

Posts to [kc_gis@yahoogroups.com]

Tools for archiving your ArcView projects

Date: 1/2/2003

Attached you'll find two documents that outline the basic instructions on how to install and use utilities that will archive your ArcView project files and themes. The first document discusses the Archive Project-PCv1.4 utility that David Norris presented during the Users Group meeting at the Annual Conference in September. The second is the Project File Organizer, another tool that is similar in function, but with a few minor differences.

The benefits of using the Project File Organizer is that it allows the user to transfer a project and its corresponding files without regard for filename length or whether there are spaces contained within them. However, it dumps *all* corresponding files into one folder, which makes the directory very cluttered. The Archive Project-PCv1.4 utility maintains distinction between files by creating folders within the new directory. Unfortunately, having spaces within filenames causes those files to be skipped during the transfer and results in an incomplete project file.

The Archive Project-PCv1.4 utility needs only one file (archive_project_pc14.avx), while the Project File Organizer utilizes 2 files (avdlls.dll & AVAPR.avx).

Shapefile Projection Utility

Date: 10/25/2002

I have a town political boundary shapefile that I pull into arcview 3.2 and look at in view 1. I then try and pull in other shapefiles (one for county, major cities, roads) - it will load on the legend bar but nothing appears. If I pull up these files first in another view in the same project file they will appear, but then i can't pull in my town shape file in the same view. I tried joining tables but the join option is grayed out.

How can I get these different shape files to link / show up?

Please consider all options as I'm pretty certain I'm still not addressing some basic issues and am probably overlooking something.....

Response:

I'm going to guess that you can only see one of the themes you add because they are in different projections. This sometimes causes the various themes you have in your project file to be displayed disproportionately.

To remedy this, use the Shapefile Projection Utility that comes bundled with ArcView to reproject the shapefiles (if you're using Windows, you can access it by going to Start > Programs > ESRI > ArcView GIS 3.2 > Projection Utility -- or -- you can load the "Projection Utility Wizard" extension from the Extensions menu, then access it by going to File > ArcView Projection Utility). The utility has an interface

that allows you to import the desired shapefiles and specify the new projection. Once you have a uniform projection for all of the shapefiles, this should clear up any display issues you may be having.

The steps for using the utility consist of 1) identifying the shapefiles you would like to reproject, 2) specifying the current projection of the shapefile indicated (if you are unsure and can't reach the author of the shapefile, you can either do a little experimenting with the shapefile or use "Custom" for the Name and "Degrees" for the Units), 3) select the new projection of the shapefile (for the Coordinate System you can use "Projected", for the Projection use NAD_1983 system, then select the region that corresponds to the area you are mapping, such as New Hampshire -- this coordinate system has worked for me in the past, but you may need to experiment to find one that works with your data.). The last step is specifying a name and directory for the new shapefile (the utility doesn't alter the original shapefile, but creates a new one so that your original data is kept intact)

Natural Breaks

Date: 10/18/2002

But when I have natural breaks in the legends for some of them, it goes from 16-33, then 33-43, 43-53, etc. repeating one of the numbers instead of picking up on the next one. How can I get this to go 16-33, 34-43, etc. and make sure it's reflecting the true data. I know I could just type it in that way for the legend, but don't think that would be accurate. I was thinking it has something to do with my categorization and whether it's 0, 1, or 2 spaces over from the decimal, but I'm not sure if that's it or not.

Response:

It is a strange function of ArcView that it shows the categories as overlapping when it does not overlap these in the final map, for example, a value of 33 would be displayed in the map with the color of the first category. For your own sanity, you can manually insure that no values are missed or incorrectly identified by simply correcting the values from the legend editor in the value column.

Zipcodes

Date: 9/24/2002

Do you know what criteria are used to determine if an area is a zipcode? Is it the geographical area? Number of mails received etc? I couldn't find the information on the census website.

