AIMS Coordinator's Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2004
Hosted By AIMS
Johnson County Administration Building

This coordinator's meeting discussed the topics presented at this year's ESRI User Conference.

ArcGIS 9.0
Shannon Porter presented the new features of ArcGIS 9.0. These included the export code entirely rewritten; model builder, toolbox expansion, alphabetized menus, and multiple address services.

Paul Brandt gave a demonstration on the new editing features of ArcGIS. He demoed the use of shortcut keys and how they help during editing. While editing, the Z key zoomed in, the X key zoomed out, and the C key panned when using the mouse. The E key toggled between edit tools of the pencil and edit select tool. These and more can be found in ArcGIS Desktop Help using the index to locate shortcuts, for ArcMap.

Paul also discussed the new annotation, topology, and labeling features in 9.0. Shortcut keys while using topology included E to select edges not nodes and S to move only a node. Topology checking is performed while you are editing. The new labeling menu gives you easy access to a layer's labels. You can change priorities and find unplaced labels. A new feature includes "pause screen", which you could do while working with a layers properties and wish that ArcGIS wouldn't continue to redraw the map.

Stephanie Bany discussed the extensions available and soon to be available in ArcGIS 9.0. Some extensions expanded their toolsets like 3D Analyst now includes ArcGlobe to work with large datasets. Some other extensions discussed were: Spatial Analyst, Image Analyst, Data Interoperability, and GPS Analyst. ArcPad and Tablet PC and their future were discussed. Maplex was mentioned as an extension to the labeling engine of ArcGIS.

Shannon Porter discussed the geoprocessing changes in ArcGIS. There are now 4 ways to run geoprocessing tools: through a dialog, command-line, as a process in a model, and using functions within code. See the documentation folder in the ArcGIS installation folder. An easier toolbox with geoprocessing tools is available for download at ESRI website.

Scripting in Python was mentioned and that models built in model builder as exported as a python script. It was mentioned not in install a version of Python higher than the bundled 2.1 for ESRI software, unless you wish to mess with the registry.

The road ahead for ArcGIS is a task assistant that records mouse clicks, multiple layouts, settings assistant, backward compatibility, changing the type of database used for personal geodatabase, and embedded ArcCatalog.

The new Data Modeler was discussed and the availability of examples on ESRI's website. The Local Government Data Model is currently being developed and ESRI is looking for input from users. The Address Model was discussed also.

Land Records
Travis Smith discussed Land Records and migrating from a tile based model to a geodatabase. Keeping historical data using versioning or attributes using datestamps in geodatabases were discussed.

ArcPublisher and ArcReader
Doug Hemsath discussed using ArcPublisher and ArcReader as a cheaper alternative for ArcIMS. The publishing of data was made easier with a data packager that created the directory structure and data storage for you. ArcPublisher creates .pmf files that can be viewed in ArcReader. ArcReader is a free viewer from ESRI.

ArcGIS Server and ArcIMS
Dan Steen introduced the new ArcGIS Server and how it is a developer product to create mapping services over the Intranet allowing features such as editing and analysis. This is not a turnkey product but would allow programmers to develop web applications that could replace desktop applications like ArcView or ArcEditor. One drawback is that the cost is very steep. Extensions included those already available to Arc Desktop; Spatial Analyst, 3D Analyst and StreetMap. These extensions are separate from the Arc Desktop extensions. .

ArcIMS 9.0 is available. The future for ArcIMS is to write it in ArcObjects and make it available to users to deploy highly customized web applications.

ArcSDE and Raster Data
Keith Shaw presented the ArcSDE. He discussed the details of setup, performance, and distribution of SDE. Some of the topics focused on log files, performance tuning, and replication.

Raster files in the geodatabase were discussed. A raster file can now be viewed from ArcDesktop's attribute table.