
Astun Technology is the UK market leader for delivering Enterprise Metadata solutions built on Open Source tools. Astun have delivered and currently support metadata solutions to over 30 organisations including numerous local authorities, [DEFRA & the Environment Agency](#), and the [Scottish Government](#) on behalf of every public body in Scotland.

Astun's Enterprise Metadata solutions are built using GeoNetwork, the leading open source standards-compliant metadata catalog used by the majority of the world's spatial data infrastructures and we've developed metadata plugins for specific metadata standards (e.g. Gemini 2.2; Gemini 2.3; Environment Agency Metadata Standard).

Gemini 2.3 is the metadata standard for spatial metadata in the UK. It is compliant with international standards such as ISO19115 and INSPIRE.

What we did

Astun implemented Gemini 2.3 as a full metadata profile for GeoNetwork allowing users to store, edit and validate metadata records in both the Gemini 2.2, and 2.3 standards, and to update their existing metadata at their own pace, while creating new records in the new standard. Acknowledging that metadata creation isn't always easy or all that pleasant (!!), we've tried to improve the editing experience in a number of ways:

- Adding small guidance "snippets" for each element directly in the editing interface.
- Linking out to the full AGI guidance for each element.
- Implementing a one-click "convert your record" option in the Gemini 2.2 record to convert to Gemini 2.3 in place.
- Creating conversion scripts that metadata portal admins can run on import of Gemini 2.2 records, or using the GeoNetwork batch editing interface.
- Creating some updated templates and examples for DataSets, Series and Service records.
- Creating "snippets" for the default values for the new mandatory data quality report element, as this is complex and often little understood by end-users.

How we did it

Astun worked with core GeoNetwork developers from GeoCat, with funding and feedback from ourselves, the Environment Agency and Scottish Government to develop the plugin. We also worked closely with the AGI Gemini Working Group to clarify elements of the standard. It's available on [GitHub](#) as a freely available plugin, working with GeoNetwork versions 3.4, 3.8 and 3.10.

Why we did it

By using Gemini 2.3 for your metadata, you ensure the widest compatibility, benefit from UK-specific guidance and support from the AGI Gemini Working Group and have the ability to create metadata that has real business use, quickly and easily.

Scottish Government Input

Our work supplying metadata services to a variety of clients has made it clear that buy-in for metadata is much greater if it's easy to implement and use. Furthermore, when people start to work with metadata, they quickly discover that it's so much more important and useful than a box-ticking exercise. Metadata can provide tangible business benefits, such as better data management and interoperability, and our hope is that by supplying this plugin and helping our clients work with Gemini 2.3 metadata we can ensure more and more people see these benefits.

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