

# ● BACKTOTHEMAP

An open-source based web application for exploring historical geodata

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# ● AQUATERRA - “MAPS”

- Since 1989

- Personalized geographic information and communication

- Creating and processing geodata

- Open-source software in projects

- Georeferencing historic maps



# Georeferencing historic maps



- Georeferencing historic maps
- Own set of tools - GDAL
- Seamlessly mosaicing sets of old maps
- Examples:
  - Fricx (1712)
  - Ferraris (1771-1778)
  - “Atlas der buurtwegen” (1841-)
  - Popp (1842-1879)
  - ...

● Why?

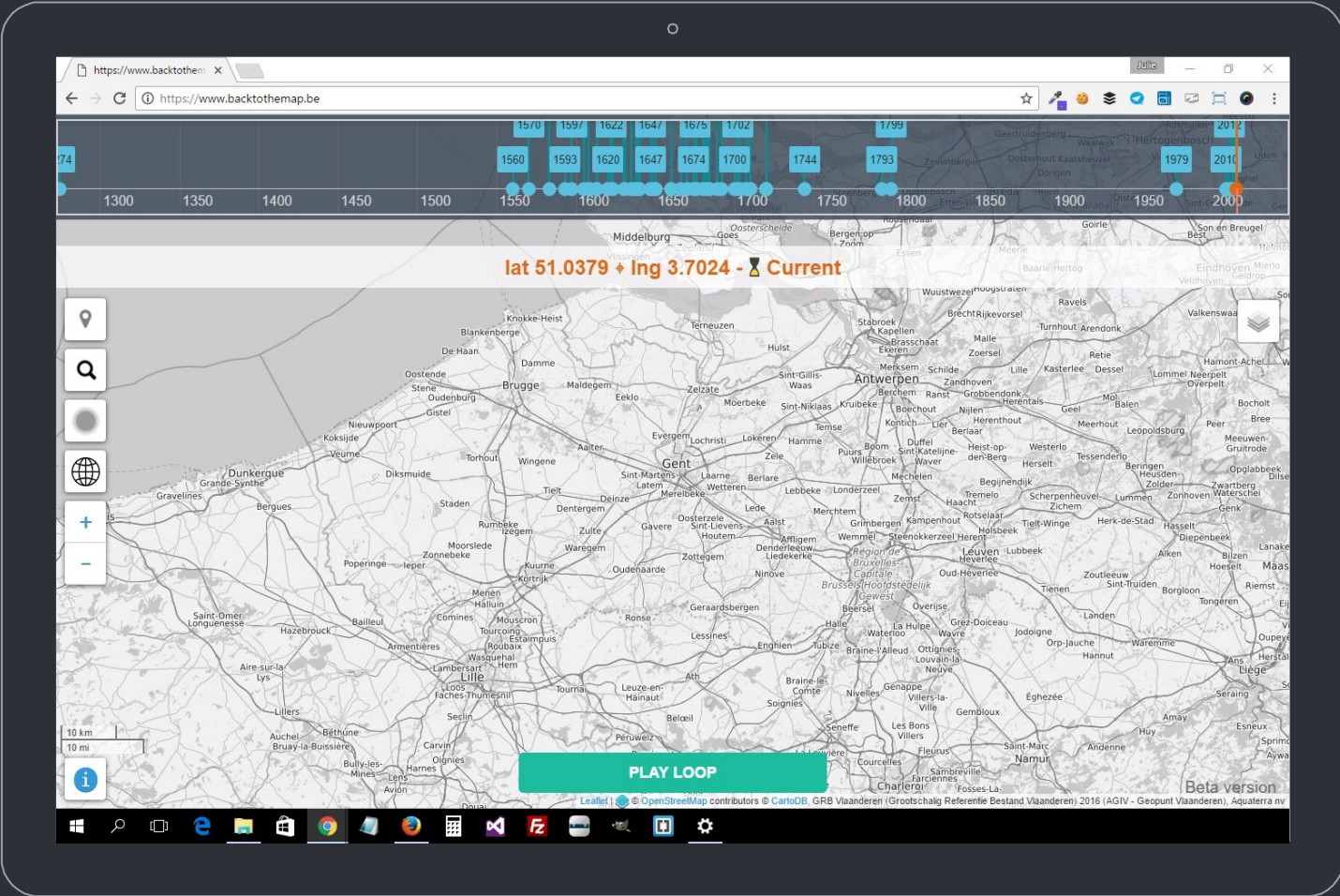
Catalogue (textual)



Map (intuitive)







# BACKTOTHEMAP



## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS



## ● Web Services

- Optimising large georeferenced image sets  
    ⇒ web publishing
- Cloud storage
- Mapserver/Mapcache
- WMS/WMTS/TMS/...

