Data Working Group 2016 Q4 Case Report

Background

The Data Working Group (DWG) filed 120 cases for the time period from 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2016. 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
2016/10/01	international dispute	India	advice given
2016/10/01	spam or poor mapping	India	reverted
2016/10/03	request for technical help e.g. revert	Global	reverted
2016/10/04	general request for information	Indonesia	advice given
2016/10/06	undiscussed mechanical edit	Ukraine	block issued
2016/10/06	user conflict and non-responsiveness	France	block issued
2016/10/06	spam or poor mapping	Global	block issued
2016/10/07	user conflict and non-responsiveness	India	block issued
2016/10/09	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	changeset commented
2016/10/12	general request for information	Global	advice given
2016/10/14	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	community contacted
2016/10/17	request for technical help e.g. revert	Dominican Republic	reverted
2016/10/19	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	block issued
2016/10/23	undiscussed or other problematic import	Indonesia	community contacted
2016/10/23	spam or poor mapping	Ukraine	changeset commented
2016/10/24	spam or poor mapping	Italy	block issued
2016/10/26	spam or poor mapping	Global	block issued
2016/10/26	API misuse	Global	block issued
2016/10/26	API misuse	Global	block issued
2016/10/26	user conflict and non-responsiveness	USA	changeset commented

Created	Type	Region	Action
2016/10/27	international dispute	Abkhazia	reverted
2016/10/27	international dispute	Europe	advice given
2016/10/31	international dispute	Global	block issued
2016/11/02	general request for information	South America	advice given
2016/11/02	general request for information	Romania	advice given
2016/11/02	other	Russia	no action needed
2016/11/02	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Canada	advice given
2016/11/04	spam or poor mapping	Romania	changeset commented
2016/11/04	spam or poor mapping	England	block issued
2016/11/05	request for technical help e.g. revert	Netherlands	hiding of notes or comments
2016/11/10	request to remove personal data	n/a	hiding of notes or comments
2016/11/12	other	Global	advice given
2016/11/17	spam or poor mapping	Global	block issued
2016/11/17	spam or poor mapping	Philippines	block issued
2016/11/18	request for technical help e.g. revert	Global	reverted
2016/11/19	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented
2016/11/20	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	block issued
2016/11/20	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	changeset commented
2016/11/22	spam or poor mapping	China	block issued
2016/11/23	undiscussed mechanical edit	Europe	reverted
2016/11/27	other	n/a	no action needed
2016/11/27	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Wales	block issued
2016/11/28	spam or poor mapping	England	no action needed
2016/11/28	other	USA	reverted
2016/11/30	spam or poor mapping	Cambodia	block issued
2016/12/01	import from potentially incompatible source	Taiwan	reverted
2016/12/01	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2016/12/01	spam or poor mapping	Asia	reverted
2016/12/02	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Mozambique	advice given
2016/12/03	general request for information	n/a	advice given
2016/12/04	other	Australia	no action needed
2016/12/06	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Uruguay	advice given
2016/12/06	undiscussed or other problematic import	USA	reverted
2016/12/09	spam or poor mapping	Russia	reverted
2016/12/11	import from potentially incompatible source	USA	block issued
2016/12/11	import from potentially incompatible source	Australasia	reverted
2016/12/11	user conflict and non-responsiveness	global	block issued
2016/12/11	other	Tanzania	advice given
2016/12/11	other	Ukraine	advice given
2016/12/11	other	n/a	advice given
2016/12/12	import from potentially incompatible source	Slovenia	changeset commented
2016/12/12	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Lithuania	advice given
2016/12/13	other	Belgium	advice given
2016/12/13	import from potentially incompatible source	China	reverted
2016/12/13	other	France	no action needed
2016/12/14	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Tanzania	block issued
2016/12/14	international dispute	Asia	changeset commented
2016/12/15	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Taiwan	no action needed
2016/12/15	spam or poor mapping	Russia	changeset commented
2016/12/16	other	Europe	changeset commented
2016/12/18	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Poland	advice given
2016/12/18	spam or poor mapping	England	block issued
2016/12/18	spam or poor mapping	Asia	block issued

Created	Type	Region	Action
2016/12/19	request to remove personal data	Switzerland	hiding of notes or comments
2016/12/19	request for technical help e.g. revert	USA	reverted
2016/12/19	general request for information	Brazil	advice given
2016/12/20	non-international external complaint about data	Israel	reverted
2016/12/22	import from potentially incompatible source	various	reverted
2016/12/22	import from potentially incompatible source	China	reverted
2016/12/24	request for technical help e.g. revert	USA	reverted
2016/12/24	import from potentially incompatible source	China	reverted
2016/12/24	import from potentially incompatible source	China	reverted
2016/12/25	spam or poor mapping	USA	no action needed
2016/12/25	spam or poor mapping	Philippines	block issued
2016/12/25	import from potentially incompatible source	China	reverted
2016/12/25	import from potentially incompatible source	Japan	reverted
2016/12/25	request for technical help e.g. revert	USA	reverted
2016/12/26	import from potentially incompatible source	China	reverted
2016/12/26	import from potentially incompatible source	China	reverted
2016/12/26	spam or poor mapping	Europe	reverted
2016/12/27	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Ethiopia	advice given
2016/12/28	general request for information	Belgium	advice given
2016/12/30	spam or poor mapping	France	block issued
2016/12/31	other	Australia	advice given

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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