Case Study

Williamson County

Texas, USA

Key Facts:

Industry: Government

Problem: Prepare data for contribution to the Esri® Community Maps Program.

Solutions: The Esri Data Interoperability Extension powered by FME® Technology.

Results: Quick conversion of data into the program's required format, data model and coordinate system.

"The Esri Data Interoperability Extension made it possible for us to quickly prepare our data for contribution to the Esri Community Maps program."

– Shilpa Bhadsavle, GIS Analyst at Williamson County

Summary

Williamson County wanted to participate in the Esri Community Maps Program to make their GIS data more widely available to nearby government agencies and the general public. To contribute their spatial data to the program's World Topographic Map, they needed to conform it to the program's required data format, data model, and coordinate system. They quickly overcame this challenge by using the Esri Data Interoperability Extension, built on FME technology, to easily prepare their data as required without writing a single line of code.

The Organization

Williamson County is the fastest growing large county in Texas and covers 1,135 square miles. With proximity to Austin and large employers such as Dell Computers Corp located in the County, the growth is expected to continue. Solid economic prospects, a lower cost of living, low crime rates, a high quality of life, and available land make Williamson County an attractive destination in a fast growing region.

The GIS and Addressing Department, an IT Division of Williamson County, serves the mapping and GIS analysis needs of government agencies within the County. Its primary responsibility is to provide GIS support to the County's Public Safety and Emergence Services operations.

With the help of FME, Williamson County's data is now available in the Esri Community Maps Program World Topographic Map.

The Situation

When the Williamson County GIS department heard about the Esri Community Maps Program, they were enthusiastic to participate. The program aims to compile a free, highly accessible global map using the best authoritative data from numerous sources worldwide, including local government agencies like Williamson County.

The team immediately saw the program as an opportunity to deliver on their goal to make their GIS data more widely available to the people who need it – including surrounding government agencies and their citizens. By contributing to the initiative, they also recognized that they would be able to share their data to a larger audience worldwide than by hosting online map services themselves.

The Challenge

The County already had all of the data they were contributing to the Esri Community Maps program stored in a unified location. However, they recognized that to prepare their data for the program, they would need to transform it to conform with the program's requirements.

First, their data would need to be converted from its current data model to the data model of the program.

Then they would need to find a way to get the data from its original source format, a multiuser SDE Geodatabase, into an ArcGIS Online Basemap Geodatabase with the Bing/Google Maps tiling scheme, as required by the program.

Finally, the County would have to reproject their data from its current coordinate system to the program's specified coordinate system, NAD_1983.

All of these requirements needed to be met before they could successfully contribute their data for inclusion in the program's World Topographic Map.

The Solution

To transform their data in preparation for contributing it to the Esri Community Maps program, the County turned to the Esri Data Interoperability Extension.

They recognized that this tool, powered by FME technology, would enable them to quickly prepare their data within the familiar ArcGIS environment.

Using the Esri Data Interoperability Extension's intuitive graphical user interface, the County was able to easily transform their data as required without writing a single line of code.

Instead, they were able to leverage user-friendly, pre-defined transformation tools to easily convert the data to precisely meet the program's data model, format, and coordinate system requirements.

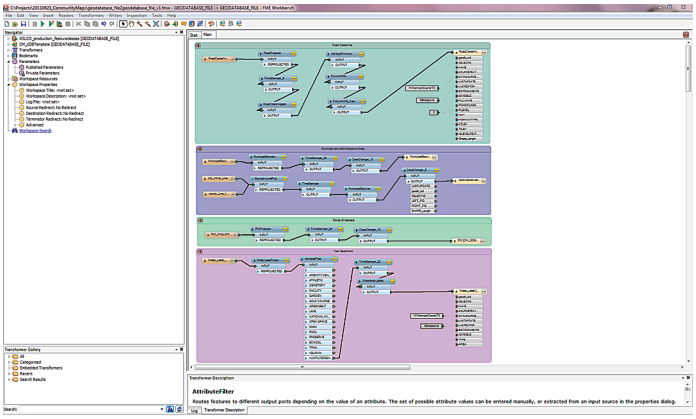
Today, all of the address point, address road range data, and building footprints that the County contributed are freely available online in Esri's global, authoritative basemap.

The Benefits

The Esri Data Interoperability Extension offered the County an easy way to quickly prepare their data for contribution to the Esri Community Maps program.

Leveraging the extension's easy-to-use spatial data transformation tools, the County was able to quickly create self-documenting workflows without any knowledge of Python scripts or other coding languages.

Plus, these flexible workflows converted their data directly from the source into the required format, data model and coordinate system without creating any intermediate data.



Williamson County built the above workflow using FME technology's intuitive graphical user interface, to easily prepare their data for the program.

Once the County recognized how simple it was to prepare their data for contribution to the program, they identified other ways they could leverage the technology.

The County now uses the Esri Data Interoperability Extension to prepare their GIS data for delivery to their County's emergency dispatch for use in their I/CAD system to increase the speed of their emergency response.

What They're Saying

"The Esri Data Interoperability Extension made it possible for us to quickly prepare our data for contribution to the Esri Community Maps program," **says Shilpa Bhadsavle, GIS Analyst at Williamson County.** *"The tool is so simple, we were able to convert our data extremely quickly without any knowledge of Python."*

"Now that we've seen how quickly we can convert data with the Esri Data Interoperability Extension, we're applying it in other areas of our day-to-day business," **says Richard Semple, GIS & 911 Addressing Director at Williamson County.** *"We're now able to share our GIS data with emergency responders to help increase their speed in providing urgent medical care to our community."*

Learn More

Discover how FME technology can help you quickly prepare your data for contribution to the Esri Community Maps Program, and increase data access for your organization by visiting:
www.safe.com/communitymaps

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