Data Working Group 2017 Q1 Case Report

Background

The Data Working Group (DWG) filed 201 cases for the time period from 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017. 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
2017/01/01	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Europe	advice given
2017/01/02	undiscussed or other problematic import	USA	block issued, changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/02	undiscussed or other problematic import	USA	block issued, reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Worldwide	community contacted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Africa	in progress
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Canada	changeset commented, no action needed
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Ghana	changeset commented
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Africa	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Ukraine	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Worldwide	no action needed
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	North America	no action needed
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Africa	no action needed
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Worldwide	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	advice given
2017/01/04	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/04	undiscussed or other problematic import	USA	in progress
2017/01/05	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented
2017/01/08	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued
2017/01/09	spam or poor mapping	Global	block issued, changeset commented
2017/01/09	spam or poor mapping	Hong Kong	block issued
2017/01/09	import from potentially incompatible source	Brasil	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/09	import from potentially incompatible source	West Africa	block issued, changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/09	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/11	spam or poor mapping	Venezuela	changeset commented, community contacted
2017/01/12	spam or poor mapping	Kazakhstan	block issued, reverted
2017/01/12	import from potentially incompatible source	Kazakhstan	changeset commented
2017/01/13	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Sri Lanka	block issued, changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/13	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/13	import from potentially incompatible source	Canada	changeset commented

Created	Type	Region	Action
2017/01/13	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/14	spam or poor mapping	Iraq	block issued, changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/14	import from potentially incompatible source	Portugal	changeset commented
2017/01/14	import from potentially incompatible source	Poland	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/14	import from potentially incompatible source	Germany	changeset commented
2017/01/14	import from potentially incompatible source	China	no action needed
2017/01/14	user conflict and non-responsiveness	UK	changeset commented
2017/01/15	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2017/01/15	import from potentially incompatible source	Poland	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/15	spam or poor mapping	Global	no action needed
2017/01/16	request for technical help e.g. revert	Global	no action needed
2017/01/17	general request for information	Global	advice given
2017/01/18	international dispute	Kosovo	changeset commented
2017/01/18	import from potentially incompatible source	Europe	reverted
2017/01/18	import from potentially incompatible source	North America	no action needed
2017/01/19	import from potentially incompatible source	Asia	reverted
2017/01/19	spam or poor mapping	Global	block issued, changeset commented
2017/01/19	import from potentially incompatible source	Asia	reverted
2017/01/20	import from potentially incompatible source	North America	reverted
2017/01/22	import from potentially incompatible source	North America	reverted
2017/01/22	general request for information	Worldwide	advice given
2017/01/25	international dispute	East China Sea	community contacted
2017/01/25	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Sweden	block issued
2017/01/25	request for technical help e.g. revert	Russia	reverted
2017/01/25	request for technical help e.g. revert	Russia	no action needed
2017/01/25	request for technical help e.g. revert	Ukraine	reverted
2017/01/25	spam or poor mapping	Asia	block issued, reverted
2017/01/26	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	advice given
2017/01/26	request for technical help e.g. revert	Africa	advice given
2017/01/26	spam or poor mapping	North America	reverted
2017/01/27	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/27	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued, reverted
2017/01/28	spam or poor mapping	Europe	advice given
2017/01/28	spam or poor mapping	Australasia	advice given
2017/01/28	request for technical help e.g. revert	Eurasia	no action needed
2017/01/28	spam or poor mapping	Germany	block issued
2017/01/28	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Canada	block issued
2017/01/28	spam or poor mapping	North America	advice given

Created	Type	Region	Action
2017/01/28	spam or poor mapping	Europe	advice given
2017/01/28	general request for information	Europe	advice given
2017/01/28	undiscussed mechanical edit	Germany	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/29	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/29	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/29	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/29	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented, reverted
2017/01/29	spam or poor mapping	Romania	no action needed
2017/01/29	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued
2017/01/29	spam or poor mapping	Asia	block issued
2017/01/30	spam or poor mapping	Slovenia	block issued, changeset commented
2017/01/31	import from potentially incompatible source	Australasia	reverted
2017/02/01	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	block issued, changeset commented
2017/02/01	spam or poor mapping	Germany	block issued
2017/02/01	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued
2017/02/02	undiscussed mechanical edit	Worldwide	reverted
2017/02/02	request to remove personal data	Germany	hiding of notes or comments
2017/02/03	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Australia	in progress
2017/02/04	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	changeset commented
2017/02/05	spam or poor mapping	South America	advice given
2017/02/06	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2017/02/06	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Madagascar	in progress
2017/02/07	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	advice given
2017/02/07	undiscussed mechanical edit	Nederland	changeset commented
2017/02/08	spam or poor mapping	Europe	advice given
2017/02/08	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	block issued, reverted
2017/02/08	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Italy	changeset commented
2017/02/09	spam or poor mapping	Europe	block issued
2017/02/10	international dispute	North Korea	no action needed
2017/02/11	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA, California	advice given
2017/02/11	undiscussed mechanical edit	Worldwide	reverted
2017/02/11	API misuse	Asia	reverted
2017/02/11	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Europe	block issued
2017/02/12	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	advice given, block issued
2017/02/12	user conflict and non-responsiveness	North America	advice given
2017/02/13	international dispute	Nagorno-Karabakh	reverted
2017/02/13	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	in progress
2017/02/14	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued

