

Web based mapping - The ESRI approach

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ABSTRACT

Will GIS be further called „Geographic Information System“ or will we speak of „Geographic Information Services“ in the near future? What happened to the SUN vision “The network is the computer”? Does web-based mapping in fact only means the production of maps in the internet?

The nature of this questioning causes the suspicion that the integration of the internet into the GIS world means more than the expression “web-based mapping” is suggesting. For ESRI the internet is an important part of the strategy and it is incorporated in the present product generation ArcGIS 8.1 as data and function source.

The basic idea is a network consisting of independent systems. Based on standards of the IT and GIS technology (XML, TCP/IP, Java, SQL, OGC ..), connected via meta data catalogues and supplemented by content and function, the web integration will cause a paradigm shift within the GIS world. By data on demand (up-to-date information to be paid for only on usage) and the integration of any services (geocoding, routing, tracking, weather, traffic conditions....) jobs will be relieved from tasks and flexibility will be increased.

The presentation will outline ESRI's strategy concerning this expected development and it will be supplemented by examples from the Geography Network, the OGC-WebMapping and the ArcGIS Desktop domain.