

University of Delaware Project Description:

The Delaware Data Mapping and Integration Laboratory (DataMIL) brings together local, state, and federal agencies by creating a "geography network" for the State of Delaware. The DataMIL facilitates the collection, integration, maintenance, distribution, and visualization of Delaware's spatial data infrastructure, in particular, the geographic framework data layers of the state: transportation, waterways, elevation, land use, municipal boundaries, geographic names, tax parcels, and aerial photography.

Components of Delaware's Framework are owned, created, and maintained by different agencies. Data such as tax parcels and transportation are best maintained within the state, while elevation and hydrography may be best maintained on a regional or national level. However, changes in one Framework dataset may require changes in others. Integrating this constantly changing information is therefore an enormous institutional and technological challenge. Accessibility to distributed Framework data has been another obstacle to their use. Even though these data provide the foundation for many geospatial operations and studies, obtaining current Framework data have typically involved downloads from several web sites, ordering data on CDs, and significant, individual data preparation.

The DataMIL Project is a one-stop shop for complete, statewide, up-to-date datasets for the entire Delaware Framework. Users can access DataMIL's geodatabase directly through web mapping services, or by creating customized maps online for any location in Delaware. Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) are being written to identify data stewards for every component of Delaware's Framework and include procedures for keeping the geodatabase current.

A significant DataMIL capability relates to USGS topographic maps. The National Map is a USGS vision of a digital, seamless, nationwide, continually maintained database for the framework layers of the United States. Users will connect to The National Map and create a customized map-on-demand, rather than purchasing outdated, traditional topo maps. Currently, Delaware DataMIL users can create customized 8.5"x11" and full-sized 22"x30" topographic maps of any location in Delaware, at any scale, and in a variety of formats. With goals closely aligned to The National Map's goals, DataMIL has become The National Map's leading pilot project.

The Project facilitates direct community involvement. The DataMIL Discussion Forums encourage the general public to comment on erroneous information they find on the online maps. A DataMIL Forum gatekeeper then routes the comments to appropriate data stewards who determine the necessary corrective action, provide feedback to the forum, and update the DataMIL geodatabase.

Since its April, 2002 release, the Delaware DataMIL has received much public recognition in online and written periodicals. It was chosen as GIS.com's Site of the Week, and has received the Special Achievement in GIS Award at the 2002 ESRI International Users Conference and the Best of the Web, Honorable Mention from the Center for Digital Government.

Lead Presenter: John Callahan

Primary Collaborators:

RDMS, Office of Information Technologies, University of Delaware Delaware Geological Survey Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination United States Geological Survey

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