Data Working Group 2018 Q3 Case Report

Background

The Data Working Group (DWG) filed 346 cases for the time period from 1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018. A feature on the OpenStreetMap Wbsite that allows direct reporting of issues through the site was rolled out this quarter, so the number of issues cannot directly be compared, and the work involved in a typical issue has also changed.

Some inquiries were handled quickly without any official action on the Data Working Group's part–usually due to the inquiry not falling under the purview of the Data Working Group.

Generally, when a complaint is brought to the DWG, the complainant is asked to first open dialogue with the user in question. This is accomplished through the channels of changeset discussions, forum and mailing list posts, or private messages as a last resort. DWG members may also choose to become directly involved in this communication immediately; otherwise, they will wait for a response from the user. Changeset discussions are viewable by everyone and are preferred as other OSM users can also provide input and so that the communication trail can be established.

If a user is unresponsive after a period of time but continues to edit the map, they will often be given a 0 hour block. This block requires them to log into the OSM website and read the block message set by a DWG member. In some cases, a user performing large-scale edits or using incompatible data sources may be blocked immediately to provide a pause for analysis and limit the amount of data added to the database.

Data that are found to be in conflict with the OSM license or community standards of practice may be reverted either by a DWG member or by a member of the community if requested. Data may also be redacted completely from the database, especially for egregious copyright violations. Occasionally the DWG receives requests or complaints from the general public through the Digital Millennium Copyright Act compliance email address; correctly mapped data is usually not modified, but small changes in classifications or representation may be made by DWG members.

In every case, the DWG gives mappers the benefit of the doubt and that they are acting with good intentions. Complaints may indeed be ruled as unfounded or incorrect if the alleged is correctly mapping. Perhaps the features added are very new, and a user surveyed that data but did not indicate this in their changeset. Alternatively, the user may be adding survey data from a holiday a few weeks prior that was greatly removed from their home. In these instances, tickets are closed out and no further action is taken.

Case list

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-07-01 15:13	other	Algeria	advice given
2018-07-01 21:37	general request for information	Worldwide	advice given
2018-07-02 13:30	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued
2018-07-02 17:41	spam or poor mapping	Malaysia	block issued
2018-07-04 06:43	international dispute	South China Sea	block issued, hiding of notes or comments
2018-07-04 13:06	spam or poor mapping	Brazil	changeset commented
2018-07-04 15:33	spam or poor mapping	Poland	block issued
2018-07-05 10:45	other		hiding of notes or comments
2018-07-07 19:12	undiscussed mechanical edit	India	advice given, changeset commented, community contacte
2018-07-08 13:46	undiscussed or other problematic import	Russia	block issued
2018-07-09 06:53	spam or poor mapping	Germany	block issued
2018-07-09 15:22	general request for information	Ireland	advice given
2018-07-10 10:02	other	Russia	other
2018-07-10 13:55	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	USA	advice given
2018-07-10 13:59	request for technical help e.g. revert	Germany	other
2018-07-10 17:13	spam or poor mapping	Russia	advice given
2018-07-11 00:34	general request for information	UK	hiding of notes or comments
2018-07-11 17:17	undiscussed mechanical edit		no action needed
2018-07-12 15:40	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-07-12 15:54	spam or poor mapping	Portugal	no action needed
2018-07-12 22:44	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Iraq	no action needed
2018-07-12 23:01	other		advice given
2018-07-12 23:15	spam or poor mapping		advice given
2018-07-13 06:26	spam or poor mapping	Georgia	reverted
2018-07-14 09:35	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Spain	advice given
2018-07-14 12:27	general request for information	Saudi Arabia	advice given
2018-07-15 04:37	request to remove personal data found in OSM	USA	advice given
2018-07-15 11:05	request for technical help e.g. revert	Curacao	advice given
2018-07-16 13:17	request for technical help e.g. revert	Indonesia	reverted
2018-07-16 19:53	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	USA	advice given
2018-07-17 09:44	spam or poor mapping	Germany	advice given
2018-07-17 12:11	spam or poor mapping	Albania	advice given
2018-07-17 15:49	spam or poor mapping	Germany	block issued
2018-07-18 04:49	other	Indonesia	advice given
2018-07-18 12:06	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-07-18 22:38	spam or poor mapping	Iran	block issued