Created	Type	Region	Action
2017/02/14	spam or poor mapping	Europe	reverted
2017/02/14	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Europe	block issued
2017/02/15	spam or poor mapping	Europe	block issued
2017/02/15	import from potentially incompatible source	Canada	in progress
2017/02/15	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2017/02/16	other	UK	other
2017/02/16	import from potentially incompatible source	Russia, Yaroslavl Oblast	reverted
2017/02/16	spam or poor mapping	Philippines	advice given, block issued, reverted
2017/02/17	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Romania	reverted
2017/02/17	import from potentially incompatible source	Germany	no action needed
2017/02/17	user conflict and non-responsiveness	UK	block issued
2017/02/18	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued
2017/02/18	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Italy	block issued
2017/02/18	spam or poor mapping	Germany	block issued
2017/02/18	spam or poor mapping	Greece	reverted
2017/02/18	spam or poor mapping	India	hiding of notes or comments
2017/02/19	spam or poor mapping	Pakistan	advice given
2017/02/20	spam or poor mapping	USA, Massachusetts	block issued
2017/02/20	request for technical help e.g. revert	Europe	hiding of notes or comments
2017/02/20	general request for information	None	no action needed
2017/02/20	request for technical help e.g. revert	Iraq	changeset commented
2017/02/21	spam or poor mapping	Canada, Manitoba	no action needed
2017/02/23	spam or poor mapping	South America	reverted
2017/02/23	general request for information	Australasia	reverted
2017/02/24	other	Korea	in progress
2017/02/24	undiscussed or other problematic import	Asia	community contacted
2017/02/24	general request for information	Korea	advice given
2017/02/24	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued
2017/02/24	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued
2017/02/24	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued
2017/02/25	general request for information	Thailand	advice given
2017/02/25	other	Thailand	advice given
2017/02/27	undiscussed or other problematic import	Alberta, Canada	changeset commented, reverted
2017/02/27	spam or poor mapping	USA	in progress
2017/02/28	undiscussed or other problematic import	Africa	advice given
2017/02/28	undiscussed or other problematic import	Maldives	changeset commented
2017/03/01	undiscussed or other problematic import	North America	reverted
2017/03/01	user conflict and non-responsiveness	South Korea	changeset commented, reverted

Created	Type	Region	Action
2017/03/01	spam or poor mapping	Africa	reverted
2017/03/02	spam or poor mapping	Europe	block issued
2017/03/05	other	Uruguay	advice given, changeset commented
2017/03/05	spam or poor mapping	Latvia	block issued
2017/03/07	spam or poor mapping	Europe	block issued
2017/03/07	undiscussed or other problematic import	Worldwide	reverted
2017/03/08	other	India	other
2017/03/09	request to remove personal data	Germany	hiding of notes or comments
2017/03/09	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Iran	advice given
2017/03/09	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Iran	advice given, block issued
2017/03/09	general request for information	North America	advice given
2017/03/10	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented, reverted
2017/03/10	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Brazil	advice given
2017/03/10	spam or poor mapping	global	block issued, reverted
2017/03/10	request for technical help e.g. revert	India	reverted
2017/03/12	general request for information	Europe	advice given
2017/03/13	undiscussed or other problematic import	Europe	block issued
2017/03/14	general request for information	None	advice given
2017/03/14	spam or poor mapping	Worldwide	advice given
2017/03/16	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Denmark	changeset commented
2017/03/16	spam or poor mapping	Europe	block issued
2017/03/17	general request for information	Australia	advice given
2017/03/17	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Brazil	block issued
2017/03/18	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued
2017/03/18	spam or poor mapping	Europe	advice given
2017/03/18	undiscussed or other problematic import	North America	block issued
2017/03/20	spam or poor mapping	Asia	block issued
2017/03/20	spam or poor mapping	Asia	advice given
2017/03/20	other	Russia	advice given
2017/03/20	general request for information	Asia	advice given
2017/03/21	spam or poor mapping	Europe	advice given
2017/03/21	spam or poor mapping	Tajikistan	advice given
2017/03/21	spam or poor mapping	China	changeset commented, reverted
2017/03/21	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	block issued, reverted
2017/03/21	other	Germany	no action needed
2017/03/22	undiscussed mechanical edit	Germany	advice given, block issued, community contacted
2017/03/22	spam or poor mapping	North America	advice given
2017/03/23	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Europe	block issued

Created	Type	Region	Action
2017/03/23	undiscussed or other problematic import	India	advice given
2017/03/23	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Null Island	advice given
2017/03/26	request to remove personal data	USA	hiding of notes or comments
2017/03/27	general request for information	USA	advice given
2017/03/27	international dispute	Crimea	no action needed
2017/03/27	spam or poor mapping	Europe	advice given
2017/03/27	international dispute	Crimea	no action needed
2017/03/28	import from potentially incompatible source	India	changeset commented
2017/03/29	request to remove personal data	Global	hiding of notes or comments
2017/03/29	spam or poor mapping	Ukraine, Lviv region	block issued
2017/03/29	request to remove personal data	Canada	hiding of notes or comments
2017/03/29	API misuse	Asia	advice given
2017/03/30	spam or poor mapping	Russia, Tomsk Oblast	block issued

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.

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