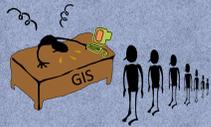


Improving Access to GIS Data with Targeted Webmap Applications

GIS Division Centric – Old School

Geographic and related attribute information is often managed by a GIS Division in local government. These GIS Divisions are responsible for developing and maintaining data, preparing maps and providing analysis for the public and most internal users. Users in other divisions may use desktop GIS for relatively simple operations utilizing a small fraction of the capabilities of a full GIS.

This model of GIS Division centric use and control of geographic information evolved in an era when GIS data was typically stored and processed on high-end workstations and the expense and learning curve for widespread GIS use throughout an organization was cost prohibitive. While the GIS Division centric model works, end users of the data are typically dependent on GIS Division support staff for printing maps and conducting routine and relatively simple analysis.



Power to the Users!

With advances in technology, improvements in servers and the widespread availability of desktop computers throughout local government organizations, a user centric model with users conducting more of their own analysis and map preparation using GIS installed on their local computers is possible. This can reduce the GIS Division bottleneck for tasks that can be done by the end users of the data.

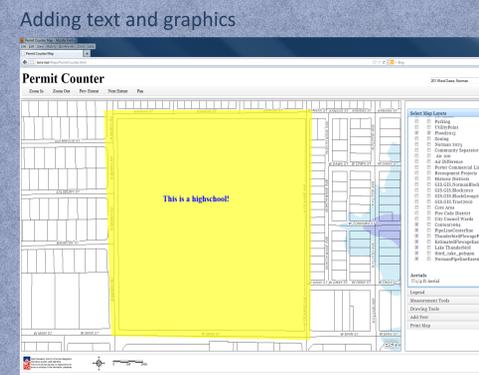
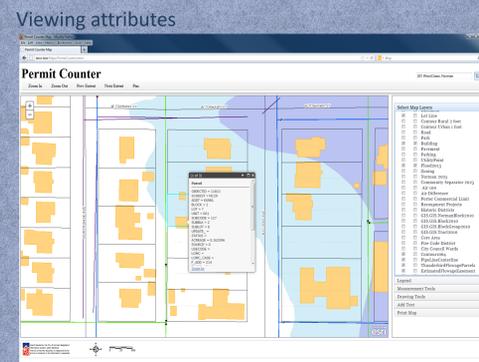
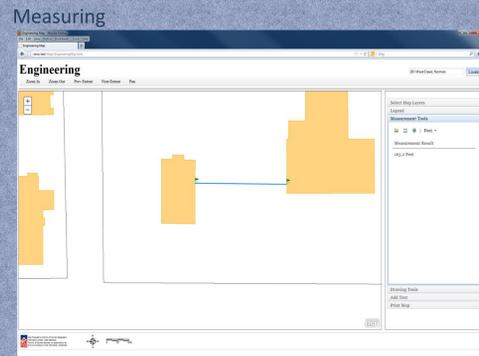
In practice the distributed desktop GIS model also has challenges. While site licenses in theory make the deployment of desktop GIS throughout an organization with central data storage cost effective, there are other potential issues. For example the costs associated with supporting and updating software, the learning curve for using the software, and appropriate use of data and analysis techniques.

A Better Way?

Another approach is to provide GIS support with light weight applications targeted to specific needs. These applications can be accessed over the internet and do not require installation and support of specialized software. Targeted applications ease the learning curve because only functionality required for the specific task is included. They also can be linked to specific data and include appropriate tools for consistent and appropriate map products.



