Welcome

Spring is upon us once again. The next few months will see some exciting things happening in GIS. Our consultants have completed the flyover for the county, and are now working primarily on two sets of deliverables. The first deliverable is our pilot project; the second is the delivery of all the orthophotos for the county. When choosing this “pilot” or “test” area, we wanted a section of the county that included both rural and residential properties. After a careful look and a thorough consideration of several areas, we settled on the southeast section of Blanchester for our pilot area. While this area will include the new orthophotos, it will also include features such as hydrography (anything water related) and accurately placed street centerlines. The primary function of the pilot area will be building the foundation for the parcel (property) lines. The Parcel layer of our GIS database will be one of the largest, and hence one of the most complex layers that we will ever develop. At first glance, it would appear that we could just take the tax (parcel) maps from the map office and trace the parcel lines into a GIS layer; this is called trace digitizing. While this would supply us with a digital replica of the tax maps, it would not give us the accuracy that we want. Any errors that may be inherent within those maps would be duplicated in our digital map. Our consultants will use the paper maps as a reference and, while using the updated digital orthophotos as a background image, place the lines precisely where they belong. In conjunction with the tax maps as a reference, they will be using information gathered from deeds, surveys, and any other information that they may find valuable.

Orthophotography Explained Part three in a Five Part Series

Last time we listed all of the components of digital orthophotography. To re-hash a little, let’s list them again; they are: image acquisition, a control network, the relationship between multiple images (aerial triangulation) and image rectification. Our first item in the list is that of acquiring digital orthophotos. The two options we discussed were that of satellite imagery or through traditional aerial photography. While obtaining photography from satellites may be an option for the future, at this point in time the most accurate images we can derive are from those generated with traditional aerial photography. Our consultants will use a twin engine aircraft, fly precise flight lines over the county, and take photographs of the terrain below. There is every possibility that satellite imagery may be used within the next three to five years for updates, but for now we’ll stick with the tried and tested methods! Next time we will discuss in detail our ground control network; what it is and why it is necessary.
Recent Happenings

In conjunction with the County GIS documentation!

Feel free to contact us anytime!

This is a screenshot of the menu within ArcExplorer to activate the online help system. ArcExplorer includes a selection to launch your internet web browser and navigate directly to the home page of ArcExplorer on the ESRI Web site.

Learning to Use ArcExplorer

When learning to use ArcExplorer, it's important to know where you can get help. With ArcExplorer, just like any quality Windows based program or application, you will find an online help system. Utilizing the online help system should be your first "line of defense". Please note the screenshot above; this shows you where to find the help selection on the menu bar of ArcExplorer.

In addition to this online help system, you also have available to you the electronic version of an ArcExplorer Tutorial. It is located on your computer (after you install ArcExplorer) under c:\program files\ESRI and is called ArcExplorer.pdf. A file with the pdf extension can be viewed using a free program called Acrobat Reader. You can download this program from the internet, or you can install it from the applications directory on the GIS CD's that are available from the GIS office. We recommend that you begin using ArcExplorer by reviewing the tutorial that is a part of this document.

So, we now have two avenues that users can take advantage of in learning ArcExplorer; the online help system, and the tutorial.

Another solution may be to login to the ESRI web page at www.ESRI.com and do a search on ArcExplorer; you will find many articles on how people around the world are using GIS in their daily activities, and, sometime in the near future, the Clinton County GIS Department would like to have a web page of it's own.

The fourth, and perhaps the last, line of defense you may have with any questions using ArcExplorer is the staff of the GIS Department. Feel free to give us a call or send Joe Merritt an e-mail at merrittjoe@hotmail.com. We are happy to help you in any way we can!

Stay tuned for our next article on using ArcExplorer and going over a "Quick-Start Tutorial" to help you get up and running with GIS as quickly as possible.