CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF 3D ASSET MANAGEMENT BASED ON MYSPATA TO SUPPORT SMART CITY APPLICATION IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT:

Urbanization is the access to modernization and development around the world. Nowadays, with the current technology development, smart cities are seen as a new approach in urban management and development. 3D asset management is one of the components to support the idea of smart city. 3D asset management is important to assist the monitoring and maintenance of asset in smart city by enabling visualization of 3D models, locating and query in real-time based. In Malaysia, the government is looking seriously at the issues of asset management and maintenance. This is happened because asset management in present day is already moving towards the revolution of smart city but still considered as time consuming and open to human errors as the asset managers or authorities still considering on paper-dependent and manual inspection practise. In the past few years, Malaysia has developing an electronic-based asset management, MySPATA that is made prior to the inefficiency on the asset management system. MySPATA has been introduced as electronic based asset management solution for immovable assets that belong to various department and ministries. However, the creation of MySPATA is considered as bland and time-consuming as its application only storing and displaying asset information. Thus, the implementation of 3D asset management is required for a better and effective management. In this paper, we proposed the conceptual model of 3D asset management by incorporating with the new CityGML standard. The proposed 3D asset management is based on MySPATA module. CityGML plays an important role in demonstrating the 3D asset management for modelling, string and exchanging city models in the international standard. So, the 3D asset management is developed based on MySPATA module that integrated with new CityGML concept. Therefore, with this new approach and concept, the managing of assets will lead for better management and maintenance.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the world is facing a rapid urban development. The acceleration in the urban development happens around the world because of the rising of population and demand. Moreover, the fourth industrial revolution has bolstered development in every industries including urbanization. A smart city concept has been introduced suitable for this new revolution. A smart city is a political initiative based on a sustainable development strategy and aims to improve the life quality of citizens (LaRoune and St-Jacques, 2020). Smart cities utilize modern digital technology to solve problems while managing resources efficiently and Smart cities are usually understand to provide network services that work across departments to retrieve data and to organize it into understandable and useful information (AssetWorks, 2018).

A geographic information system (GIS) has been used in the construction of a large-scale model of a smart city project (Shahrour, 2018). Geographical information system (GIS) is an application of gathering, managing and analysing data. Geographical information system (GIS) is playing an important role in smart city concept. The geographic information system (GIS) offers advanced and user-friendly capabilities for smart city projects (Shahrour, 2018). GIS was fundamentally created as a framework for catching, putting away, questioning, dissecting and showing geologic-referenced information yet with the headway in the web, portable innovation, GIS rose as a wide term and a total bundle which can allude to various present day advances and propel forms and turns out to be more standard that grows learning of the urbanization and associations among individuals (Naidu, 2018). GIS is a platform to helps governments with the tools to develop smart cities and provides better services to the community. Cities are complex agglomerations of houses and buildings, streets and roads, parks, neighborhoods, shopping centers, and industrial plants (Wenwen Li, 2020). Therefore, this complex information of the cities need the help of a geographic information system (GIS) to facilitate the data collection and management of information on the cities.

This model for smart cities with open and connected spatial data allows everyone from planners to managers to the public understand what needs to be done, and access the proper tools and resources to achieve those goals (Barry, 2018). The collaboration of the GIS and Smart Cities help to share spatial data in building more organised organisation. One of the important why GIS is being used for the Smart Cities development is that GIS enable to have collaboration with real-time location tools that enable everyone can access the information and stay up-to-date about the condition and management of the cities. Moreover, GIS also helps to accomplish 3D representation of Smart Cities as its tools enable to handle and visualize 3D geometry spatial data. The 3D representation in GIS is used for more realistic representation of the real world objects. Thus, Geographical Information System (GIS) is also one of the key for smart city development.

