GBIF Data Portal

Overall Description
The GBIF Data Portal, launched in 2007, was a proof of the concept that a worldwide-distributed network of biodiversity data publishers could be linked together and made searchable from a single point of access. The GBIF Data Portal allows complex searches on any taxon, country or dataset, or on a combination of these parameters.

Overview
Since 2008, a series of critical improvements to the existing Portal were made in response to user needs. For example, searches by altitude, depth and images are now integrated within the existing search filter. Other improvements such as the availability of Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Mapping Services (web mapping service (WMS) and web feature service (WFS) have been incorporated into the GBIF Portal.

In 2009, the GBIF infrastructure is being upgraded so that two fully dedicated servers will be assigned as database backend to the Data Portal and Web services. One additional powerful server will handle the geospatial services to meet the exponential demand from the user community. Finally, with the release of the Harvesting and Indexing Toolkit (HIT) a more robust infrastructure is now in place to enable fast and easy indexing of data publishers in a more frequent and distributed manner.

The Data Portal and Web Services usage statistics (Fig 2) showed a constant and rapid growth in terms of visit (+135% since January 2009). An important percentage of visitors are using the GBIF Data Portal on a more regular basis such as returning for 10-50 visits/year, which indicates that the level of user loyalty is also increasing for a large portion of the GBIF Data Portal.

New Features
- Upgraded the map user interface to GeoServer.
- Several graphical user interface enhancements made based on user feedback.
- New statistics about data publishers included.
- Inclusion of new content from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).
- Web Services performance improvement with faster response times.
- More (see: http://data.gbif.org/version.htm)

Resources
http://code.google.com/p/gbif-dataportal/
Project Home Site: documentation, downloads, source code, bug reporting, etc.

Schedule
New requirements gathering November-December 2009
GBIF Data Portal new release: April 2010