Data Working Group 2018 Q1 Case Report

Background

The Data Working Group (DWG) filed 216 cases for the time period from 1 Jan 2018 to 31 March 2018. Some inquiries were handled quickly without any official action on the Data Working Group's part–usually due to the inquiry not falling under the purview of the Data Working Group.

Generally, when a complaint is brought to the DWG, the complainant is asked to first open dialogue with the user in question. This is accomplished through the channels of changeset discussions, forum and mailing list posts, or private messages as a last resort. DWG members may also choose to become directly involved in this communication immediately; otherwise, they will wait for a response from the user. Changeset discussions are viewable by everyone and are preferred as other OSM users can also provide input and so that the communication trail can be established.

If a user is unresponsive after a period of time but continues to edit the map, they will often be given a 0 hour block. This block requires them to log into the OSM website and read the block message set by a DWG member. In some cases, a user performing large-scale edits or using incompatible data sources may be blocked immediately to provide a pause for analysis and limit the amount of data added to the database.

Data that are found to be in conflict with the OSM license or community standards of practice may be reverted either by a DWG member or by a member of the community if requested. Data may also be redacted completely from the database, especially for egregious copyright violations. Occasionally the DWG receives requests or complaints from the general public through the Digital Millennium Copyright Act compliance email address; correctly mapped data is usually not modified, but small changes in classifications or representation may be made by DWG members.

In every case, the DWG gives mappers the benefit of the doubt and that they are acting with good intentions. Complaints may indeed be ruled as unfounded or incorrect if the alleged is correctly mapping. Perhaps the features added are very new, and a user surveyed that data but did not indicate this in their changeset. Alternatively, the user may be adding survey data from a holiday a few weeks prior that was greatly removed from their home. In these instances, tickets are closed out and no further action is taken.

Case list

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-03-31	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-03-30	other		other
2018-03-30	other	Russia	no action needed
2018-03-29	spam or poor mapping	Worldwide	block issued
2018-03-29	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2018-03-29	user conflict and non-responsiveness	switzerland	block issued, community contacted
2018-03-29	other		no action needed
2018-03-29	other		no action needed
2018-03-27	spam or poor mapping	Europe	block issued, reverted
2018-03-27	user conflict and non-responsiveness		block issued
2018-03-26	undiscussed or other problematic import		block issued
2018-03-26	other	USA	changeset commented
2018-03-21	spam or poor mapping	Netherlands	advice given
2018-03-20	undiscussed or other problematic import	Portugal	block issued, changeset commented, community contacted, reverted
2018-03-20	spam or poor mapping	Iran	reverted
2018-03-20	non-international external complaint about data	England	advice given
2018-03-18	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued, reverted
2018-03-16	spam or poor mapping	Worldwide	block issued
2018-03-15	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Worldwide	changeset commented
2018-03-14	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued
2018-03-14	spam or poor mapping	Poland	block issued
2018-03-14	spam or poor mapping	Russia	no action needed
2018-03-14	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued
2018-03-14	other	Brazil	other
2018-03-13	other	None	advice given
2018-03-12	spam or poor mapping	Ethiopia	no action needed
2018-03-12	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Spain	changeset commented
2018-03-12	import from potentially incompatible source	Italy	changeset commented
2018-03-12	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	block issued
2018-03-12	import from potentially incompatible source	Russia	block issued
2018-03-12	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Nethrelands	advice given, community contacted
2018-03-11	international dispute	Taiwan	advice given
2018-03-10	general request for information	Bangladesh	advice given
2018-03-09	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued
2018-03-09	general request for information	Brazil	advice given
2018-03-09	other	Crimea	advice given