The 3D asset management is one of the applications that is related to the Smart City approach. Smart Cities has a wide range of definitions across the industry with lots of promises are being made on technology that can achieve ambitious outcomes (Martin, 2019). At the same time, the technologies advancement and the rapid increased usage of information technology (IT)
application make the smart city more practical and convenient for our current urban populations. Advanced urban analytics can be done to understand the city surroundings (Azri et al., 2018; Azri et al. 2016). In the past, asset management is usually managed and stored as paper-dependent and manual inspection practice. This practice is time-consuming and prone to human error. Therefore, to overcome this shortcoming, the managing of assets must be integrated with the current technology approach which is 3D visualization. 3D visualisation can be seen as an alternative to perceive real world scenario before making any decision or action (see Yusoff et al., 2011).

Moreover, the 3D asset management is developing a new and smarter buildings and infrastructures. If one is looking straight into the significance of asset management, it keeps city operations running smoothly (SmartCity, 2020). Intelligent 3D asset management is becoming more commonplace particularly on public sector projects. 3D modelling describes the process of building data from the design process to the creation of the 3D model of the actual building or structure. The 3D model can demonstrate how a building or structure might perform. This visualization on 3D enable the monitoring and maintenance of building and its structure (see Akula et al., 2013). Knowing how infrastructure and buildings are going to perform throughout the design life, this will enable authorities to be proactive rather than reactive in managing that assets (Wessing, 2017). The asset management is essential for smart city as facing challenges in managing city assets. The examples of challenges in managing city are road or highway maintenance, building monitoring and so on. From these challenges, integrated information system has been realized as a key to overcome the challenge. Thus, the application will bring more benefits for managing the city assets.

Asset management refers to systematic approach to the governance and realization of value from the things that a group or entity is responsible for, over their whole life cycles (Wikipedia, 2020). The development of the 3D asset management is the integrated between 3D models and information of assets. It is necessary to update the asset management process by utilizing existing technologies (Saptari et al., 2019). The needs of 3D models are expanding rapidly in variety of fields nowadays. The integration between 3D models and asset management will be an application that will help in better management.

The 3D asset management forms a major discussion in this paper. The remaining of this paper discusses the related work of study in Section 2, the new CityGML standard in Section 3, MySPATA and managing assets in Section 4 and finally conclusion.

2. RELATED WORK

The publications related to the asset management is covering a large scope. A variety of asset management research has been conducted along the years which has shown that asset management is an important part of application especially for government or any asset management organizations.

Some researchers have been focusing on studying and developing application that are suitable for asset management system. Aslam and Haron (2018) have conducted a research involving the intelligent Building Information Modelling (BIM) record model for effective asset management of constructed facilities. The research has proposed a model that is capable of solving interoperability issues since the database has been designed with an open-BIM format (IFC). Moreover, this model can help in developing database that can be used for asset management during operation and maintenance life cycle. Moreover, some researchers are conducting a management of semantic 3D city models for the next generation of CityGML that can be useful for managing assets. Chaturvedi, Smyth, Gesquiere, Kutzer and Kolbe (2016) have been focusing on the concept and data model extending CityGML by denoting versions of models or model elements as planning alternatives. This approach facilitates the interoperable integration and exchange of different version of a 3D city model within one dataset, including possible complex history of a repository. The advantages of the approach is that not only it facilitates the data model for supporting different version, but also allows the different versions of a repository within one dataset.

Lastly, a research conducted by Aziz, Hashim and Baharum in 2013 involves some issues about space inventory in Malaysia due to the inaccurate data, lack of centralized data management and ineffective methods or system implemented. In this research, the database of space inventory management has been highlighted as an essential to assist organization to plan and manage their physical asset. To overcome the problem, they have implemented the Government Immovable Asset System (MySPATA), to introduce and standardize the government asset management. Thus, in this section, related works that have been reviewed were carefully described to show different aspects of study conducted that are related to the management of assets. The researches in related works help to introduce the concept that show the advantages and benefit of the study for future research. In this paper, a new concept will be explained in details.

3. 3D ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CITYGML

Asset is a resources with economic value that individual, corporation, or a country owns or control with expectation that it will provide a future benefits (Berone, 2020). Asset management is a systematic process of developing, operating, maintaining, upgrading, and disposing of assets in the most cost-effective manner (including all costs, risks and performance attributes) (Wikipedia, 2020). The concept of asset management is not new but it is an evolving idea that has been developed and gaining attention of many agencies. Asset management is applying the principle of engineering, business management, and economic through computer aided technologies (Dewan, 2004).