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-07-19 06:38	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued, reverted
2018-07-19 19:29	spam or poor mapping	Worldwide	reverted
2018-07-19 19:37	spam or poor mapping	India	advice given
2018-07-19 19:49	spam or poor mapping	Poland	advice given
2018-07-19 21:55	general request for information	USA	advice given
2018-07-20 08:50	spam or poor mapping	Switzerland	no action needed
2018-07-20 15:23	spam or poor mapping	Ukraine	block issued, reverted
2018-07-21 06:02	spam or poor mapping	Spain	block issued
2018-07-22 18:19	spam or poor mapping	USA	other
2018-07-22 19:36	spam or poor mapping	Libya and Germany	advice given
2018-07-22 21:40	import from potentially incompatible source	UK and Ireland	advice given, changeset commented, reverted
2018-07-22 22:01	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Switzerland	block issued
2018-07-22 22:14	spam or poor mapping	Vietnam	advice given
2018-07-22 22:23	spam or poor mapping	Southeast Asia	advice given
2018-07-22 22:33	user conflict and non-responsiveness	China	advice given
2018-07-23 05:46	spam or poor mapping	Georgia	block issued, reverted
2018-07-23 07:59	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Europe	advice given
2018-07-23 11:44	other	N/A	other
2018-07-23 13:57	other	n/a	advice given
2018-07-23 18:23	spam or poor mapping	Germany	block issued, reverted
2018-07-24 08:23	spam or poor mapping	Uruguay	advice given
2018-07-24 10:03	spam or poor mapping	Canada	advice given, block issued
2018-07-24 12:59	non-international external complaint about data	Austria	advice given
2018-07-24 13:16	spam or poor mapping	Brazil	block issued
2018-07-24 15:39	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Poland	advice given
2018-07-24 22:48	other	USA	advice given
2018-07-25 05:03	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2018-07-25 10:08	import from potentially incompatible source	Switzerland	no action needed
2018-07-25 11:03	spam or poor mapping	Portugal	advice given, reverted
2018-07-25 12:35	spam or poor mapping	Germany	advice given
2018-07-25 13:16	spam or poor mapping	Worldwide	advice given, reverted
2018-07-25 16:51	spam or poor mapping	Romania	block issued
2018-07-25 22:13	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Singapore	changeset commented, reverted
2018-07-26 07:54	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-07-26 08:10	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued
2018-07-26 08:27	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-07-26 08:49	spam or poor mapping	Indonesia	advice given, reverted
2018-07-26 15:56	international dispute	Egypt / Sudan	advice given

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-07-27 08:36	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2018-07-28 00:25	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Poland	advice given, block issued
2018-07-28 10:19	spam or poor mapping	Germany	advice given
2018-07-28 11:35	spam or poor mapping	Indonesia	advice given
2018-07-28 11:49	spam or poor mapping	Poland	advice given
2018-07-29 20:38	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	advice given
2018-07-30 12:12	spam or poor mapping	Australia	block issued
2018-07-30 16:24	other	Russia	advice given, reverted
2018-07-30 20:16	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given, community contacted
2018-07-30 21:11	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued, reverted
2018-07-30 23:33	spam or poor mapping	Worldwide	advice given, block issued, reverted
2018-08-01 12:31	general request for information	France	advice given
2018-08-01 16:38	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2018-08-01 18:29	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	USA	advice given
2018-08-01 19:29	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	USA	advice given
2018-08-01 20:16	spam or poor mapping	Canada	block issued, reverted
2018-08-01 20:52	import from potentially incompatible source	Brazil	advice given, changeset commented, redacted
2018-08-02 13:56	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued, reverted
2018-08-03 09:05	other	Australia	advice given
2018-08-03 15:35	import from potentially incompatible source	Global	block issued
2018-08-06 06:36	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Dubai	advice given
2018-08-07 20:38	other	Germany	advice given
2018-08-08 22:21	spam or poor mapping	Italy	advice given
2018-08-09 07:27	request to remove personal data found in OSM	England	redacted, reverted
2018-08-09 14:34	spam or poor mapping	Russia	no action needed
2018-08-09 14:36	spam or poor mapping	Azerbaijan	block issued, reverted
2018-08-11 02:08	spam or poor mapping	Global	block issued, reverted
2018-08-11 05:22	other	Korea	no action needed
2018-08-12 09:15	other		advice given
2018-08-12 14:00	spam or poor mapping	China	advice given
2018-08-12 14:10	spam or poor mapping	Ethiopia	advice given, block issued
2018-08-12 15:18	import from potentially incompatible source	Sweden	redacted, reverted
2018-08-12 21:46	spam or poor mapping	Hong Kong	advice given, reverted
2018-08-12 21:52	spam or poor mapping	France	advice given
2018-08-13 01:06	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	USA	advice given
2018-08-13 08:01	spam or poor mapping	Mexico	advice given
2018-08-13 08:15	spam or poor mapping	Romania	advice given, block issued
2018-08-13 08:28	general request for information	USA	advice given