Response:

Zip codes are determined by the post office and as a result can change at any time. A Street may be added or deleted. They are not comparable to any census data collection geography. Sometimes you will see the zip codes as points (the centroid of

these areas). You could search out a local agency that had actually mapped the zip code polygons to create an area map.

Joining data

Date: 6/25/2002

I'm having problems creating maps in ArcView GIS 3.2 I had created 6 separate maps of county health data, e.g., infant mortality, teen births.

I now want to map childhood immunizations by county. I joined the table of immunization data with the shape file .dbf. Then when I go to map the data it is not in the classification field in the legend editor. I think I have followed the steps I did to make the health maps. Can we only join data to a table once? What am I missing?

Response:

You can join data to the table as many times as you want in Arcview. But you must make sure the data type is number (not text) because Arcview can only do classification for number. I think the data type of your data is text although they look like number.

Projections

Date: 6/6/2002

For the projection, I did use Projections of the United States instead of Projections of the World because people in the office thought the US projection looked better than the "flatter", World projection.

Response:

The only other suggestion or rather question I have was whether or not the projection you used is what you need for your audience. Sometimes when you only represent a state on its own, people choose the state plane projection. For places like PA it makes the southern state boundary a straight horizontal. It is just what most people who live in PA expect to see. But it is not "wrong" to have it in the projection you have.

The state plane projection I was talking about is different from both the world and the US projection options. I agree, it is inappropriate to use the world projections for looking at the US. Any US map should be a conic projection. Any individual state maps should probably be a state plane projection for that state. i.e. South Dakota State Plane for a South Dakota only map. You will find these options in the category pull down list after "Projections of the United States."

Legends

Date: 6/5/2002

In the legend, how can I get the title to reflect the map title? As it is now, it says Kcmap.shp?

Response:

You can play around with the legend title and the category text pretty simply. Unfortunately ArcView does not make it intuitive.

The legend has to be "simplified" so that each element: title, legend color box, and category label can be manipulated independently. Select the legend and then select: Graphics-Simplify. You can that change all parts of the legend. To change the font size and type: Select the text to change, then from the toolbar, select Windows-Show Symbol Window or Ctl-P.

Color Maps

Date: 5/28/2002

I am trying to color my maps with specific PMS colors for our next publication. Do you know how to do this?

Response:

While there are a number of scripts you can download to do this (even one that comes with ArcView and loads colors from an ASCII list of RGB values), I found the following extension to be the most user friendly. This does require you know the RGB or CMYK value for the colors you are working with. After adding this extension and creating new colors, they will be added to your color palette box at the end of the list.

1. Download the attached file (createcolors.zip) and unzip.
2. Save the AVX file to the ..\esri\av_gis30\arcview\ext32 directory.
3. With ArcView open, select the new extension from the file menu. File/Extensions. . . and check the following extension: "HSV, CMYK or RGB Color Picker" If this worked, you will see a new icon that looks like a painter's palette.
4. Click on the new icon and enter the values for your desired color.
5. Click "Add to Color Palette" and the new color will be available to you from the legend editor at the end of all other color choices.

Memory Problems

Date: 5/17/2002

I have been creating some maps for our next publication and at different times throughout the process, I get an error message saying Arcview has run out of memory. Then it quits. Has anyone had this problem and does anyone know how I can correct what is happening?

Response:

Check your RAM capacity....especially if you're working off an older computer, I would recommend a minimum of 128, but you would be much better off with at least 256 (as much of the graphical work uses RAM memory). Running with 128 can slow things down quite a bit and can lead to crashes if you have other windows open.

A second potential part of the problem, which may require your local tech person) may be due to one of your background programs (or arcview itself) not functioning properly - what sometimes happens is that a program can use up more and more of your computers memory without freeing up space when its not needed, the result is a continual build up of information resulting in a system freeze. Even shutting the program in question off and restarting it again may not free up all the memory used; in which case the only way to clear the memory may be to shut the whole computer down and restart.