Asset management tools and technologies provide the fundamental strength to enable organizations to make informed decisions (Leong, 2005). These tools and technologies enable organisations to effectively practice good asset management such as:

1. Quantifying current infrastructure holdings – what do we own and where it is,
2. Qualitatively analysing infrastructure holdings – what condition is it in, what level of service is it providing, what is it the capacity and functionality,
3. Analysing performance – how was the infrastructure performed in the past,
4. Planning – short-term plans for routine maintenance, medium term plans for pro-active maintenance and long term plans for periodic maintenance,
5. Analysing the whole life of infrastructure to determine best investment strategies and maintenance practices.

Figure 1 shows the life cycle of the asset management. There are eight steps involve in this life cycle includes:

1. Careful need of identification (people who will operating or using the asset)
2. Planning what is expected from it once acquired
3. Design specification needed
4. Procurement or building based on the previous steps
5. Commissioning or properly installing to make sure get everything in purchase contract
6. Operating, maintaining and monitoring the asset on continual basis
7. Modifying the asset or upgrading it if possible and if this makes a good commercial sense
8. Decommissioning or disposing of the asset so that it can be appropriately replaced.

Figure 1: The Asset Life Cycle Management
(Source: blog.readytomanage.com)

There are three important concepts in understanding asset life cycle management (Warner, 2014):

1. Asset management is not a “general: approach but one in which every important asset managed on an asset-by-asset basis and over its whole life from pre-purchase to disposal.
2. In order to maximize the value of the assets, the organization need to tract the activities related to the assets throughout their life cycles, to make sure they align with the organization’s ongoing strategic and operational objectives.
3. In that context, a total asset management life cycle approach is a total to track the activities of each asset, provide the data for the organization to analyze the use of that asset and compare the data gathered against the intended goals.

3.1 CityGML Overview

The implementation of 3D asset management is not new (see Pan et al., 2013). However, the recent development of City Geography Markup Language (CityGML) makes it possible for integration. CityGML is an application of independent geospatial information model for semantic 3D City and landscape models. The focus of CityGML is on the semantical aspects of 3D city models, its structures, taxonomies and aggregations, allowing users to employ virtual 3D city models for advanced analysis and visualization tasks in a variety of application domains such as urban planning, indoor/outdoor pedestrian navigation, environmental simulations, cultural heritage, or facility management (Groger et al., 2012; Salleh and Ujang, 2018;). Besides, CityGML can comprise different thematic areas such as building, vegetation, water, terrain, traffic, tunnel, bridges and more. CityGML represents 3D geometry, 3D topology, semantics and appearance(Kolbe, 2019).

Figure 2: Module of CityGML and their scheme dependencies
(Source: Groger et al., 2008)

There are a few versions of CityGML such as CityGML 1.0, CityGML 2.0 and the new standard CityGML 3.0. As for version 1.0 of CityGML standard, possible subsets of the data model are defined and embraced by so called CityGML modules (Groger et al., 2008). The CityGML is consists of a core module and thematic extension modules. The core module defines the basic concept and component of CityGML data model. Meanwhile, there are eleven thematic extension modules are introduced by version 1.0 of CityGML standard. The eleven extension modules are Appearance, Building, City Furniture, City Object Group, Generics, Land Use Relief, Transportation, Vegetation, Water Body and Texture Surface. Figure 2 shows the module of CityGML.

Moreover, CityGML 2.0 is the major revision of the previous version of CityGML 1.0. This version 2.0 introduces substantial additions and new features to the thematic model of CityGML. The main endeavor of the revision process was to ensure backward compatibility both on the level of the conceptual model and on the level of CityGML instance documents (Groger et al., 2012). Following are an overview of what’s new in CityGML 2.0:

1. New thematic modules for representation of bridges and tunnels
2. Additions to existing thematic modules (CityGML core module, Building Module, Generic module, land use module, and all modules)
3. Additions to the CityGML code list mechanism