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-08-13 09:24	spam or poor mapping	Canada	advice given
2018-08-13 09:33	general request for information	China	advice given
2018-08-13 09:37	spam or poor mapping	Serbia	advice given
2018-08-13 09:42	spam or poor mapping	Worldwide	reverted
2018-08-13 16:33	spam or poor mapping	Poland	advice given
2018-08-13 23:20	spam or poor mapping	England	advice given
2018-08-14 00:22	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Switzerland	advice given
2018-08-14 08:28	spam or poor mapping	Canada	no action needed
2018-08-14 09:53	spam or poor mapping	Germany	reverted
2018-08-14 11:34	spam or poor mapping	Iran	advice given
2018-08-14 11:44	spam or poor mapping	Austria	advice given
2018-08-14 11:55	spam or poor mapping	Japan	advice given, block issued
2018-08-14 12:10	spam or poor mapping	India	block issued
2018-08-16 10:30	general request for information	Worldwide	advice given
2018-08-16 13:45	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Italy	advice given, changeset commented
2018-08-16 15:10	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Great Britain	advice given
2018-08-17 12:41	spam or poor mapping	Spain	advice given
2018-08-17 16:09	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	Bosnia and Herzegowina	no action needed
2018-08-18 05:28	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued, reverted
2018-08-18 09:03	spam or poor mapping		reverted
2018-08-18 23:03	general request for information	Ireland	community contacted
2018-08-19 12:33	spam or poor mapping	Spain	no action needed
2018-08-19 13:02	spam or poor mapping	Azerbaijan	advice given
2018-08-19 13:36	spam or poor mapping	Poland	advice given
2018-08-19 15:42	spam or poor mapping	Spain	no action needed
2018-08-20 08:46	international dispute	Crimea	community contacted, other
2018-08-20 20:30	international dispute	India	advice given
2018-08-21 10:49	other	Russia	no action needed
2018-08-21 12:24	spam or poor mapping	Philippines	reverted
2018-08-22 12:54	spam or poor mapping	Finland	advice given
2018-08-22 13:09	spam or poor mapping	Poland	advice given
2018-08-23 10:23	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Poland	block issued
2018-08-23 15:50	request to remove personal data found in OSM	Iraq	redacted
2018-08-24 21:26	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued, reverted
2018-08-24 21:45	spam or poor mapping	Macedonia	changeset commented
2018-08-25 00:14	misdirected request for changes outside OSM		advice given
2018-08-26 11:17	spam or poor mapping	Czech Republic	advice given
2018-08-26 12:52	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Iran	block issued

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-08-26 13:03	spam or poor mapping	Spain	advice given, block issued, reverted
2018-08-26 13:13	general request for information	Poland	advice given
2018-08-26 13:23	spam or poor mapping	UK and Ireland	advice given
2018-08-26 13:50	spam or poor mapping	Vietnam	advice given, changeset commented
2018-08-26 14:08	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Italy	advice given
2018-08-26 14:34	spam or poor mapping	Georgia	advice given
2018-08-26 14:52	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	block issued
2018-08-26 19:41	other	England	advice given
2018-08-27 22:28	spam or poor mapping	Spain	advice given
2018-08-27 22:36	spam or poor mapping	United Kingdom	advice given
2018-08-28 00:06	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given, block issued
2018-08-28 11:08	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	Serbia	advice given
2018-08-28 14:48	user conflict and non-responsiveness	UK	advice given
2018-08-29 08:44	spam or poor mapping	Lithuania	advice given
2018-08-29 08:53	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-08-30 00:45	international dispute	Nagorno Karabakh	advice given
2018-08-30 14:07	general request for information	USA	advice given
2018-08-30 14:55	general request for information	USA	advice given
2018-08-30 17:28	general request for information	Turkmenistan	advice given
2018-08-30 21:58	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given, reverted
2018-08-30 22:05	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-08-30 22:11	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-08-30 22:57	non-international external complaint about data	Canada	advice given, other
2018-08-31 06:59	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Austria	advice given, changeset commented, other
2018-08-31 13:09	other	USA	advice given
2018-08-31 16:44	spam or poor mapping	Germany	advice given, block issued
2018-08-31 20:32	spam or poor mapping	Greece	advice given
2018-08-31 20:39	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	advice given
2018-08-31 20:51	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Unknown	advice given
2018-08-31 20:57	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-08-31 21:02	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Germany	advice given
2018-08-31 21:21	spam or poor mapping	Iraq	advice given
2018-09-01 09:13	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Italy	advice given
2018-09-01 16:25	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued
2018-09-01 21:28	spam or poor mapping	Canada	advice given
2018-09-01 21:37	spam or poor mapping	Spain	advice given
2018-09-01 23:07	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2018-09-01 23:21	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given, block issued

