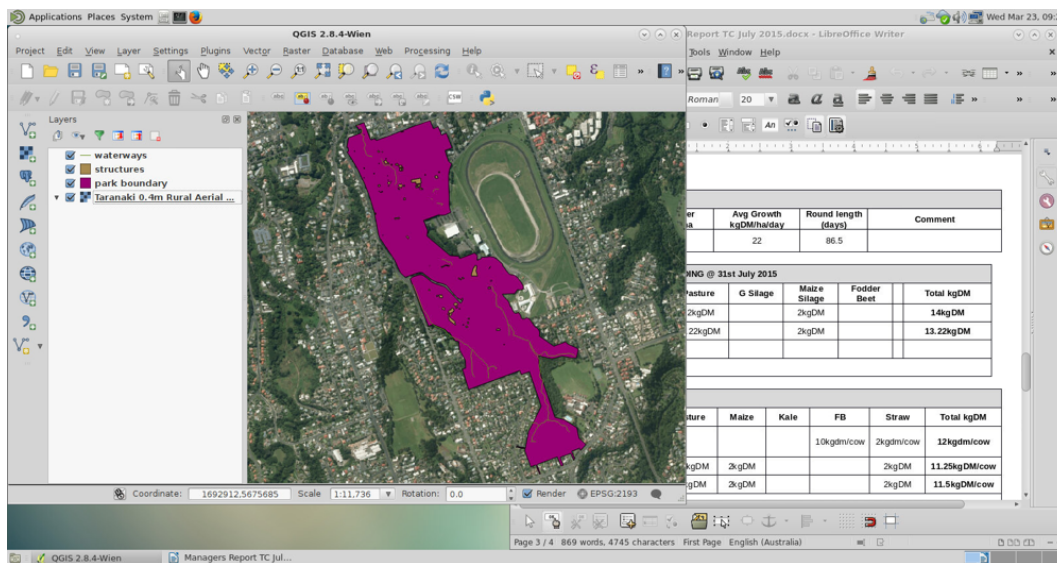


About the Client

DataMap is a NZ-based provider of on-line geographic information system (GIS) services, for end-users operating within industries such as farming, conservation and tourism. These services enable centralized mapping and data-entry for various tasks including hazard-mapping, monitoring of pest traps and nesting boxes, land usage planning and information publishing.



Requirements

DataMap needed a way to make these services easily accessible from a wide range of end-user platforms and locations, incorporating them into the concept of a "virtual office" where each user would have access not only to the GIS services themselves but an entire desktop environment, including internal email and an office suite. The ability for users to print locally from inside their sessions was important, as was the need for users to easily transfer files between their local machine and the virtual office.

Solution

ThinLinc was the chosen solution for providing access to the virtual office environment, running on a CentOS 7 installation, with the MATE desktop environment selected as default for reasons of simplicity and performance. This setup provides the secure multi-platform access required, as well as the required features of printing support and local drive redirection. Although users of the system are geographically disperse, ThinLinc performs well even at a large distance from the server. ThinLinc also performs well over high-latency connections such as mobile networks, meaning users can connect via their browser from mobile devices, providing access to the system even when travelling or out in the field.

Additional services have since been integrated with the ThinLinc system, such as OwnCloud for file-sharing, and LDAP for simplified authentication. Proper maintenance, update and backup schedules will ensure that this system stays reliably up and running for years to come, and as the number of users grows, the ThinLinc cluster can easily be expanded with additional agent servers to handle the increased load.