3.2 The CityGML New Module

In the CityGML 3.0 includes a new space concept, a revised level-of-detail (LOD) concept, the representation of time dependent properties, the possibility to manage multiple versions of cities, the representation of city objects by point clouds, an improved modelling of construction, the representation of building units and storey, an improved representation of traffic instucture as well as clear separation of the conceptual model and data encoding that allows for providing further encoding specification besides GML. The CityGML 3.0 standard will consist of two parts: The CityGML 3.0 Conceptual Model specification, which is planned to be released on the early 2020, and the CityGML 3.0 GML Encoding specification, which is to be published a couple of month after. The CityGML 3.0 Conceptual Model defines seventeen modules as shown in Figure 3.
Based on this newly revised module, this research will be focused on the refinement of Constructions and Building. CityGML 3.0 will contain a new Construction module that defines concept of common to all kinds of man-made construction like building, bridges, and tunnels (Janecka, 2019). However, this research will be highlighted more on the Building Module. The Building module introduces as a new class AbstractBuildingSubdivision, which is modelled as subclass of AbstractLogicalSpace, and the two specialisation Building Unit and Storey to allow for the representation of building unit (like apartments) and storeys (as shown in Appendix A). This is to facilitate more direct mapping of IFC into CityGML. This feature allows mapping constructive elements from BIM data sets given in the IFC standard onto CityGML. The IFC standards are the IFC classes IfcWall, IfcRoof, IfcBeam, IfcSlab and so on.

Furthermore, in this research, Space Module is also included together with Building Module. In the Space Module, a clear semantic distinction of spatial features is introduced by mapping all city objects onto the semantic concepts of spaces and space boundaries. A Space is an entity of volumetric extent in the real world (Janecka, 2019). Volumetric extent is existed in building, water bodies, trees, rooms, and traffic spaces. Hence, in modelling, they usually be modelled as space or also known as specific subclasses of abstract class space. Moreover, Space Boundary is an entity with areal extent in the real world and the characteristic of Space Boundary is as delimit and connect Spaces such as wall surfaces and roof surfaces that bound to the building.

Besides, the spaces can be further subdivided into physical spaces and logical spaces. Physical Spaces are spaces that fully or partially bounded by physical objects. For instance, Building and rooms are the known as physical spaces as they are bound by walls and slabs. While for Logical Spaces, they involved spaces that are not necessarily bounded by physical objects but according to thematic considerations. For example, a building unit is a logical space that aggregates specific rooms to flats, the rooms that have physical spaces that are bounded by wall surfaces, whereas the aggregation as a whole is being delimited to virtual boundary. In CityGML 3.0, a physical space is classified into Occupied Spaces and Unoccupied Spaces. Occupied spaces represent physical volumetric objects that occupy space in urban environment and in contrast, unoccupied spaces represent physical volumetric entities that do not occupy space in urban environment(Kutzner et al., 2020). So in this research, the concept of Building will be integrated with the Spaces, in instance, the building and building furniture will have identified as occupied spaces meanwhile building rooms and traffic spaces will be identified as unoccupied spaces as shown in Figure 4.

Then, in the classification of feature types into Occupied Space and Unoccupied Space also define the semantics of geometries attached to the respective features. For examples, Building and Furniture; these will have an impact on the required orientation of surface normal that attach to thematic surfaces. For Occupied Spaces, the normal vectors of thematic surfaces must point in the same direction as the surfaces of the outer shell of volume as in contrast for Unoccupied Spaces, the normal vectors of the thematic surfaces must point in the opposite direction as the surfaces of the outer shell of the volume (Kutzner et al., 2020). The differences between the Occupied Space and Unoccupied Space might be apparent at first sight. This can be shown in example in Figure 5.

