SGID Image Server now available

Contributed by AGRC Administrator
15, Feb. 2007
Last Updated 08, Oct. 2008

A better way to access SGID imagery...
Aerial photography and scanned maps in the State Geographic Information Database (SGID) are now accessible through the SGID Image Server. Image Server is a new technology for storing, managing, and displaying raster images from a centralized server. Image server requires a high speed internet connection and the installation of an Image Server client. Data layers now available include: 2003 Urban Area Imagery (1ft color), DOQs (1m b/w), NAIP (1m color), 2006 HRO Color Imagery (1ft for portions of the state, and USGS 1:24K, 1:100K, 1:250K scanned topographic maps.

Installing Image Server
The Image Server client for ArcMap is required to uses these services.

If you are runing ArcGIS 9.3, the client should be pre-installed along with the ArcGIS software. You'll just need to add the Add Image Service button from Tools --> Customize --> Categories --> Image Server to an existing ArcMap toolbar.

If you are an ArcGIS 9.1 or 9.2 user or a CAD user, you'll need to install the Image Server client. This client is free and complete installation instructions are available from the agrc ftp site: ftp://ftp.agrc.utah.gov/Temp/ImageServer_Client.zip. Included in the zip file is a MS Word document called IS_Client_Install.doc, with the installation instructions. These instructions describe 1) how to download the required MS .NET 2 framework, 2) how to install .NET support for ArcGIS from the ArcGIS 9.2 installation cds, 3) how to install the Image Server ArcGIS client, and 4) how to add the Image Server command button to an ArcMap project and use it to add image services from the SGID Image Server.
- Installation Note: To use Image Server, you will need to be able to send and receive requests on ports 3982, 3983, and 3984. Check with your network administrator to see that these ports are open through your firewall.

Why Image Server?
AGRC stored these images in an SDE/SQL Server database prior to the implementation of the new Image Server technology. Storing large raster image collections in a database for efficient use required a very large amount of storage space in additon to the disk space required to make these products available in a file-based format on an ftp site. Image Server allows the imagery to be stored in its native uncompressed file-based formats, is much faster at providing image services, allows for custom control of image quality on the client side, and allows CAD users to utilize image services too.

Important Technical Notes:

- Use of the Image Server client is not yet supported on the Vista operating system. It should be noted that ArcGIS Desktop 9.2 SP4 is only partially supported on Vista (there's long list of 'known issues'). We believe that the Image Server client will be supported with the ArcGIS 9.3 release. If the meantime, if we find any work arounds we will post them here.
- Image Server should now work with ArcGlobe or ArcScene.
- Plotting Image Server imagery on large page sizes. When you send a plot that is 40 X 30 at 300 dpi, for example, image server is returning 12000 columns X 9000 rows (depending on your layout orientation, landscape vs portrait). You'll want to change some parameters in your image server configuration file (usually found at C:\Program Files\Common Files\ESRI\Image Server\XADefs\ArcGIS.ISCConfig). Open this ArcGIS.ISCConfig file in Notepad. A little less than halfway down on the left side of the page you will see MaxNCols . Scroll all the way over to the right side and you will find MaxNCols_HELP_=10000 - change the 10000 value to 15000. Also, change 10000 to 15000 in the line directly below for MaxNRows and save. The values that you changed set a limit to stop the client application from making very large requests that would result in huge files being sent to the plotter. If in the future you want to plot at 600 dpi and find that 15000 is too small, bump it up to 20000 or multiply the height and width of your plot by the dpi and that will give you the number of rows and columns that will be requested.