



TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

THE CITY'S BUSES AND UNDERGROUND REQUIRE AN INFORMATION SYSTEM TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS. MILES LOGIE EXPLAINS HOW A WEB-BASED GIS IS MEETING THE CHALLENGE

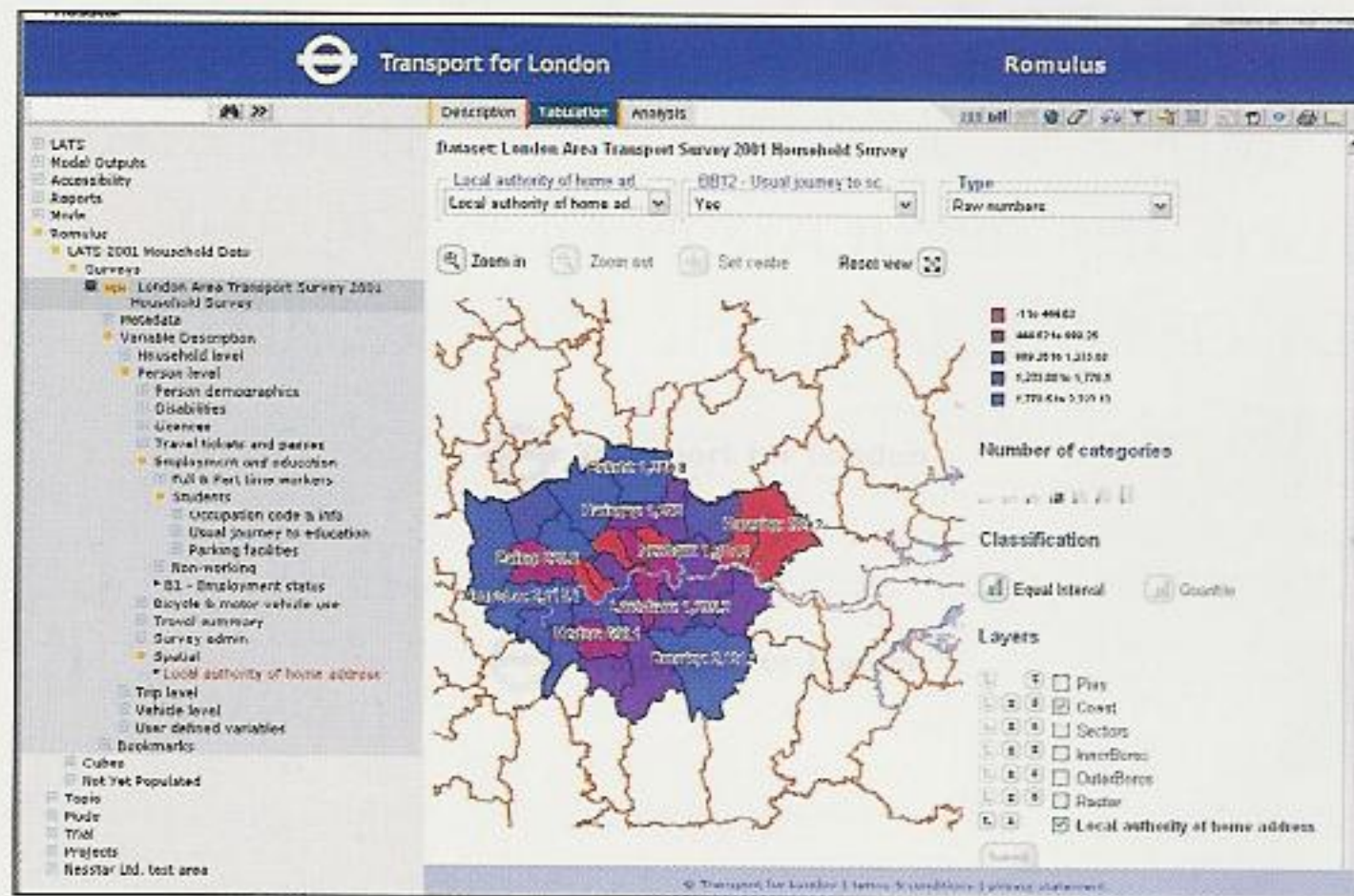
MapInfo partner Minnerva has announced the development of a ground-breaking data analysis solution for Transport for London (TfL) with software partners Nesstar. 'Romulus' is a web-based system operating with MapXtreme, which manages, disseminates and exploits the extensive and diverse sources of transport-related information that TfL produces to support its transport policies and infrastructure planning.

The new system is designed to support a largely professional user-base that can extend beyond TfL to a wider community in London with interests in transport matters. These include researchers and planners in the London boroughs and the Greater London Authority, as well as specialist consultants and academics.

Romulus provides a powerful infrastructure for exploiting information, with MapInfo's MapXtreme web-enabled GIS playing an important role in making the complex information comprehensible to users. Romulus offers both a tool for extracting the best value from the data that is available to TfL and a resource that can readily be exploited by groups within or working for TfL who have a need to share information.

Deployed for the primary purpose of disseminating information, Romulus provides the flexibility to be used to support a wide range of applications that require information to be shared. A variety of geographical boundary sets are employed so that MapXtreme can be used to support displays of survey information for the whole London region or much smaller parts of it, as well as matching the characteristics of different sets of data.

The core information content of Romulus is provided by major



Example of the Minnerva Romulus web based program

surveys undertaken by TfL, including surveys by London Underground and London Buses, to establish and monitor people's travel patterns and preferences; but more information is derived in the form of reports and analyses, including those from complex transport modelling.

The Romulus project has been developed within the Transport Planning and Policy division of Transport for London who are administering the system.

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