

DM Solutions Group "Fusion" Technology

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Fusion technology?

Fusion is a web-mapping application development framework for MapGuide Open Source and Autodesk MapGuide® Enterprise built primarily in JavaScript®. It allows non-spatial web designers and application developers to build rich mapping applications quickly and easily. Using widgets, developers are able to add, remove, or modify functionality using standard-compliant HTML and CSS. Fusion does not require any proprietary browser plug-ins and works in all the major browsers on Windows®, Mac®, and Linux®. Fusion is the current project name for this technology but it will be rebranded once it becomes incorporated into the MapGuide Open Source technology.

Why would I want Fusion?

Fusion provides a more flexible means of interacting with MapGuide Open Source. Using a growing suite of widgets, this modular-based system allows you to build powerful interactive AJAX applications quickly with minimal programming experience. For applications that require special functionality Fusion provides an extensible platform from which to develop your own widgets.

Why did DMSG open source the core of Fusion? DM Solutions Group has been an open source advocate since its inception in 1998. Open source enabled the following:

- It made more sense to collaborate on the core with Autodesk than for each company to do their own implementation of the same thing
- Allows for more energy to be focused on valued added components and building and supporting solutions for customers and partners
- Technology remains closer in sync to overall MapGuide Open Source development, and this reduces risk for customers

Where can I get Fusion?

A preview version of Fusion is hosted under the MapGuide Open Source project at OSGeo (<http://mapguide.osgeo.org>).

Does Fusion replace MapGuide Open Source?

No. Fusion is part of MapGuide Open Source. It's the component that handles the User Interface between the client and MapGuide Open Source.

Is Fusion open source?

Fusion is open source. Fusion provides a platform for extending the core functionality of the framework. The additional functionality may or may not be open source, depending on the author.

Does Fusion work with other mapping engines?

Fusion currently works with MapGuide Open Source and Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise 2008.

What kind of license does Fusion have?

Fusion will be released under a MapGuide Open Source compatible license. A copy of the license will be distributed with Fusion.

How much does Fusion cost?

Fusion is Open Source and is free to use and distribute according to its license.

What operating systems does Fusion work on?

Fusion is operating system agnostic. The Fusion framework is built largely in JavaScript and PHP - both of which run on Windows, Linux, and Mac OSX.

What Browsers does Fusion work in?

Fusion works in all the major browsers: Internet Explorer® (6+), FireFox® (2+), Opera, and Safari™.

Does Fusion require any plug-ins or active x controls?

Fusion does not require any plug-ins or proprietary technologies to function.

What data formats are compatible with Fusion?

Fusion supports all data sources served by MapGuide Open Source and Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise.

What web servers are compatible with Fusion?

Fusion works with all major web-servers, including IIS and Apache.

What functionality comes with Fusion?

Fusion is bundled with many of the typical functions you'd expect from a web-mapping framework. Fusion includes Navigation widgets (e.g., Zoom In, Zoom Out, Pan, etc.), Legend Controls (e.g., View, Layer Management, etc.), GUI widgets (e.g., Buttons, Menus, Tree views, Panels, Dialogs, etc.), and many more. For a complete list please see the Fusion documentation.

What technologies is Fusion based on?

The Fusion core and widget library are built in JavaScript. Fusion uses several open source libraries for specific portions of the code base. For instance, Prototype is incorporated into Fusion due to its efficiency at handling objects. The Fusion documentation describes all libraries used in the framework. There are also some dependencies on PHP for server-side processing accessed via AJAX.

Who built Fusion?

DM Solutions Group Inc. built and currently maintains the Fusion core project under MapGuide Open Source in conjunction with Autodesk. Being open source, everyone is welcome to contribute to the development and maintenance of Fusion and MapGuide Open Source. For more information, please visit the MapGuide Open Source project page at OSGeo (<http://mapguide.osgeo.org>).

I found a bug - who do I tell?

Issues, bugs, documentation errors, etc. can be reported via the MapGuide Open Source project page at OSGeo (<http://mapguide.osgeo.org>).

What is the difference between Fusion and WebStudio?

WebStudio allows you to style your maps. Fusion is the framework that allows you to build your application which shows these maps.

What programming skills are required to work with Fusion?

Basic HTML, CSS, and JavaScript skills are required to manipulate Fusion beyond the basic templates provided with the download package. Much of the functionality required to build rich web-mapping applications has already been developed - developers, designers, and general web enthusiasts can fashion these snippets of code to suit their style requirements.