On The Ground

Frederik Ramm
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OpenStreetMap

is an international, open, and collaborative project to map the world

OpenStreetMap

everybody can add, modify, and delete everything they want

OpenStreetMap

not

just a random collection
of information about the world

OpenStreetMap

not

(like so much of social media)

a collection of divergent views

OpenStreetMap

but
a **collaborative** endeavour
to create a **common view**
of the world

OpenStreetMap

we are creating a
shared and combined
map
of the world

OpenStreetMap

we are creating a
shared and combined
database
of the world

OpenStreetMap

with everybody allowed to basically
do anything they want…

how do we reach this common view?

OpenStreetMap

this is what we want to
discuss today

On the Ground Rule

On the Ground ~~Rule~~

Guideline

Source: Jochen Topf

Source: Jochen Topf

Source: Jochen Topf

Source: Jochen Topf

Source: Bing

Source: Jochen Topf

Source: Jochen Topf

Source: Ali Eminov

Importance

Importance

we all have different interests
and
focus on different priorities

Importance

but there is a
shared understanding on importance
of basic features

Importance

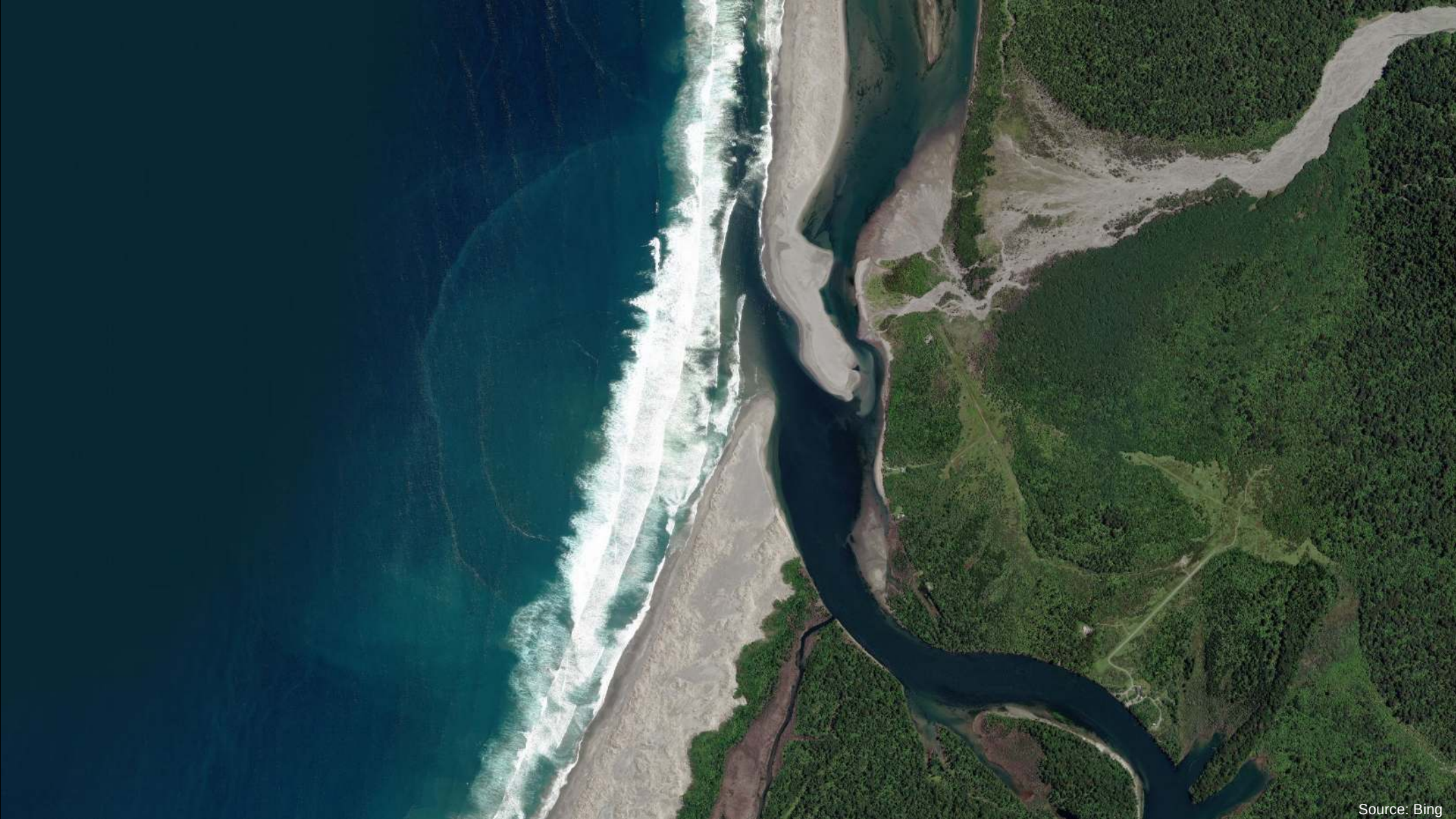
the environment we navigate every day
and that influences us the most