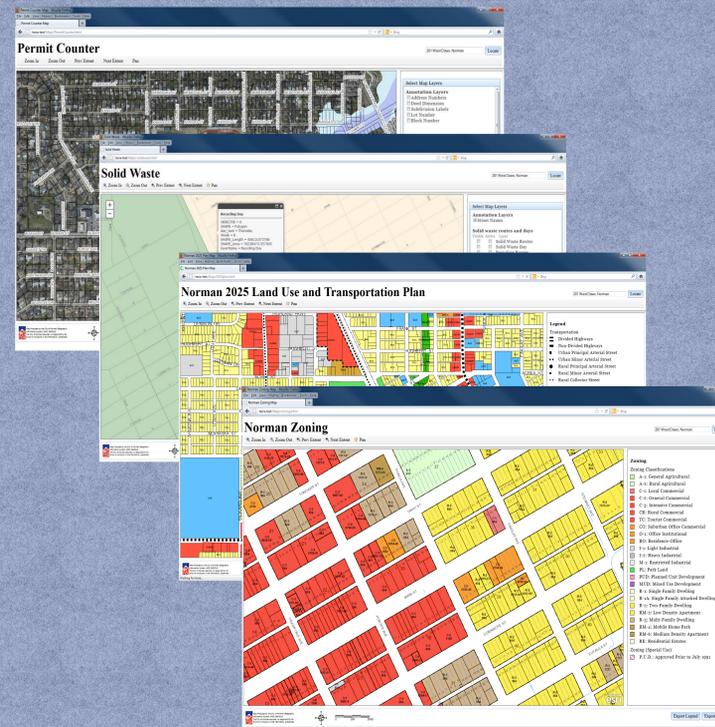
Easy to use basic toolset



Zoom and Print - Generating formatted maps with the push of a button



Maps targeted to specific needs

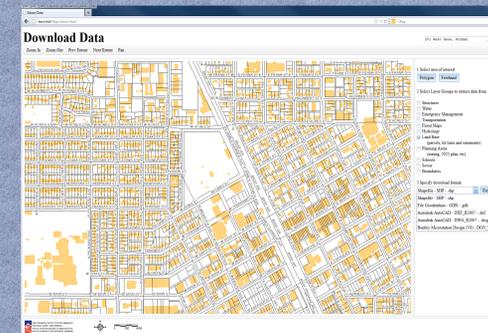


The City of Norman Case

The City of Norman GIS program started in 1992 with GIS Division staff responsible for managing data and map preparation. For the past decade, the City has had a site license that allows unlimited number of users. Presently GIS software is deployed on more than 50 computers across many divisions including utilities, public works, parks and planning. Most use only a small fraction of the functionality and many have little or no GIS training. GIS Division staff is often asked to help users navigate the software. Other potential users do not even try to use the desktop GIS software and instead rely on GIS staff for maps and analysis.

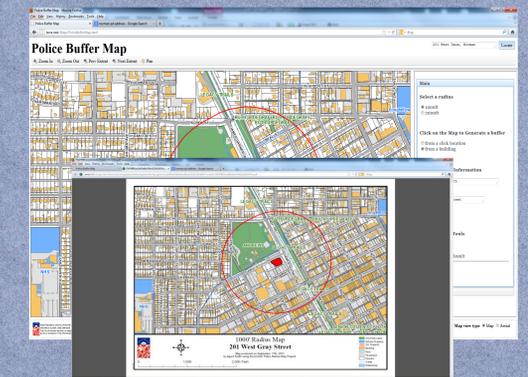
The City recently upgraded to ArcGIS 10.1 server. In an effort to reduce costs and improve service, the GIS Division is in the process of developing a variety of web applications using the JavaScript API with map services hosted on our own server.

Exporting data

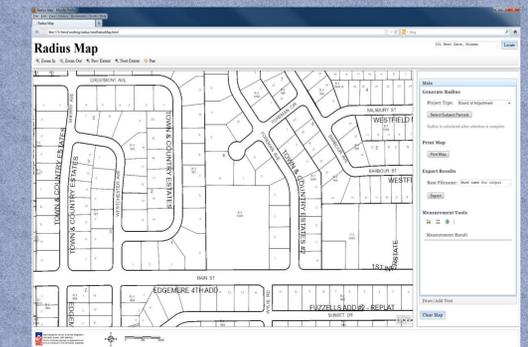


Simplifying geoprocessing tasks

What is near the crime scene?



Who gets a notice for a proposed project?



Project Type	Requirements
Board of Adjustment	Notify property owners within 300 ft. If less than 15 parcels increment the radius by 100 foot increments until there are 15 or more parcels to a maximum radius of 1000 feet.
Zoning	Notify property owners within 350 ft. If less than 15 parcels increment the radius by 100 foot increments until there are 15 or more parcels to a maximum radius of 1000 feet.
Easement or Alley Closure	Notify property owners within 300 feet.
Plat	Notify property owners within 350 feet.
Kennel License	Notify property owners within 300 feet.

