

Changeset Discussions

It's real

It's now

It's happening

The Problem

- It's nearly impossible to have a focused discussion about an edit
- Mailing lists have too wide an audience
- Direct messages via osm.org can't be seen by others

The Result

- Discussions about edits don't happen
- If they do happen, there's no public record of the conversation
- New users aren't encouraged/corrected
- Bad edits go undiscussed
- Good edits don't get acknowledged

The Solution

- Tie discussions to edits (changesets)
- Have discussions on osm.org, no mailing list, forum, etc. required
- Let users link to discussions directly

Thank you GSoC!

- Frederik Ramm and I both began implementing this work, but didn't have time
- We put this out at a GsoC project and it was taken up by **Lukasz Gurdek** (ukasiu)
- Halfway through the summer and we have a working demo!

Right now, In Development!

The screenshot shows the OpenStreetMap website interface in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The browser's address bar displays the URL: `comments.apis.dev.openstreetmap.org/changeset/3#map=15/57.2503/-3.6097`. The page title is "OpenStreetMap | Changeset: 3 - Mozilla Firefox".

The main content area features a map of a rural area with a road labeled "U2036" and a stream labeled "Dorbackburn". A large green area with a grid of small tree icons represents a "Friendly Farms" project. An orange square highlights a specific location on the road. The map includes a search bar, navigation controls, and a scale bar (200 m / 500 ft).

On the left side, there is a sidebar for "Changeset: 3". It contains the following information:

- Changeset: 3** (with a close button)
- Adding Friendly Farms
- Closed 7 days ago by emacsen
- Tags:
 - `created_by`: ID 1.4.0
 - `imagery_used`: Bing
- Discussion: Unsubscribe
- Comments:
 - Comment from emacsen 7 days ago: Test comment 2
 - Comment from emacsen 7 days ago: Test comment 3
 - Comment from emacsen 7 days ago: Test comment 4
 - Comment from Be A Mapper 6 days ago: Friendly Farms seem very friendly. Nicely mapped.
 - Comment from ukasiu 2 days ago: Test comment 5

comments.apis.openstreetmap.org

- See existing discussion comments
- Create new discussion comments
- Get notified when someone discusses on your changeset
- Get notified when someone comments on a changeset you've discussed on
- “Watch” a changeset for discussion comments
- “Unsubscribe” from the discussion
- Get an RSS feed of discussion comments
- Get a serialization of comments for a changeset

Still in progress

- A Discussion API
- A simple “Thanks” functionality
 - +1/Like/Thanks

What we have to look forward to

- More local discussions
- More public discussions
- More mapper collaboration
- A better mapping platform for the best map in the world

Thank you Google Summer of Code

Thank you Lukasz Gurdek