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-09-02 04:04	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	USA	advice given, other
2018-09-03 12:34	spam or poor mapping	Australia	advice given
2018-09-03 13:51	general request for information	Iran	advice given
2018-09-03 20:01	spam or poor mapping	Brazil	advice given
2018-09-04 20:53	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given, block issued, changeset commented, other,
2018-09-04 21:47	spam or poor mapping	Netherlands	advice given
2018-09-05 09:59	request to remove personal data found in OSM		advice given, community contacted
2018-09-05 12:52	spam or poor mapping	Worldwide	advice given, block issued, reverted
2018-09-05 15:50	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	no action needed
2018-09-07 14:42	general request for information	USA	advice given
2018-09-07 16:31	spam or poor mapping	Georgia	advice given
2018-09-07 19:59	spam or poor mapping	Argentina	advice given, other
2018-09-07 20:06	user conflict and non-responsiveness	China	advice given
2018-09-07 20:28	spam or poor mapping	Poland	advice given
2018-09-07 20:34	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-09-07 20:42	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-09-08 15:07	spam or poor mapping	Indonesia	advice given
2018-09-08 17:45	general request for information	UK	advice given
2018-09-10 14:04	spam or poor mapping	Ukraine	advice given
2018-09-11 03:00	international dispute	Nepal	advice given
2018-09-11 04:35	request to remove personal data found in OSM	USA	reverted
2018-09-11 09:50	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Russia	block issued
2018-09-11 11:15	international dispute	Spain / Morocco	advice given, block issued, reverted
2018-09-11 13:25	general request for information	Norway	advice given
2018-09-12 09:31	spam or poor mapping	USA	changeset commented
2018-09-12 11:54	international dispute	Spain/Morocco	advice given
2018-09-12 18:53	general request for information	USA	advice given
2018-09-12 21:31	spam or poor mapping	France	advice given
2018-09-14 16:28	international dispute	Georgia, Abchasia, South Ossetia	advice given
2018-09-15 08:27	general request for information	Chile	advice given
2018-09-15 08:31	spam or poor mapping	Iran	advice given
2018-09-15 08:56	spam or poor mapping	Iran	advice given, block issued, changeset commented
2018-09-15 09:17	spam or poor mapping	Iran	advice given, block issued
2018-09-15 09:30	spam or poor mapping	Germany	advice given
2018-09-16 11:34	spam or poor mapping	Iran	advice given
2018-09-16 12:11	spam or poor mapping	Russia	advice given, block issued
2018-09-16 16:01	other	USA	advice given
2018-09-17 01:15	international dispute	South Korea / Japan	other

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-09-17 08:22	user conflict and non-responsiveness		advice given
2018-09-18 06:04	spam or poor mapping	Libya	advice given, reverted
2018-09-18 15:16	spam or poor mapping	China	changeset commented, reverted
2018-09-18 20:00	spam or poor mapping	India	advice given
2018-09-18 20:07	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-09-18 20:24	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-09-18 20:40	spam or poor mapping	Canada	advice given
2018-09-18 20:50	spam or poor mapping	Argentina	advice given
2018-09-18 21:00	spam or poor mapping	Colombia	advice given
2018-09-19 12:00	request for technical help e.g. revert	Norway	reverted
2018-09-19 13:47	spam or poor mapping	India	advice given
2018-09-19 20:51	general request for information	USA	advice given
2018-09-19 21:11	spam or poor mapping	Netherlands	advice given
2018-09-19 21:22	spam or poor mapping	Germany	advice given
2018-09-19 23:36	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	USA	advice given
2018-09-20 02:39	spam or poor mapping	France	advice given, hiding of notes or comments
2018-09-20 06:16	spam or poor mapping	Spain	advice given
2018-09-20 14:28	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Ukraine	block issued
2018-09-21 12:09	spam or poor mapping	Italy	advice given
2018-09-21 12:14	spam or poor mapping	Chile	advice given, block issued
2018-09-21 19:21	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given, reverted
2018-09-21 22:52	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued, reverted
2018-09-22 08:23	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Palestine	advice given
2018-09-22 11:27	international dispute	Gibraltar	changeset commented, reverted
2018-09-23 08:40	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2018-09-23 09:04	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Canada	advice given, block issued
2018-09-23 12:04	import from potentially incompatible source	Burkina Faso	redacted
2018-09-25 10:10	request to remove personal data found in OSM	United Kingdom	hiding of notes or comments
2018-09-25 19:18	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	Brazil	advice given
2018-09-25 19:58	general request for information	Belgium	advice given
2018-09-25 20:03	general request for information	Indonesia	advice given
2018-09-25 20:08	spam or poor mapping	Indonesia	advice given
2018-09-25 20:28	spam or poor mapping	Bangladesh	advice given, block issued, changeset commented
2018-09-26 18:14	spam or poor mapping	Indonesia	advice given, block issued
2018-09-26 18:33	spam or poor mapping	Iran	advice given, block issued
2018-09-26 21:47	general request for information	USA	advice given
2018-09-27 07:46	general request for information	Israel	advice given
2018-09-27 09:32	other	Greece	advice given