Source:earth.com

Source:publicdomainpictures.net

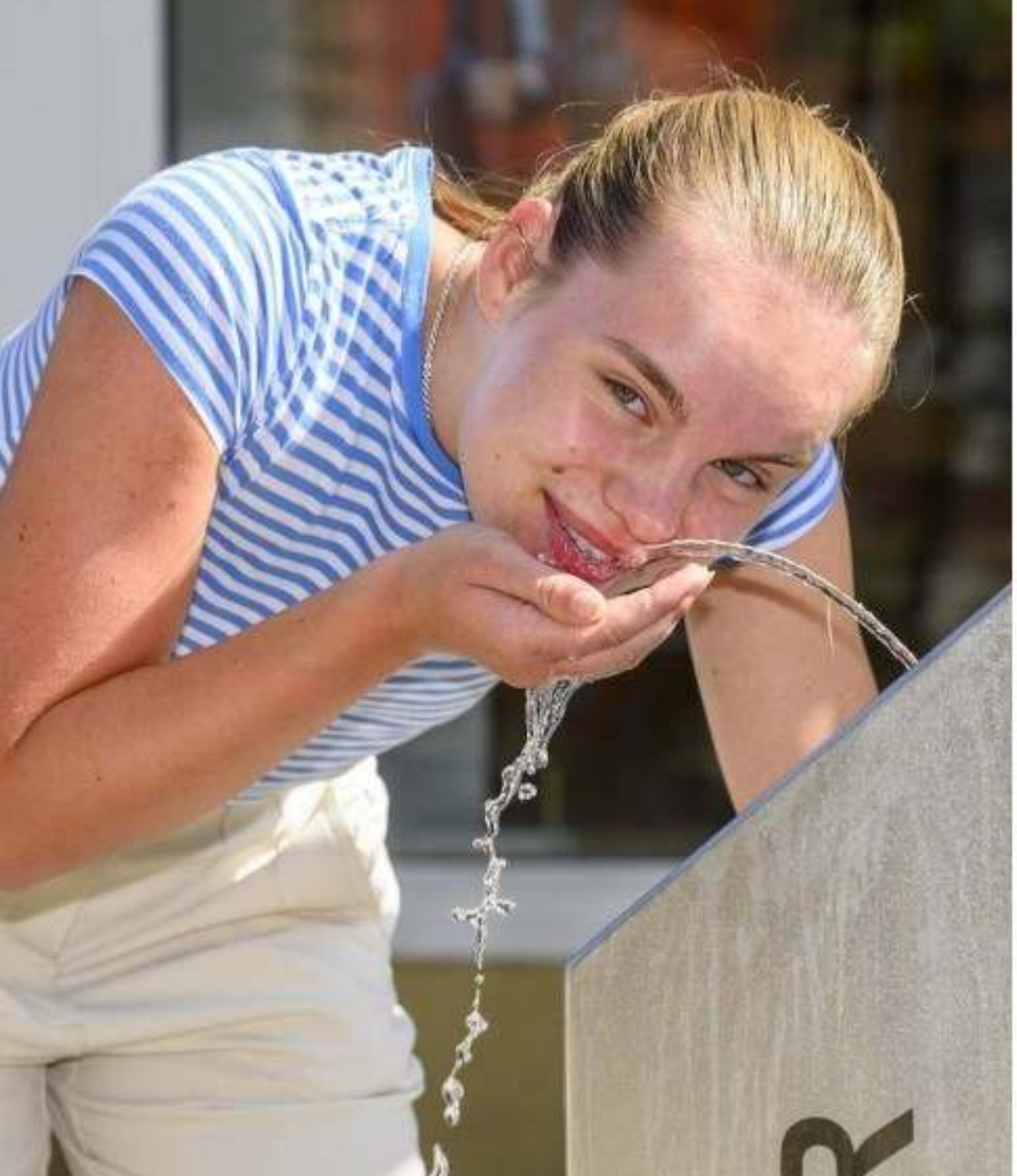
Source: Jochen Topf

Source: Jochen Topf


Source: Bing

Importance

how permanent is this?
how much detail makes sense?



Source:stanford.edu

Source: Bürgerportal GL

Source:Kenneth Cole Schneider
(flicker.com, CC-BY-SA-ND)

Legal Limitations

sometimes there are
legal limits
to what you can map

Ethical Limitations

sometimes it is better
not to map something
even if you are allowed to do it

Technical Limitations

every data model has its limits

(but we are always pushing the boundaries...)

What does that mean in practice?

When mapping

think about the
On the Ground Rule

When mapping

can I see it?
can I infer it?
would everybody agree?
what do people say whom you ask?

When mapping

think about the
Importance

When mapping

how important does it seem to you?
is it important to others?
how permanent is it?
what is a suitable level of detail?

When mapping

any reasons not to map?

When mapping

if in doubt….
...talk it over with your peers

(local, national or international community)

Somebody already mapped X?

and you think it is wrong...

take a deep breath...
what are their arguments?
discuss first, delete/change later

there is no one-size-fits-all solution

no rule can replace common sense

leave some room for new ideas and experiments

trust the community process

your are not doing this alone

there is always the next mapper
who will do another step

Conclusion

On the Ground Rule

actual meetings on the ground
rarely happen

(but they could)

On the Ground Rule

makes the data verifiable
avoids and solves conflicts
avoids spam
keeps us honest
empowers the local community

On the Ground Guideline

but most importantly:

it is a
tool for consensus building
in a distributed community

On the Ground Rule

the map converges towards a common understanding of the real world

the result is an implicit consensus reached by people who rarely actually talk

On the Ground Rule

is the basis of all of OSM

and reason for our success

Thank you!

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