The carport, as shown in Figure 5 is the representation as Occupied Space. The Carport is not closed and most of the space is free of matter. Carports are represented as buildings in cadastres. As the carports are roofed, the immovable structure should be modelled in CityGML as instance of class Building. In addition, in the figure above, has shown the representation of the carports as the occupied space in different LODs. The red boxes represent solids and the green area represents a surface. Meanwhile, the normal vectors of the roof are shown in red and in contrast, the roof surface is shown in green. From the explanations, only in LOD1, the entire volumetric region covered by the carport will be considered as physically occupied while in LOD2 and LOD3, the solid represents more realistically of physical occupied.
4. MySPATA and Managing Asset

MySPATA is the Government Immovable Asset Management System. MySPATA is developed by Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management (MAMPU) in collaboration with Malaysian Public Works Department (JKR). This is a government initiative to enable systematic, efficient and integrative asset management (Arifin, 2020). MySPATA has to be introduced as the electronic based asset management solution for all categories of immovable assets belong to various departments and ministries (Devison, 2019). The existing of this system is in line with the government policy that requires all assets to be properly registered and managed. The function of the system is:

1. Establish effective and efficient management of immovable asset information to improve the level of Government service delivery.
2. Ensure that assets management is implemented systematically, holistically and sustainably to achieve optimal asset benefits.
3. Ensures easier implementation of valuation and monitoring of immovable assets.

Figure 6 shows the main interface of MySPATA (JPAK, 2018). For login, the ID and password are required. Besides, on the main interface, there are also Now, News, Activities and References tab. Moreover, in MySPATA application, there is an user hierarchy until the fifth level. This is because the MySPATA application allows all users from different agencies and government section. This hierarchy has been shown in Figure 7 below.

4.1 3D Database Design Based on MySPATA

In 3D application, the initial step for visualization 3D models is by producing a database design. An efficient way to manage 3D data is needed since 3D data complexities requires fast retrieval database design (Azri et al. 2014). Database design is the process of producing a detailed data model of database that contains all of the needed logical and physical design choices. The demand of serving large 3D spatial data, mainly of urban areas, reflects the need of hierarchical data structures for 3D data (Koukofikis et al., 2018). To design the database, the relationship between data elements and logical structure are determined. In this paper, the database is designed based on Malaysia asset management system that is known as MySPATA. The example of database design has been shown in Figure 8. The information on the database is based on user requirement analysis.
attributes that represent an object of respective class. Each of the
table should have at least one Primary key column. Additional
columns are added for storing spatial and non-spatial attributes
for respective class objects. Besides, in additional column, a
Foreign key is added as a relationship between the main tables
and additional tables.

In this study, the data is categorized into spatial data and attribute
data. The Spatial data was referred to the 3D model of the assets
and attribute data is the description and information for each asset
recorded based on user requirement analysis (URA). The Spatial
data used in this study is 3D model of assets, terrestrial laser
scanning and Unmanned Airborne Vehicles (UAV) for 3D data
capture. Meanwhile, the attribute data was referred to the
description about the asset record. The attribute data of assets
was stored in a database in Microsoft Access. Then, the database
design is being illustrated and database was developed for storing
this data. The database design that has developed must satisfy the
user requirements collected and a good application must fulfill the
demand. The database design is the important key towards the
success of an application. In the database design, the database
must be completed with basic information to allow users easily
find the component that they need. Moreover, the basic
information about the asset including asset ID, asset type,
registration number, asset component and link to 3D model.
Thus, there is a need to incorporate all asset information in one
database. The database that has been designed enable the users to
retrieve the asset information through SQL command.

The designing of 3D database that integrated with the MySPATA
will be the new improvement and development for asset
management in Malaysia. 3D database design will become the
core concept for implementation of smart city. As related to smart
city, the design of database is based on virtual 3D city model.
These models contain 3D data about urban objects such as
buildings, roads and waterways where the data are collected,
maintained and used in applications for urban planning and
environmental simulations (Koukofikis et al., 2018). From this
3D city models, a 3D city database will be produced.

3D City Database is free Geo database to store, represent, and
manage virtual 3D city models on top of a standard spatial
relation database (OCG, 2020). Due to the large size and
complexity of the sometimes country-wide 3D geospatial data,
the GIS software vendors and service providers face many
challenges when building 3D spatial data infrastructures for
realizing the efficient storage, analysis, management, interaction,
and visualization of the 3D city models based on the CityGML
standard (Yao et al., 2018). The mapping and creation of database
design allow to map the relation of database tables based on
CityGML data model. Since CityGML is a GML application
schema, these software systems are able to automatically create
database schemas for storing CityGML data for various database
management systems like ORACLE Spatial or PostgreSQL/
PostGIS, using the CityGML XML Schema definition files (Yao
et al., 2018). A good database relationship will happen when
there is an interaction between the databases in real-time
application. Based on an analysis, the more compact database,
the more efficient for querying and processing large and complex
data structure. The CityGML database scheme is the result of
identifying and simplifying the complex CityGML classes and
data types.

