

Map Notes

Southeast Texas Arc User Group



- DATE:** December 10, 2009
- TIME:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
- LOCATION:** Homer E. Nagel Conference Room
Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission
2210 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, Texas 77703
<http://www.setrpc.org/index.php>
- SPEAKER:** Colin Hepburn, JAMA Group
- TOPIC:** Integrating ArcGIS with Google Earth

Export to KML is a free extension that allows the ArcGIS user to export GIS data in “Keyhole Markup Language” (KML) format for viewing in Google Earth. Any point, polyline, or polygon dataset, in any defined projection, can be exported. Features can be exported as either 2-dimensional features, or 3D features "extruded" upwards by an attribute or z-value. In this demonstration, Colin showed users how they can use this feature to integrate their data with Google Earth, used by millions of people worldwide to expand your services. The open forum format allowed users to ask questions and share answers and experiences. Below are links to the various tools discussed or demonstrated:

ArcMap 9.3 has ‘Layer to KML’ and ‘Map to KML’ under the ArcToolbox and is available at the basic ArcView software level. Webhelp and usage tips for this extension is available at: http://webhelp.esri.com/arcgisdesktop/9.3/index.cfm?TopicName=Layer_To_KML_%28Conversion%29

Another more extensive tool for converting data to KML within ArcMap developed by the City of Portland that I use can be downloaded for free at: <http://arcscripts.esri.com/details.asp?dbid=14273>

The free KML editor by Northgates can be downloaded at: <http://www.northgates.ca/kmleditor/download/>

The latest version of Google Earth can be downloaded at: <http://earth.google.com/>

ESRI free ArcExplorer can be downloaded at: <http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/download.html>

Now for you AutoCAD users, AutoDesk Labs has developed the Google Earth Extension available free at:

http://labs.autodesk.com/utilities/google_earth_extension_beta/

This extension enables you to publish AutoCAD based 3D models to Google Earth.

AutoCAD users can also download the free ArcGIS interoperability tool plugin that works within the AutoCAD environment.

<http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcgis-for-autocad/download.html>

Not wanting to leave the MicroStation users out, more information on integrating MicroStation CAD files to Google Earth can be found at:

<http://www.bentley.com/en-US/Community/eSeminars/MicroStation/%28M%29+Publishing+MicroStation.htm>

And finally, don't forget that GIS users have access to a wealth of free data, aerial imagery and map data layers online at:

<http://resources.esri.com/arcgisdesktop/index.cfm?fa=content&tab=layers>

Thanks to Colin Hepburn for a great presentation on converting ArcMap .shp files to Google Earth KML or KMZ data files for viewing in Google Earth. Thanks also to all those who attended and to Pete De La Cruz and the SETRPC for allowing us the use of their facilities. It was a good turnout with good discussion and sharing of ideas and experiences by attendees which carried over to lunch at nearby Café Del Rio.