

# A GIS Experience in the Capital: EIT Internship

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## ABSTRACT

This paper describes an internship performed for the New Zealand Walking Access Commission in Wellington by Ben Greville, a third year Bachelor of Computing Systems student from the Eastern Institute of Technology. The internship also overlapped Ben's appointment as a GIS Advisor and his role was based on the maintenance and development of the Walking Access Commission Mapping System (WAMS).

## Keywords

GIS, Internship, Agile Development

## 1. INTRODUCTION

NZWAC operates WAMS as a way of promoting outdoor space for the public. WAMS provides the public with a range of spatial data including public access areas, tracks and access points, boundaries and cadastral boundary information collected from government sources. The internship opportunity was opened up for the student who had applied to a number of organisations.

## 2. INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The internship utilised an AGILE development while Ben redeveloped parts of WAMS. Various GIS tasks were performed throughout the internship, including:

- Running ESRI ArcGIS advanced queries from national databases and feeding to WAMS
- Responding to public questions and feedback and interrogating WAMS
- Creating reports on WAMS usage statistics using Google Analytics and a Cacti server monitoring application.
- Providing general IT support to staff at NZWAC.
- WAMS2 development.

## 3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

This internship raised the issue of interns being appointed officially in fulltime job positions while still performing the internship. This internship was successful at meeting both requirements. However students do need to check their StudyLink entitlements.

## 4. CONCLUSION

This GIS Advisor role/internship at the NZWAC highlighted a growing demand from industry in the area of Geographic Information Systems and particularly a demand for IT graduates who can offer "all round" attributes without necessarily having a strong single technical speciality.

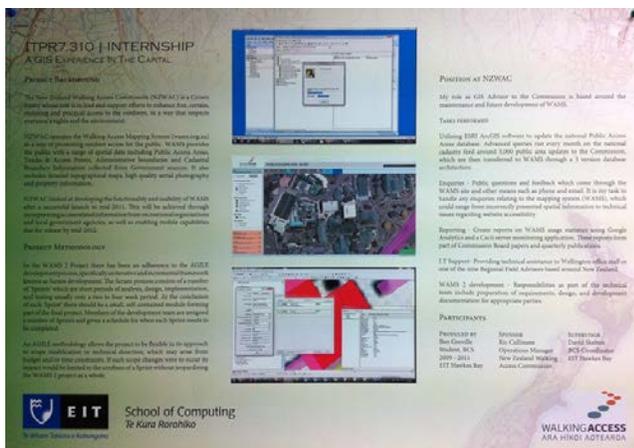


Figure 1. Small screenshot of the actual poster

This poster paper appeared at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of Computing and Information Technology Research and Education New Zealand (CITRENNZ2012) incorporating the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Advisory Committee on Computing Qualifications, Christchurch, New Zealand, October 8-10, 2012. Mike Lopez and Michael Verhaart, (Eds).