

Connecting to Services Running on Other Computers

When building a project in ArcView, you are not limited to data that is stored on your computer or network. You can also take advantage of data that is being served from other sites. The first thing you need to do is find the web address of a site that is hosting this sort of data.

It is not always easy to find these sites, they are not all posted in a single location, but here are some of the most common sites:

NOTE: You MUST be able to access the Internet from the computer you are using.

MSDIS

<http://msdismapper.col.missouri.edu>

This site hosts the 2006 color aerial photography.

Geography Network

<http://www.geographynetwork.com>

USDA

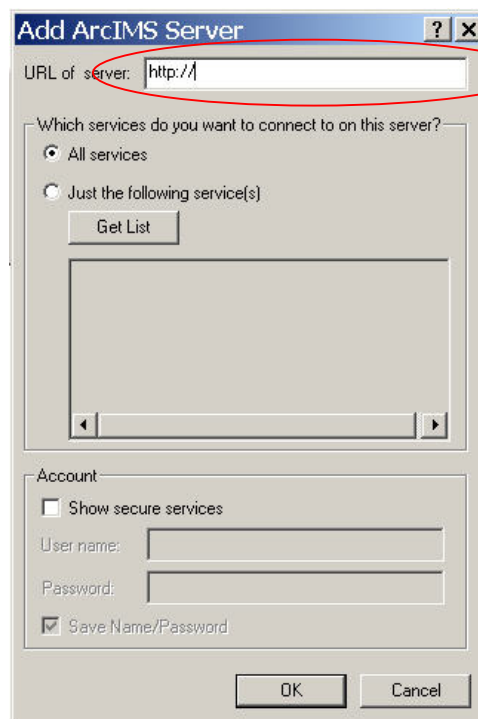
<http://gdw.apfo.usda.gov>

USGS

<http://gisdata.usgs.net>

Each site is hosting a variety of services. You can choose to see the whole list, or limit your selection to only one or a few.

Scroll to the bottom of the list of network connections in ArcCatalog. Expand the GIS Servers section and select Add ArcIMS Server to activate the dialog.



Enter one of the URLs listed above. "All services" establishes a link to every service running at that site. For "Just the following services (s)", click "Get list" to preview the services and connect to only some services when you make the connection.

Choosing only selected services is much faster, but you may want to see "All Services" at first just to get an idea of what is available.



Once the connection is established, the available services (or those you chose from the list) will appear in a list. On the left is a example from the <http://msdismapper.col.missouri.edu>. Note the naip07 listing. NAIP is the color aerial photography that was flown by the USDA in 2007.

There is also a service called State_ft.

You will not need to go through the Add ArcIMS Server step every time.



The connection you created will be added to your ArcCatalog listing below the GIS Servers section.

Not every site that hosts in Internet Mapping page can be connected in this way, but generally sites that host these sorts of pages can be consumed as data from within ArcView.

Once you have created this link, you can simply drag a particular service (in the example, naip06) into your ArcMap project. You will find this is noticeable slower than data that is loaded locally, but the convenience of incorporating data into your project without having to load anything should outweigh the minor inconvenience of slower display time.

Each service will contain a variety of data layers, not just one. It can sometimes add an entire projects worth of data into ArcView (e.g. county boundaries, roads, lakes), so take some time to inspect what sorts of data you are really loading. If your data seems more accurate or current, you can always turn off some of the data layers that are being drawn from the ArcIMS Server.

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