

AIMS Coordinator's Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2005
Hosted by Johnson County AIMS

Announcements

Steve Yoder of AIMS brought to our attention the owner changes to the sunflower area.

NOTE: Many property datasets are being migrated from the coverage world to the feature world. This will likely cause some problems and/or downtime. Please see Yoder for more information.

Color Orthophotography 2005

Peter Maynard-Moody of AIMS demonstrated an application he created that helps quality assure the newly delivered orthophotography. He had migrated an older ArcView 3.x application to ArcGIS. The QC app will randomly choose a tile to check. The user must check a QC checklist from the tile extent to the quarter tile and then through 10 spot checks. Peter mentioned at a two to three week QC time, with an expected delivery date of 6-8 weeks.

The new color imagery is much larger and is around 375MB per tile; which we add to the time to process it, e.g. Mr. SID and taking it to B/W.

The extent of the new imagery is similar to the last orthophotos, with Lake Quivira in full and only about 1 sq mile of Spring Hill within Miami County.

Jay Heermann of AIMS mentioned that he is working with Miami County to deliver street centerline, address points, and their spring 2004 aerial photos.

NOTE: Miami County is on a different state plane (South).

Planimetrics Updates

Shannon Porter of AIMS went over the new planimetrics updates that are to be done with the new imagery. Building will be updated, but only but using new building permits and those tiles that it was shown needing to be updated from the QC of the photos.

Edge of pavement was last updated in the years of 1998-2000. Edge will be updated on a tile-by-tile basis. Expect a long turn around time.

NOTE: Planimetrics is not automatic for delivery.

Misc. planimetrics have moved from the coverage world to the feature class world. The Airport feature class contains updates, new attributes, and both the New Century and Executive airport. Also, cemetery, quarry, and sunflower have moved to feature classes. Older datasets should be phased out.

Railroads have been moved to a feature class as well. A new subtype attribute has been included and new feature (typically smaller) have been added.

ESRI User Conference 2005 Report

April Bowman of Unified Government Kansas City, Kansas Wyandotte County noted that she was glad to see a built-in area tool upcoming in 9.2. But many 9.2 features have already been built as custom tools among the coordinators.

Robert Meyer of City of Overland Park noted he learned that the spatial statistics ArcToolbox useful for his crime analysis efforts and that some tools are built but users instead of by ESRI programmers. He also noted how he loved to find out that 9.2 will have the ability to import from Microsoft Excel.

AIMS Top Ten List

10. ArcGIS performance enhancements

9.1

Geoprocessing enhancements with 9.1 – supports many more processes

Geocoding

3D analyst & ArcGlobe

Significantly reduced the number of queries to SDE – direct connect more efficient

9.2

Geoprocessing to support looping, batch processing, raster table access,

...

Geocoding as much as 4x faster - ~1-2 million geocodes per hour

9. ArcGIS improvements to usability and productivity

documentation

9.1 – maplex, arcpress, street map, arcscan no longer licensed

extensions, network analyst available now

9.2 - cartographic editing, finishing tools, feature manipulation/ aliasing, CAD usability improvements

More hot keys & mouse functionality

Georeferencing tools to work on CAD documents

Elimination of spatial extent requirement for coordinate systems/ feature classes/ predefined spatial extent.

Doug Hemsath of City of Shawnee noted he uses Network Analyst for fire station response times.

Support for CAD includes taking the CAD files symbolize into ArcGIS.

8. Use common sense (or practical sense)

“the easiest way to increase performance, is to not do an operation...”

Best practices should be the best practices for the situation or need

Generalize small scale datasets that don't require high spatial accuracy

Don't mix .mxd's for cartography and for analysis.

Wealth of tips, tricks, and tuning suggestions out there that every user regardless of level should be taking advantage of

7. Enhanced development environment

Developer issues: future releases will focus on .NET not COM (will drop support for c++)

Better software testing tools – Microsoft ACT

ArcIMS 9.2 will include .net web controls for development

Jerry Swingle of AIMS stated that ACT allows a developer to do load testing of captured commands from a website.

6. ArcPublisher and ArcReader

Continued support and enhancements

More ArcGIS like functionality...labeling, routing, etc

Portable documents good but functionality somewhat counterintuitive to a lightweight, easy-to-use browser

5. ArcIMS –

return of Arc Explorer Web

3D support for ArcIMS

Web controls for .NET in ArcIMS

Better user interface

Aaron Shettleroe of AIMS stated that support for .NET includes creating a Visual Studio project in C# or Visual Basic .NET to customize to your hearts content.

4. Support for basic needs in SDE

History – use of archive table in SDE to record from and to dates with features

Provide a tool for view and adding archive layers to ArcMap

Replication – two new models (one and two way) for distributing or replicating data

System administration - bundling of database – personal SDE and workgroup SDE

SDE Database administration tools accessible within ArcCatalog

3. Significant data format changes coming

File Geodatabase (coverage replacement)

Supports all features including rasters - .gdb file extension

Single user model

High performance by nature of architecture

Compressable ...

Non Versioned editing

Simple features and tables

Allows immediate visibility of changes to non-ESRI database clients

Support for spatial datatype in Oracle, Informix, DB2
SQL Server will likely come at some point

2. Technical progression

Migration of users is all over the board, majority of users are 3.x, 8.x, 9.0, 9.1 Many users at varying levels out of fear of migrating not just GIS but, OS and Databases

ArcGIS product line is now dependent on all products being at the same release.

Need to constantly be weary of how to stay on top of new versions – many distributed systems (e.g. federal gov) are experiencing significant pains in getting to current versions.

Goal for AIMS is to be at a common platform level.

It's not too late to get up to speed

1. Community GIS

From a community effort we feel that as a group we are comfortable with our current level of GIS services compared with other entities our size.

The level of collaboration exceeds the national norm.

AIMS Coordinators Goal List

Goal 1: Have data partners at a common product and platform level.

Why:

System dependencies require like platforms and product releases

Build upon the collaboration and sharing of resources

Ensure the successful exchange of data

What makes each city unique is that we use different data NOT different tools

Can all learn from the experiences of other migrations

Goal 1a: AIMS will provide a migration pathway and support to meet goal #1.

How:

Coordinators meeting to disseminate methods and experiences

Onsite support for transition to updated systems and software

Goal 2: AIMS will work to provide access to the common product level to organizations that can't support this technology internally.

Why:

Take advantage of the benefits provided by the best technologies

Provide a platform that exceeds the expected needs

Take advantage of the economies of scale

GIS support is getting more costlier in \$\$\$ and personnel...not less

Goal 2a: AIMS will provide support for the migration and training to meet goal #2.

How:

Provide training to access and utilize those services offered through AIMS coordinators group

Broker services to those organizations not able to justify the costs (both personnel and systems) of supporting full service GIS

Goal 3: AIMS will work to provide more efficient GIS applications & services to partners through latest technologies. (eg. Consolidated use of ArcGIS server, Web services, etc. as needed)

Take advantage of the fact that we all use the same tools do the same jobs just with different data

Population of Johnson County has come to expect common systems/access regardless of the organization pathway

Goal 4: More focus on enhancing existing data (e.g. more intelligent, relational data) and integration with disparate related data sources. (eg. GBA systems, permitting processes, document imaging, mobile mapping)

Maximize the return on investment in data by bridging the gap between data stores and intelligent data systems