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-03-08	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2018-03-08	general request for information	Ukraine	advice given
2018-03-07	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	block issued, reverted
2018-03-05	request for technical help e.g. revert		reverted
2018-03-05	international dispute	Cyprus	advice given
2018-03-04	spam or poor mapping	Turkey	reverted
2018-03-04	undiscussed or other problematic import		block issued
2018-03-03	undiscussed or other problematic import	Europe	block issued, reverted
2018-03-03	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	block issued
2018-03-03	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	changeset commented
2018-03-03	other	Russia	advice given
2018-03-02	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued, reverted
2018-03-01	general request for information	Malawi	advice given
2018-03-01	spam or poor mapping	Georgia	advice given
2018-02-28	other		hiding of notes or comments
2018-02-28	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2018-02-28	other		advice given
2018-02-28	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-02-27	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2018-02-27	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Iran	advice given
2018-02-27	undiscussed or other problematic import	USA, Niger	block issued, reverted
2018-02-26	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued, reverted
2018-02-26	import from potentially incompatible source	Kazakhstan	changeset commented
2018-02-26	international dispute	India	advice given
2018-02-25	undiscussed mechanical edit		changeset commented, reverted
2018-02-25	international dispute	Somalia	reverted
2018-02-24	other	Czech Republic	hiding of notes or comments
2018-02-23	spam or poor mapping	Global	reverted
2018-02-22	other	Spain	advice given
2018-02-22	spam or poor mapping	Africa	reverted
2018-02-21	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2018-02-20	request to remove personal data	Germany	changeset commented
2018-02-19	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-02-19	user conflict and non-responsiveness	India	block issued
2018-02-19	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2018-02-18	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2018-02-18	international dispute	Kosovo	block issued
2018-02-17	international dispute	Macedonia	advice given

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-02-16	request for technical help e.g. revert	Vietnam	reverted
2018-02-16	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2018-02-16	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	block issued
2018-02-15	other	USA	advice given, other
2018-02-14	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	advice given
2018-02-13	general request for information	Worldwide	advice given
2018-02-13	other	Canada	changeset commented
2018-02-11	spam or poor mapping	China	block issued
2018-02-11	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Italy	block issued
2018-02-11	spam or poor mapping	Peru	block issued, reverted
2018-02-10	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	advice given
2018-02-10	spam or poor mapping	United Kingdom	reverted
2018-02-10	undiscussed mechanical edit	Thailand	advice given
2018-02-10	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2018-02-09	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Brazil	block issued
2018-02-09	spam or poor mapping	Peru	block issued
2018-02-09	spam or poor mapping	Chile	block issued
2018-02-08	non-international external complaint about data	USA	reverted
2018-02-08	non-international external complaint about data	Netherlands	advice given
2018-02-06	spam or poor mapping	Spain	block issued, reverted
2018-02-06	other	None	advice given
2018-02-05	spam or poor mapping	Thailand	block issued
2018-02-05	spam or poor mapping	Singapore	block issued, reverted
2018-02-01	spam or poor mapping	Yemen	changeset commented, reverted
2018-02-01	other		reverted
2018-02-01	request for technical help e.g. revert	Germany	other
2018-02-01	spam or poor mapping	New Zealand	reverted
2018-01-31	international dispute	Moldova	advice given
2018-01-31	import from potentially incompatible source	DPRK	changeset commented, redacted, reverted
2018-01-31	import from potentially incompatible source	DPRK	community contacted
2018-01-30	import from potentially incompatible source	Sweden	advice given
2018-01-30	general request for information	Peru	advice given
2018-01-29	general request for information	France	advice given
2018-01-29	other	None	advice given
2018-01-29	spam or poor mapping	Argentina	block issued, reverted
2018-01-28	other	None	advice given
2018-01-28	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-01-28	undiscussed mechanical edit	Worldwide	block issued

