

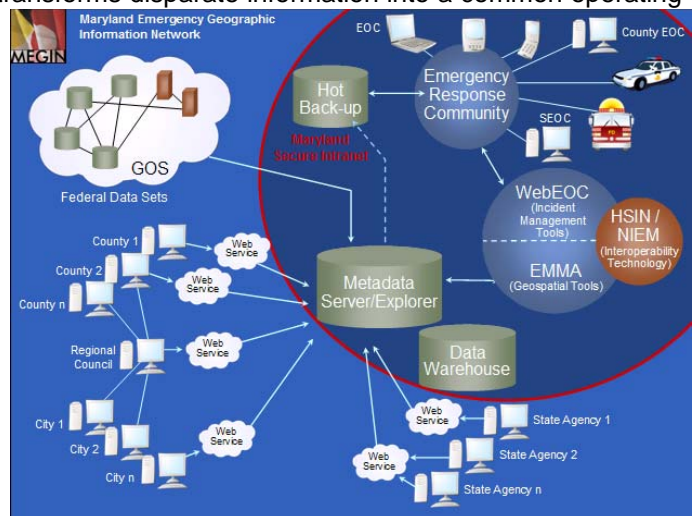


Maryland Emergency Geographic Information Network

Maryland's *coordinated information portal* for serving geospatial information to the emergency management community at all levels of government—offering an interoperable, non-intrusive way to *find and share data and integrate maps* into decision-making *before, during, and after an incident.*

MEGIN was developed by the Towson University Center for Geographic Information Sciences on behalf of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency through a DHS ITEP grant. Since 2003 Maryland has endeavored to roll out an interoperable suite of incident management tools at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as well as to local EOCs. Along with EMMA[®], the Emergency Management Mapping Application developed by Towson University, MEGIN delivers the *right data*, at the *right time*, to the *right people*. Together, EMMA[®] and MEGIN create a federated system of data repositories and catalogs connected through Web services to ensure data integrity and security while providing access to the data for planning, mitigation, response, and recovery activities.

Accessing geospatial data via MEGIN, EMMA[®] transforms disparate information into a common operating picture using a language that everyone can understand—maps. As a GIS-enabled emergency management tool built upon ESRI software and established standards, EMMA[®] locates incidents on a map, describes affected areas, and displays real-time, relevant information. Along with operational and situational status, the information is presented and shared using WebEOC (ESi), a Critical Information Management System (CIMS) that MEMA has made available to Maryland's emergency managers and response partners. Information within WebEOC can also be shared to users of other CIMS software (e.g., outside of Maryland) via an interoperable backbone for accessibility to the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).



WebEOC provides a *time-oriented* and *list-oriented* view of information while EMMA[®] provides a *place-oriented* view of the same information. MEGIN's role is to serve as the secure clearinghouse that *organizes* and *protects* data provided to EMMA[®] and WebEOC, allowing *discovery* of key data assets and ensuring *security* of the information being shared. Utilizing a blend of ESRI's GIS Portal Toolkit, Oracle identify management, and custom security components, MEGIN provides a framework for sharing and accessing data from multiple, distributed locations. Together, this suite of emergency management tools—EMMA[®], WebEOC, and MEGIN—supports collaborative decision-making across disparate emergency management communities.

MEGIN is Maryland's technology infrastructure for multi-level, collaborative, secure decision-making. MEGIN provides access to geospatial information and Web mapping tools and services from the public and private sectors statewide.

