

Intranet GIS Solution: Minimal Training and Easy-to-use Improved Productivity City of St. Cloud, Florida

Thanks to the Internet's vast resources, GIS professionals know whatever geographic information they need is out there. Somewhere. In some format. Finding the information, of course, is the relatively easy part. Filtering it, assimilating it, combining it with local databases and making it usable for day-to-day operations is infinitely more difficult.

At least, that was true until recently. Government officials like Scott Brock and Bud Peck have discovered an easy-to-use solution that puts their agencies on the cutting edge of GIS technology: Looking Glass Web.



LGweb

LGWeb is an ActiveX connector to ArcIMS, the ESRI program that integrates geographic data from many sources for desktop display. LGweb bridges gap between HTE® land-based modules and ArcIMS, giving customers the ability to access Web data, local shapefiles and images. The technology combines local and Internet data in the same browser. Users can access and interact with Internet data at their desktops, with minimal expertise and training.

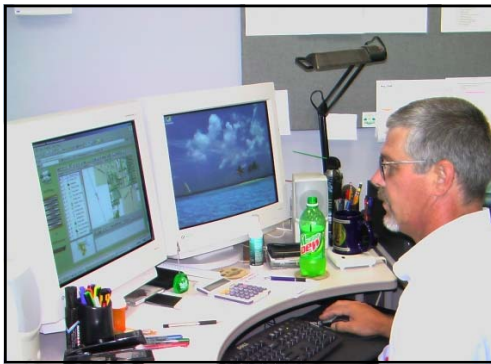
"We have so many departments using the product," said Bud Peck, CAD/GIS technician for the City of St. Cloud, FL. "Our Building Department uses it in issuing building permits and occupational licenses and in code enforcement; our Planning Department uses it for zoning because it's easy to see flood maps and land use; and our Police Department, which also uses LGdispatch, and will shortly incorporate LGcrimes can pull data from the state of Florida Sex Offender site to see which police zones sex offenders are living in. Even our Finance Department uses it, in the asset valuation process."

The city's Utilities Department can easily locate and view dumpsters, water and sewage lines, electrical lines and trash service districts. Scheduling maintenance tasks is also streamlined, he said.

Peck said the City Council members find a use for LGweb, as well. "We have a lot of historical buildings and homes in St. Cloud, and the Council members can easily click on a parcel or address point to see a photo of a site under consideration for historical designation. They can get an idea about whether a building can be restored or not just from looking at the screen." "Most of the data is tied into our A/S 400," he said. "Departments can input their own new data and the changes are real-time."

In St. Cloud, Finance Director Michael Turner is just beginning to use LGweb but looks forward to its role in verifying infrastructure records. "The detail and accuracy of the maps will help us identify the individual segments of our fixed assets, like sidewalks, roads, water lines. We'll be able to see the cost, year of installation and current depreciation of any segment. I think it will make it easier for the auditors to verify the completeness of our fixed asset records and reduce the extent of the annual reviews needed."

Harnessing the power of data—both local and Web-based, and using it to save time and money ultimately result in improved citizen service. "And that's the reason we're all here," Brock said. "Looking Glass Web makes us all better stewards of our communities' resources."



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