



I WANT MY UNIX BACK!

Chronicles of an aging GIS Manager



Connecticut GIS User to User Network
A voluntary association of GIS Users



Rich Gallacher



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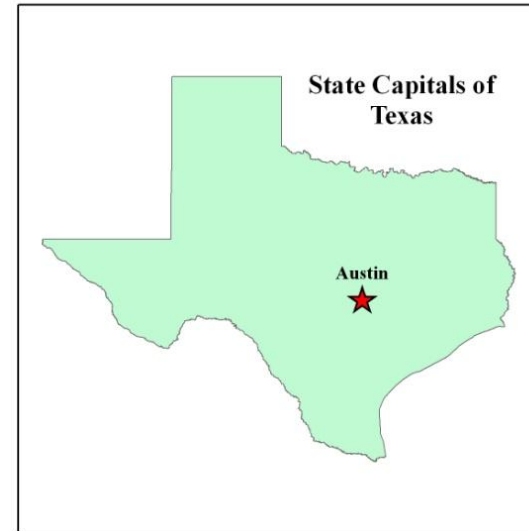
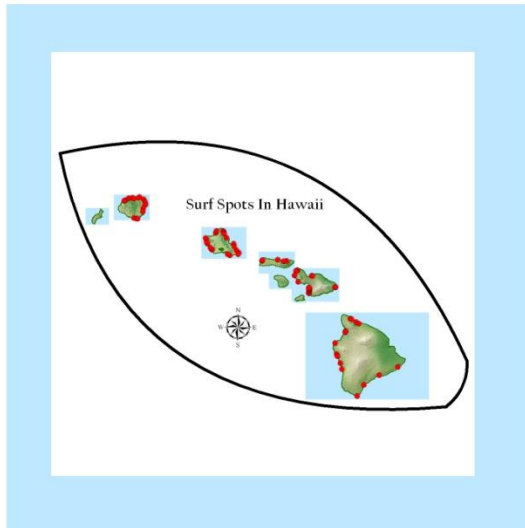
BY RICH GALLACHER, LIZ DENARDIS & KEVIN BERGER (TOWN OF MANCHESTER, CT GIS UNIT)



WHERE DID MY EXTRA-SPATIAL JOURNEY BEGIN?

1992 Yeehaw...moving to Texas!

- I will save the world with my maps and GIS will be my Excalibur!
- Start with the infamous “Surfboard Map” ...long road ahead

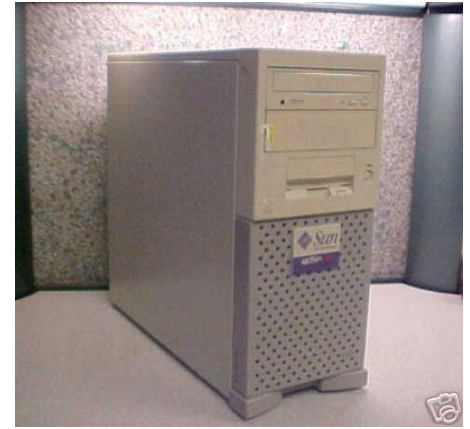


C- (too cute)

A+

GOLDEN AGE OF GIS

- One word – ArcInfo 7.2 on a Sunsoft Solaris Workstation
- Coverages
- Large format digitizers
- Electrostatic plotters
- Only two types of software you could buy from ESRI – ArcInfo & ArcView
- Maps took weeks to create
- We were the few, the proud – the GIS geeks!
- Now my mother can make the same map in 20 seconds



PROFESSION CHALLENGES

- Can never get your parents to understand what you do
- Questions like:
 - Once everything is mapped then what will you do?
 - Somebody actually pays you to do this?
 - Geology / geography...what's the difference.
 - Telling everyone what GIS stands for:
 - Great Iguana Sandwich
 - Government Issued Salsa
 - Go Investigate Something



GIS TECH 101: MY FRIEND THE DIGITIZER

- First GIS tech job – digitize 3400 utility record plans
- Worked 60 – 70 hours a week for 6 months
- vision went from 20/15 to 20/40
- Often had nightmares about high RMS values
- Now digitizing tablet used for holiday parties
- Most new GIS techs have never seen a large format digitizer



SO WHAT SOFTWARE SHOULD I GET?