Created	Type	Region	Action
2018-09-27 16:49	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued, changeset commented
2018-09-27 17:25	spam or poor mapping	USA	advice given
2018-09-28 06:32	spam or poor mapping	USA	block issued
2018-09-29 08:38	spam or poor mapping	Iran	advice given
2018-09-29 09:02	spam or poor mapping	USA	reverted
2018-09-29 09:07	spam or poor mapping	Germany	advice given
2018-09-29 09:19	user conflict and non-responsiveness	France	advice given
2018-09-30 01:53	spam or poor mapping	Chile	advice given, changeset commented
2018-09-30 04:46	spam or poor mapping	Russia	block issued
2018-09-30 08:12	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Spain	advice given, block issued
2018-09-30 09:45	undiscussed or other problematic import	Iran	advice given
2018-09-30 10:18	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Portugal	changeset commented
2018-09-30 10:25	general request for information	Iran	advice given
2018-09-30 11:34	spam or poor mapping	Austria	other
2018-09-30 14:42	other	Finland	advice given
2018-09-30 17:36	spam or poor mapping	Canada	advice given, block issued, reverted
2018-09-30 20:12	user conflict and non-responsiveness	Poland	advice given
2018-09-30 20:41	misdirected request for changes outside OSM	USA	other

Reporting methodology

Each case listed is identified by the creation date of the ticket, the type of issue or complaint, the region affected, and DWG action on the case.

Cases are manually coded into the following **highly** generalized categories:

- API misuse: user abusing API for editing.

- DMCA notice: legal entity filing a Digital Millennium Copyright Act takedown notice.

- General request for information: a query about a data type, a process, or other at least semi-DWG related matter.

- Import from incompatible source: user adding copyrighted or otherwise incompatibly licensed data.

- International dispute: mapping dispute related to international issues, such as border representations or international attributes on objects.

- Non-international external complaint about data: an outside entity with a data issue (e.g. private property, incorrect tag).

- Request for technical help: community request for DWG expertise, usually in reverting a complex set of data.

- Request to remove personal data: complaint about identifying information added to the database, whether on objects or notes.

- Spam or poor mapping: a user adding spam data or generally degrading data quality.

- Undiscussed mechanical edit: user employing technical means to edit OSM with limited or no human intervention and not following the automated edits code of conduct.

- Undiscussed or other problematic import: user importing data without following the guidelines.

- User conflict or non-responsiveness: a conflict between one or more mappers, possibly due to non-responsiveness in discussions about the mapping occurring.

- Other: issue that does not necessarily fit into one of these categories.

Reporting methodologies differed from the current system prior to 2017, so the listed action may be only one of the many DWG actions for the case. Nevertheless, action definitions are:

- Advice given: information is provided to the party.

- Block issued: a user block is issued for a user.

- Changeset commented: a DWG member reached out in a comment on an involved changeset.

- Hiding of notes or comments: in the case of personal data or spam, the note or comment was hidden from public view.

- No action needed: the community resolved the case, the suspected violation was indeed not actually true, or the case required no intervention.

- Reverted: data in question were reverted and possibly redacted.

- Other: action does not necessarily fit into one of these categories.

The OpenStreetMap website gained the ability to report changesets to the DWG within the site itself, so the number and composition of reports may not be comparable before and after this date.

The use of region names in this report is not an endorsement of any particular claim of sovereignty or statehood.

Prepared by Paul Norman for the Data Working Group