Two CityGML standards will be incorporated for the database.
The standards are Constructions and Building module. The
Constructions and Building module is the new standard of
CityGML in version 3.0. The new module defines the concept of
man-made construction such as Buildings, Bridges, and Tunnels.
Building concept will be the focus of discussion. The thematic
attributes related to this module are RoofSurface, GroundSurface, or WallSurface. In addition, from the module, the
classes from the attribute are defines as a class
AbstractConstruction as subclass of AbstractOccupiedSpace as
associate with other thematic surfaces. Moreover, Buildings are
defined as subclasses of class AbstractConstruction. Application
schema of CityGML is identified by the gml:id attribute and FME
AttributeCreator transformer is used as shown in Figure 9.

![Figure 9: The Trasformation Scheme for Buildings. (Source: Janecka, 2019)](image)

3.2 Implementation of 3D Asset Management Using
CityGML Standard

3D city models are used as integrated information representing
the urban entities along their spatial, semantic and visual
properties. The city models are usually created to maintain the
full coverage of entire cities. It can be clustered and quantified
using spatial vector data approach (Azri et al., 2015). On the other
hand, 3D models can be used to organize different types of data
and sensors within Smart City project. Open Geospatial
Consortium (OCG) has issued the CityGML standard. The
CityGML defines a feature catalogue and data model for 3D
topographic elements.

3D asset management is a new concept introduced to the world.
With the current technologies, the asset management should not
be handled manually. 3D concept has been introducing to the
asset management for more efficient data organizing and
maintenance. Current practice has proved that the asset
management is time consuming, bland and open to human error
as a consequence of paper-dependant and manual inspection
practise (Hajek et al., 2018). So, there is a need to understand the
The development of 3D city model is being visualized with the five major components below. They are Database Server - that hosting and manage 2D and 3D spatial datasets, Web Services – publish and handling data request from web sockets, 3D Web Clients – a platform to visualize and interact with the 3D, Desktop GIS - Direct data access, update and edit to the database, and Existing Datasets – new or existing datasets. The Figure 10 shows the visualization of 3D model within Web Client Cesium (Abdul Rahman et al., 2019).

![Figure 10: An integrated schematic diagram of the data flow.](image)

5. CONCLUSION

Smart City is an application integrated with the current technology for the improvement of city management. City management involves the management of infrastructures, that is, the management of all data used in decision-making, including management of civil engineering and environmental data, topographical data, geotechnical and geological data, asset management, management of current or planned work, space management, risk management, etc. Consequently, the 3D city model must be analysed holistically and integrate all physical systems, social parameters, regulations, and more (Lafioune and St-Jacques, 2020). Thus, 3D asset management is a suitable start for Smart City application.

3D asset management is not a new approach but has been increasing in demand towards efficient and sustainable management. In Malaysia, an electronic-based asset management system is being made prior to the inefficiency on asset management system. The problem is that assets are still managed using conventional inventory method as the assets are being coded and entered into asset plan. In making complex decision like multi-criteria analysis, the use of computerized decision-based may ease the process (Mohd et al., 2016). In the face of issues that are constantly increasing in the scope and complexity, the solutions proffered to aid in decision-making are also becoming ever smarter. These include, for example, the block chain, building information modelling (BIM), Geographic Information System (GIS), the smart city and digital 3D city models (Lafioune and St-Jacques, 2020).

Moreover, MySPATA system does not integrate with 3D model making the managing of asset is difficult for the authorities to locate actual position of the asset. In our current existing technology, 3D asset management system is important for locating and monitoring in asset management. Therefore, for the future of managing asset, the asset management should be integrated with the 3D models using CityGML standard based on MySPATA.

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APPENDIX A: Building Module (Source: Kutzer et al., 2020)