Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of CATALIS News. Within these few pages, we hope that you learn a few more tidbits of information on those ever popular Virginia Military Surveys; some more on Finding Your Place in the World with a coordinate system; and, a few Tips and Tricks for computer users everywhere. Our feature article for this edition will be on ArcExplorer, the completely free GIS Data Viewer from Environmental Systems Research Institute.

It is the plan of the GIS Director’s office to make ArcExplorer the tool by which anyone can view, query, and print GIS data from the CATALIS database, or, for that matter, any compatible database of GIS information. A considerable amount of planning had to go into the creation of the data model for use with ArcExplorer. We would like to share with you some of the thought that went into the planning for the deployment of ArcExplorer.

These articles, along with a few surprises, await you within the pages of this edition of CATALIS News.

from the GIS Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside this issue:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to ArcExplorer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet GUSSI!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Military Surveys: A Second Look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y2K - AOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Contact a GIS Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tips and Tricks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special points of interest:

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
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Introduction to ArcExplorer

Using maps to present and analyze geographic information is not new; some of the oldest maps discovered date back to several thousands of years ago. ArcExplorer links ancient tradition with modern technology by providing us with an easy solution for distributing geographic data. ArcExplorer is one of our solutions to answer the need for the free distribution of the CATALIS database. Please take note of the screen shot of ArcExplorer viewing the city of Wilmington on page 3.

With ArcExplorer, you can:

- View and query ESRI shapefiles, ARC/INFO and PC ARC/INFO coverages, and Spatial Database Engine (SDE) layers.
- Display a wide variety of image formats.
- Address match (locate street addresses or intersections on a map).
- Measure distances on your map.
- Find features.
- Identify and query geographic and attribute data.
- Create maps using classifications, symbols, and labeling.
- Pan and zoom through multiple map layers.
- View and download data published on Web sites that use ESRI’s Internet Map Server (IMS) technology.
“Training and Support are two vital ingredients to a successful GIS implementation.”

Installing ArcExplorer is very easy. You can navigate on the World Wide Web to the Web Site WWW.ESRI.COM, or you can install ArcExplorer from a CD created by the GIS Department of Clinton County.

First, you must have a windows based operating system running on the computer you wish to install ArcExplorer on; either Windows 95 or Windows 98 will. If you have Windows NT, that will also work, as long as you have at least service pack 4 installed.

⇒ To begin installation, navigate to the install program, AEClient.exe, in the directory where you downloaded it from the Web. Or, you can install it from the CATALIS data CD under the applications folder.
⇒ Double-click the AEClient.exe file and follow the on-screen instructions. Typically, you should choose all of the components to install.

Please note the image to the right...this is a screen-shot of an actual ArcExplorer installation showing the different components that can be installed.

Virginia Military Survey: A Second Look

As discussed in our previous article, the Virginia Military District was a massive piece of land, encompassing over 6,500 miles and 4,200,00 acres. Clinton County is right in the middle of this 23 county area, so it is important to have a good understanding of the nature of these survey’s.

In continuing our study of the history of these areas, we find that the state of Virginia was very generous in giving her revolutionary war veterans ‘land as payment’! Due to various state laws, bounties ranged from 100 acres to 15,000 acres, depending on the rank of the soldiers. If a soldier served for over six years, they received even more land. If a soldier were killed in the war, the heirs of the soldier could claim the land. Virginia issued more than six million acres to soldiers for service in the revolutionary war, most of which were in Kentucky and Ohio.

To claim a piece of land, the soldier had to send the Warrant of Land to the Principal Surveyor of the Virginia district of Ohio. This would be passed on to the deputy surveyor, who would supply a brief description of the claim and then execute the survey. There was actually permitted an error ratio of 5%, but this was shown to be often exceeded. These numerous errors undoubtedly led to many problems throughout the years.

After the acceptance of the survey, the warrant was sent to the Federal Government and a patent was issued. John O’Bannon ran the first Virginia Military Survey in Ohio on November 13th, 1787, in what is now Clermont County. The first patent occurred on February 20th, 1796.
(Introduction to ArcExplorer...Continued from page 2)

This is a screen shot from ArcExplorer, showing the border of the City of Wilmington in the main view and an overview map of the city in the lower left hand corner.

In our next article, we will continue our study of ArcExplorer and how it can best be used to explore GIS data within the CATALIS database.

**Virginia Military Survey: A Second Look**

In our next and final article on the VMD, we will see what George Washington did (and didn’t do) here in 1796.
Joe Merritt, the GIS Manager, is currently working out of the County Engineers office. If you would like a demonstration on anything GIS or GIS related, please don’t hesitate to call and schedule an appointment.

Tips and Tricks!

In each of our newsletter additions, we will have a “Tips and Tricks” section. This will include one or more tips on how to work with specific software, and / or issues in dealing with hardware. We will also include one (or more) tricks on using software or in fixing (or enhancing) hardware problems. This will obviously include non-GIS specific applications, as well as, of course, plenty of GIS specific items. For the first edition of CATALIS News, we will discuss a couple of things that have plagued me for quite some time; I look forward to sharing them with you!

Just how big IS a Hard Drive supposed to be?

Typically, if you purchase a 9.1 GB hard drive, you have about 8.6 GB of usable space. If you purchase a 6.4 GB hard drive, you might end up with about 6.1 GB of usable space. So...what’s up with the missing space? The fact is, the space is not missing. What your seeing is the difference between how the hard drive manufacturing companies view the universe and how the rest of us view the universe. Hard drive companies believe that one megabyte is 1,000,000 bytes. However, most computers and operating systems believe that one megabyte is 1,048,576 bytes. This is just one of the many little idiosyncrasies we will explore within the pages of this communiqué.

Alt-Tab Does WHAT?

Often, when working deep within the bowels of a 30 page report in Microsoft Word, we would like to quickly do some addition of numbers in a spreadsheet within Microsoft Excel. If Excel (or, for that matter any program) is running along with, in this case, Word, hit the ALT button with your thumb, hold it down, and hit the TAB button with your middle finger. This will bring up a window of all your currently running applications. Pick the one you want to “open up” and continue working!