## ● Open Data Web Services

- Geopunt
- OSM
- ...

# ● Spatial database

○ PostGIS ⇒ Spatialite

○ Map Metadata

- coverage
- scale/detail
- date/age
- [type]
- [subsets]

# • Web application “Viewer”

- HTML
- Javascript
- Bootstrap (js, css)
- Leaflet 1.0.0 & plugins
- Timeline vis.js
- Geojson

# ● Hosting

- Ubuntu 16 LTS
- Apache2
- Let's Encrypt



# BACKTOTHEMAP.BE

DEMO

# Features



## Geo-visual search

“Focus” area  
scale/detail level



## Geo-textual search

OSM based



## Location aware

HTTPS (through  
“Let’s Encrypt” -  
Open Certificate  
Authority)



## Dynamical Timeline

For displaying  
geo-visual and  
geo-textual search  
results



## Compare maps

Play through a  
selection of maps



## Points of Interest

Historical places  
linked to the  
timeline



# To-Do



## Reverse geocoding

Improved interpretation



## Transparency

Improve comparison of historic map with current map



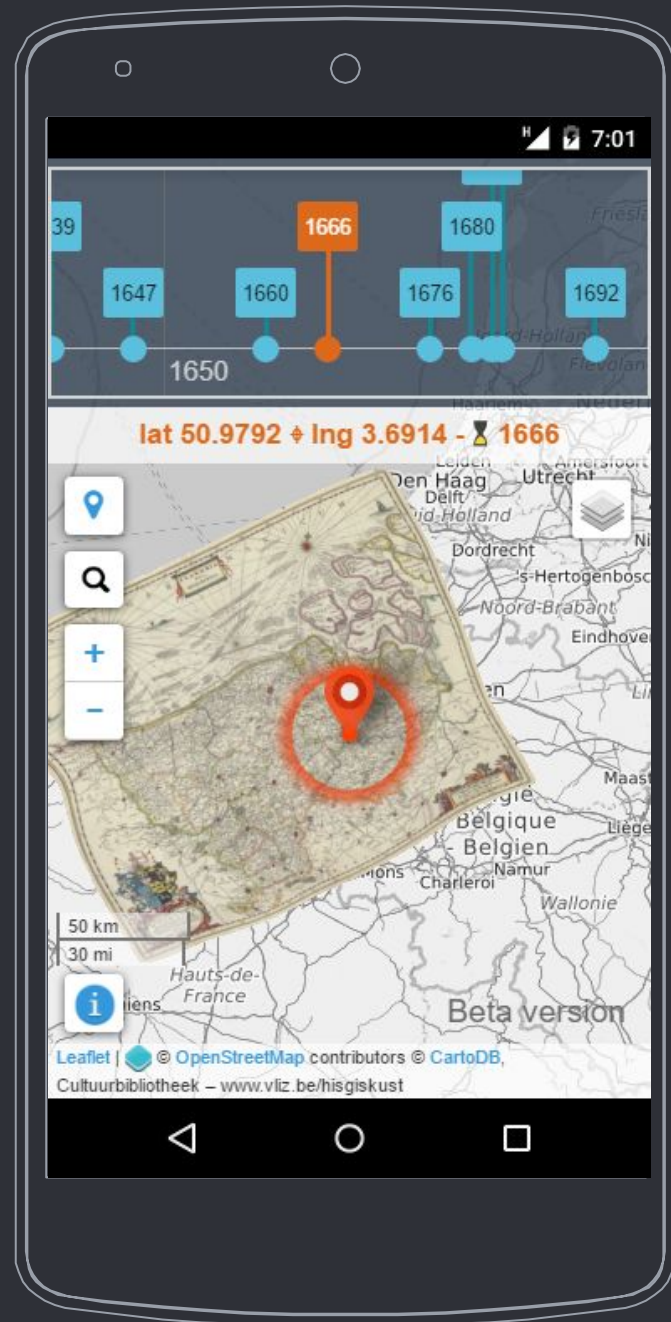
## “Skeleton” layer

Overlay of rivers, railroads, ...

## Mobile version

m.backtothemap.be

- Limited features



Thanks!

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

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