NOW

ArcGIS for Desktop

ArcGIS for Desktop Advanced

ArcGIS for Desktop Standard

ArcGIS for Desktop Basic

ArcGIS for Server

ArcGIS for Windows Mobile

ArcGIS SDK for Windows Mobile

Data and Maps for ArcGIS

StreetMap Premium for ArcGIS

Data Appliance for ArcGIS

ArcGIS for SharePoint

BEFORE

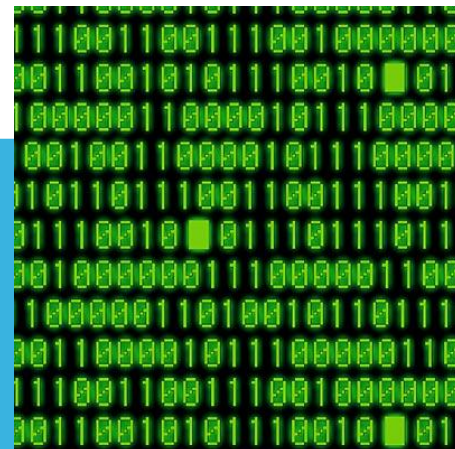
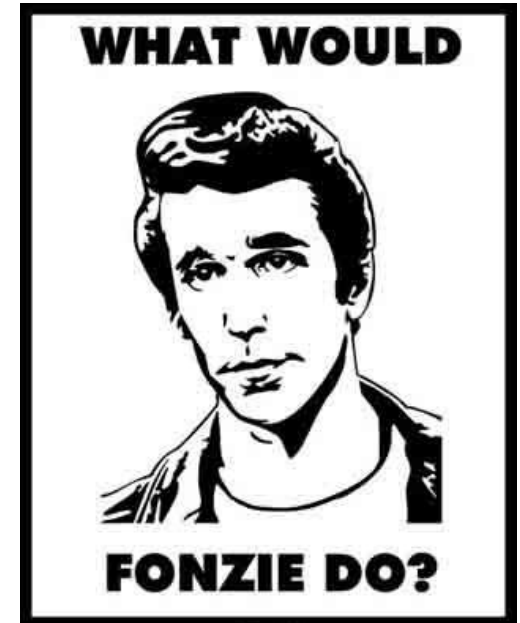
PC ArcInfo



PARLEZ-VOUS GIS?

- Now I want to be a GIS Analyst
- Must know how to program because programmers are cool
- Languages I knew when I started
 - AML
- Languages I pretend to know now
 - VB.NET, C#, **Python**, JavaScript, Perl, AJAX, PHP, HTML, XML, SQL, REST, SOAP, T-SQL, VBScript, KML, JSON

Hello, world...goodbye gray matter!



TYPICAL GIS PROJECT

- Oops! Apparently there is a huge GIS component to the enterprise software we are going live with in two days...make it work!
- Better yet...Rich, hire a consultant!
- Idea: make the pilot 85% of the entire project so only pay for a pilot, yeah that will work!
- HINT: Never schedule a GIS project during the summer!



THE GREAT GEEK GATHERINGS

- NEARC (not New England Antique Radio Club)
- Newport 2007 – no comment but all charges dropped
- ESRI UC in San Diego– Mecca of all things GIS – “I love you, Jack!”
- HINT: Find out where all the vendor receptions are and pretend you are a client.
- “Of course I am with the Aerospace Division of the Pentagon...aerospace is all GIS these days. Where’s the buffet?”



STANDARDS & METADATA

- Rather clean the refrigerator than create metadata
- “What type of digitizer was used in the conversion?”
- HINT: Document all standards and metadata and make them easily available, i.e. on your web site
- Example is a standard street list that gets updated regularly
- Why can't I get this address to geocode?

28-b ½ North Middle Turnpike Street (south-side)



THIS IS HUGE, PETER.

- What was I thinking?
- Figured I could do more damage at the management level
- GIS immediately became my own offspring as in “Rich’s GIS is incorrect!”
- “Rich, I have an issue with your GIS.”
- “Don’t look at me, that’s Rich’s GIS.”
- Right.....



WHAT'S WITH ALL THE QUESTIONS?

- Actually had a job applicant say this to me
- HINT 1: Don't say this at a job interview...NEXT!
- HINT 2: Don't put your feet up on the table
- HINT 3: Don't try to negotiate your salary before you get the job
- HINT 4: Bring a pen!
- HINT 5: Don't throw your resume at the panel and say, "It's all right there...call me."
- HINT 6: Hire the absolute best people possible and then get out of their way.



STEERING COMMITTEES & USER GROUPS



HINT: Learn these phrases:

I will look into that...

I will take that under consideration...

GIS JOKES FOR KIDS

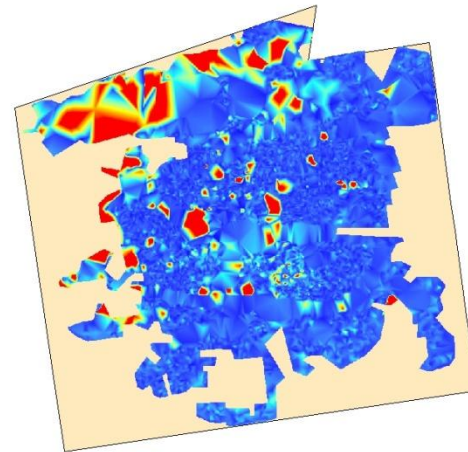
- What do fish and maps have in common?
- Who is smarter, longitude or latitude?
- Why do senior military officials like small scale maps?
- What do you call a map guide of Alcatraz?



GIGO-CITY

- GIS displays the GIGO'ness of your data
- Bad data going in...now you have a pretty map showing every error in your data
- Thanks for your help, Rich! (don't ever print this map again)
- Map helped fix the errors

Water Usage (Hundred Cubic Feet/Year)



AGE OF FAST FOOD GEOGRAPHY

- I'll take an 8.5" x 11" of my property with extra dimensions – hold the ortho's
- One click and instantly a map is produced
- No more “art” in cartography...now cography (anyone can do it!)
- Web 2.0 is pretty cool even if you can't always use colors like cabernet, yogo blue and lilac dust
- Even at MacDonald's you need someone flipping burgers



REALTIME GIS? NO WAY!

- Yes way! Mobile technology really works
- I'm in trouble...takes me 15 minutes to created a text message
- I call my cell phone a "texter"
- Real time GIS updates in the field

Which Android is better?



ANSWER TO THE UNIVERSAL QUESTION

What is GIS?

Whatever the hell we want it to be!





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