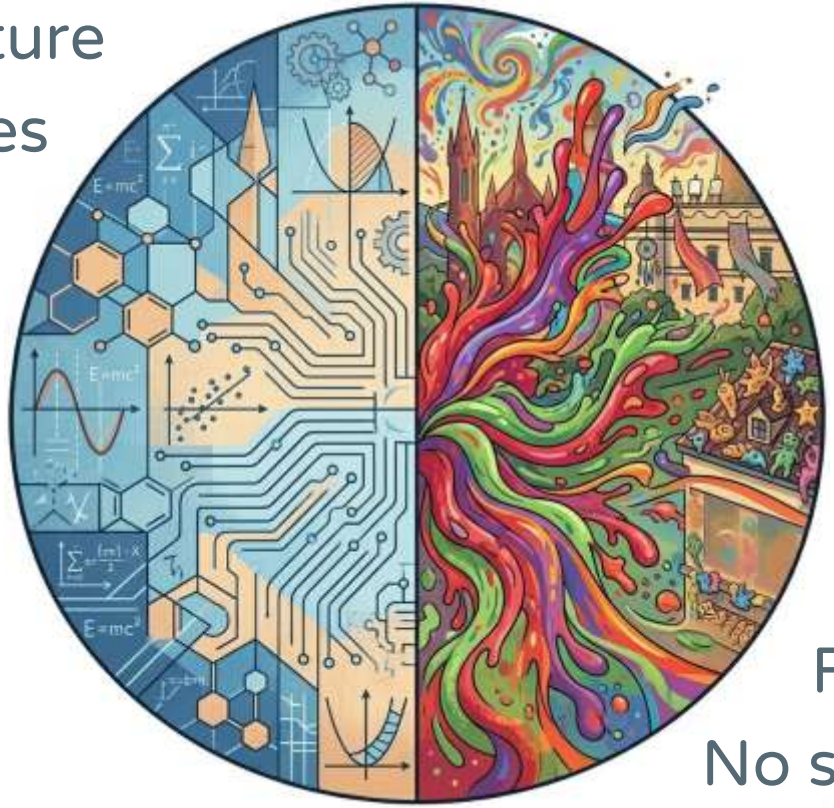
Problems

- Breaking existing products
- Overcomplicating data:
  - amount
  - complexity
- Adding data which obstructs/complicates other changes
- Adding data which no one wants to take care of…

Problem

Hard structure

(stable) rules



Freedom

No structure

My suggestions

My way

My suggestions

- Choose what is important for you
- Choose what you actually use
- Check how/which data is used
- (usually) Do not think about probable/possible/threoretical far-away-galaxy-future
- Do not change existing rules
- Do not break existing data
- DO
- Continue

Solution?

Woo-hoo

Solution

- Sorry, no universal solution
- Try having both: practical use and fun
- You just need to:
  - talk
  - think
  - don’t rush

Questions?

Rokenrol