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GIS\Key™

# NEWS

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Free newsletter for clients and those interested in enhancing their environmental data management and GIS capabilities

## “Shapedrill” Module Adds Functionality to ArcView

The strength of a standard layered GIS is the simplicity of the presentation and the familiarity most GIS professionals have with the common approach.

Its weakness is the frustration new users have with cryptic layer descriptions and trying to find the **WHAT** and **WHERE** for the data of interest. When a GIS author employs more than 15 or 20 layers, the GIS table of contents creates a confusing picture. Currently, the only way a GIS user can search for a theme or layer is by file name or directory structure.

Shapedrill creates a **searchable interface within the user’s mapping platform** for saving and retrieving GIS or CAD entities using our proprietary SmartQuery technology, which is data driven and helps users find, save, sort and retrieve information. This unique “data drilldown” technology makes it easy for users to search through and manage large numbers of project themes, layers and other entities. **The term “data driven” includes geography, because coordinate information is part of all GIS metadata.** Users may search through all metadata or just those from an arbitrary region of the map.

**Shapedrill is an “intelligent assistant” that uses the idea of thematic drill-down to provide the exact data the user wants -- Shapedrill helps the data tell you about itself.**

Shapedrill provides a solution for the GIS professional limited by someone

else’s ‘Layers’. Whether the original author was a classic “Grouper” (large data sets) or “Splitter” (many small data sets).

**Shapedrill automates a) conversion of existing ‘Layers’ into Searchable Databases and b) return of that information to the map when desired.**

Shapedrill uses coordinate geometry to add precision mapping and GIS analysis to your data. With two mouse clicks, users can select a map region; Shapedrill then returns information on all data types within the selected coordinate range. Shapedrill can use any ODBC-compliant database platform and provides a simple, efficient, and organized process for authoring, managing, evaluating, and monitoring spatial data.

Shapedrill places different data types in their own tables so that a specific data type can be selected for presentation and evaluation using common attributes. Shapedrill delivers the power to dynamically search stored data and author new layers on the fly based on the user’s real-time needs, not someone else’s pre-selected process or structure. **Users no longer have to manually search endless layers to find data.**

**Example 1:** Finding a specific aerial photo. The user selects a specific map region and Shapedrill takes them directly to scaled background views of aerial photos geocoded to that

## In This Issue ...

**New “Shapedrill”  
Module for ArcView 3.2  
and 8.x**

**New GIS\Key NPDES  
Module**

**New Staff Member in  
Walnut Creek**

## How Does Shapedrill Benefit ArcView Users?

### Key Shapedrill Benefits:

- Provides a searchable interface to your shapefiles
- Eliminates the need to know how to make queries
- Reduces search time through an interactive search
- Search by Where What and When without knowing the data

## Shapedrill in ArcView 8.x

GIS\Solutions’ Shapedrill module for ArcView 8.x invokes the same context-sensitive data drilldown technique using a Windows Explorer metaphor within the Arc Catalog framework, so that users can take advantage of its additional navigation tools and overall integration with ArcGIS version 8.x.

(Continued on page 2)





### NPDES Module for GIS\Key v3.x

Since the initial release of GIS\Key v1.0 over eleven years ago, the system has supported flow and flux calculations used to calculate, for instance, total mass or weight of a contaminant processed by a pumping well.

In essence, this capability plus standard GIS\Key chemistry is sufficient to perform NPDES calculations and produce DMR and other required reports. Scout's flexible architecture enabled our programmers to add this custom reporting capability to our chemistry module. They have also added tables to the GIS\Key database to store and process NPDES permit information, required parameters, sample types, analysis frequencies, etc.

The result is a new module which offers customizable DMR reports as well as flow and flux statistics reports (in conjunction with the GIS\Key Statistics Module). NPDES capability is fully integrated with GIS. Please call us for details about this new capability for your projects!

### Meet our Newest Staff Member: Susan Poole

We are very pleased to announce that Ms. Susan Poole has joined our administrative group as of November 2001. Susan has over 12 years experience in accounting, business administration and customer service.

Susan has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Aurora College in California, has completed a variety of graduate courses in accounting and computer technology. She is also a Notary

Prior to joining GIS\Solutions, Susan worked for over ten years in administration and finance for AAA Water Systems and Ecowater, both in California.

Susan is mechanically inclined, loves sports and the outdoors in general. She also possesses a Physical Education teaching certificate for kindergarten to 12th grade education.

#### *Susan enjoys speaking with clients!*

Please feel free to call her if you have any questions about your software or services contract with GIS\Solutions, your maintenance program or an invoice. She can be reached at 925-944-3720.



**Susan Poole**

Please join us in welcoming Susan to GIS\Solutions!

*(Continued from page 1)*

region. This makes final selection easy. Shapedrill then returns the chosen photo to the map.

**Example 2:** Finding property descriptions or landowners satisfying specific criteria on a parcel map. Users select a map region and Shapedrill returns detailed information on parcels contained in that region, along with the capability to filter that information for desired characteristics. After selection, Shapedrill highlights only the selected parcels on the map.

The original users' theme, layer, file names and directory structure no longer matters. Only the map region and data type.

**Let GIS\Solutions help you create a searchable GIS interface for your data!**

### Shapedrill particularly enhances ArcView performance by:

- ⇒ **Saving/Retrieving Projects and Layouts;**
- ⇒ **Stabilizing the ArcView project environment;**
- ⇒ **Adding portability to ArcView projects;**
- ⇒ **Making it easy for users to manage, sort and recall large numbers of themes and other entities using the embedded object model.**