VRGeo (pronounced “we-are-geo”), is an Open-Source collaborative mapping platform for Crowd-sourcing Location based information, aka Geospatial information.

VRGeo, has two modes:

1. **View mode**
   This mode allows for geospatially explicit data visualisation in the form of user relevant content superimposed on satellite and map. The user relevant content is derived from spatial information collated from crowd-sourcing. At a later stage, this will also allow for various inter-category (thematic layer) information to be queried and visualised.

2. **Contribute/Edit Mode**
   This mode allows an end-user to either add, modify and comment on an existing category of information like ATM location to creating his/her own information layer with appropriate attributes.

Key Features:
- Browser based application for universal access
- Built for high-scalability utilising the Cloud Computing paradigm
- Provides seamless connectivity to existing WMS maps and information
- Allows for unstructured crowd-sourced data collection
- Allows for GPS based track and other information to be integrated
- GML based data import
- Location based search and zoom option
- Flexibility for user customisable information generation
- Allows to load one’s own interested information layers
- SMS2MAP: Populate data through SMS, and Visualize it in near-real time

http://vihang.garudaindia.in/vrgeo
The application and the related technology has been developed by Lab for Spatial Informatics at International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad and hosted on Garuda resources through Centre for Development of Advanced Computing’s (CDAC) Megha Cloud Interface.

VRGeo was originally developed for data collection from data-poor regions of the country and hence derived its name VRGeo (from Village Resource Geospatial Data Repository). Later it was found that the tool can apply to any geographical region. Collaborative Mapping is the aggregation of Web Map Services and user-generated content and can take several distinct forms.

VRGeo, is based on the “OpenLayers” technology and is unique in allowing a user to seek the assistance of any existing Web Map Service (WMS) Geodata of the interested region (loaded as a background/base layer) and create additional data over and above that. Current implementation supports Bing Maps, Open Street Maps as base layers. Others like Google Maps (based on licensing requirements) and ISRO Bhuvan will also be integrated in the near future.

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