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-01-27	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented, reverted
2018-01-27	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued, reverted
2018-01-26	request to remove personal data	USA	hiding of notes or comments
2018-01-26	request to remove personal data	Niger	hiding of notes or comments
2018-01-26	other	Peru	no action needed
2018-01-25	request to remove personal data	France	hiding of notes or comments
2018-01-24	undiscussed or other problematic import	Niger	block issued
2018-01-23	spam or poor mapping	Europe	block issued
2018-01-23	spam or poor mapping	Ukraine	block issued
2018-01-22	general request for information	Czech Republic	advice given
2018-01-22	request for technical help e.g. revert	Germany	community contacted
2018-01-22	spam or poor mapping	Philippines	reverted
2018-01-21	spam or poor mapping	China	changeset commented, reverted
2018-01-20	spam or poor mapping	Germany	block issued
2018-01-20	undiscussed or other problematic import	Iran	reverted
2018-01-20	other	None	no action needed
2018-01-19	spam or poor mapping	Denmark	block issued
2018-01-19	import from potentially incompatible source	Poland	redacted
2018-01-19	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Brazil	block issued, changeset commented
2018-01-18	other		hiding of notes or comments
2018-01-18	spam or poor mapping	Bangladesh	block issued
2018-01-18	spam or poor mapping	Israel	block issued
2018-01-18	spam or poor mapping	Russia	changeset commented
2018-01-18	non-international external complaint about data	Australia	advice given
2018-01-17	other	Germany	advice given
2018-01-17	spam or poor mapping	Global	changeset commented
2018-01-17	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Australia	changeset commented
2018-01-17	DMCA notice	Peru	changeset commented, redacted
2018-01-17	spam or poor mapping	Canada	block issued
2018-01-16	undiscussed mechanical edit	Bangladesh	advice given, block issued, community contacted
2018-01-15	spam or poor mapping	Belarus	reverted
2018-01-15	spam or poor mapping	Taiwan	advice given
2018-01-15	general request for information	Italy	advice given
2018-01-14	import from potentially incompatible source	Denmark	advice given
2018-01-14	spam or poor mapping	Germany	block issued
2018-01-13	undiscussed or other problematic import	West Bank	advice given
2018-01-11	other		other
2018-01-10	general request for information	USA	advice given

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-01-10	spam or poor mapping	USA	hiding of notes or comments
2018-01-09	other	UK	block issued
2018-01-09	international dispute	Nagorno Karabakh	advice given
2018-01-08	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Italy	block issued, changeset commented
2018-01-03	undiscussed or other problematic import	USA	block issued, changeset commented, reverted
2018-01-02	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued, other, reverted
2018-01-01	other	Canada	other

Reporting methodology

Each case listed is identified by the creation date of the ticket, the type of issue or complaint, the region affected, and DWG action on the case.

Cases are manually coded into the following **highly** generalized categories:

- API misuse: user abusing API for editing.

- DMCA notice: legal entity filing a Digital Millennium Copyright Act takedown notice.

- General request for information: a query about a data type, a process, or other at least semi-DWG related matter.

- Import from incompatible source: user adding copyrighted or otherwise incompatibly licensed data.

- International dispute: mapping dispute related to international issues, such as border representations or international attributes on objects.

- Non-international external complaint about data: an outside entity with a data issue (e.g. private property, incorrect tag).

- Request for technical help: community request for DWG expertise, usually in reverting a complex set of data.

- Request to remove personal data: complaint about identifying information added to the database, whether on objects or notes.

- Spam or poor mapping: a user adding spam data or generally degrading data quality.

- Undiscussed mechanical edit: user employing technical means to edit OSM with limited or no human intervention and not following the automated edits code of conduct.

- Undiscussed or other problematic import: user importing data without following the guidelines.

- User conflict or non-responsiveness: a conflict between one or more mappers, possibly due to non-responsiveness in discussions about the mapping occurring.

- Other: issue that does not necessarily fit into one of these categories.

Reporting methodologies differed from the current system prior to 2017, so the listed action may be only one of the many DWG actions for the case. Nevertheless, action definitions are:

- Advice given: information is provided to the party.

- Block issued: a user block is issued for a user.

- Changeset commented: a DWG member reached out in a comment on an involved changeset.

- Hiding of notes or comments: in the case of personal data or spam, the note or comment was hidden from public view.

- No action needed: the community resolved the case, the suspected violation was indeed not actually true, or the case required no intervention.

- Reverted: data in question were reverted and possibly redacted.

- Other: action does not necessarily fit into one of these categories.

The use of region names in this report is not an endorsement of any particular claim of sovereignty or statehood.

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