

Frequently Asked Questions

ESRI and Stratus Technologies ArcGIS Server Demonstration Project Grant Program

What is ArcGIS Server?

ArcGIS Server is a complete and integrated server-based geographic information system (GIS) framework. It comes with out-of-the-box, end user applications and services for spatial data management and visualization and spatial analysis.

ArcGIS Server provides a platform to develop centralized GIS applications that are scalable, standards based, and easily supported. These applications can be served through networks to both thin clients (lightweight applications) as well as thick clients (the traditional GIS users who edit and perform computationally intensive geoprocessing on their desktops). A good way to think about ArcGIS Server is that it adds to ArcSDE the capability to do server-based GIS processing—not just data access.

ArcGIS Server complements ArcGIS Desktop by allowing GIS analysts to cost-effectively author maps, globes, and geoprocessing tasks on their desktop and publish them to ArcGIS Server using integrated tools. GIS functions can then be delivered as services throughout the enterprise.

What can I do with ArcGIS Server?

ArcGIS Server is best understood in the context of scenarios of how it will be deployed. ArcGIS Server will support ArcObjects technology-based geoprocessing and mapping applications on the server. Many organizations need to build server-side applications for spatial analysis for which results are displayed in ArcGIS.

ArcGIS Server offers the following advantages:

- Lower cost of ownership through centrally managed, focused GIS applications that can scale to support many users
- Browser-based access to GIS
- Integration with other enterprise systems such as customer relationship management (CRM) or enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems using industry-standard software
- Provides the foundation for geospatially enabling a service-oriented architecture (SOA)

- Support for interoperability standards in both the GIS domain (Open Geospatial Consortium) as well as the broader information technology (IT) domain (World Wide Web Consortium [W3C])
- Ability to create custom applications using .NET or Java

Some users will want to build simple editing applications that update the geodatabase via thin clients. ArcGIS Server does not support the sophisticated editing that ArcEditor does, but it will address many users' needs in this area. Conversely, other users will want to use the ArcGIS Server business logic to check out and check in "versions" of a geodatabase using thicker clients (e.g., ArcEditor) for more sophisticated editing.

Learn more about ArcGIS Server and ESRI's server platforms by visiting <http://www.esri.com/servergis>.

What is ArcGIS Server Advanced Enterprise?

ArcGIS 9.2 Server offers a scalable line of editions that are built from a common set of technology components. ArcGIS Server is licensed by both user-driven functionality and server capacity.

The functional editions of the product are these:

- **Basic**—This edition provides users with a comprehensive GIS server for spatial data management. It focuses on organizing and managing geographic datasets.
- **Standard**—This edition provides users with a comprehensive GIS server for spatial data management and visualization (mapping). This includes 2D mapping; 3D rendering (globe) services; and a suite of related features such as geocoding, gazetteer, and routing. (All aspects of the Basic edition are included in the Standard edition.)
- **Advanced**—This edition provides users with a comprehensive GIS server for spatial data management, visualization (mapping), and spatial analysis including browser-based editing, geoprocessing, spatial analysis, and modeling. (All aspects of the Basic and Standard editions are included in the Advanced edition.)

Furthermore, for each functional edition there are also levels that define capacity. Server capacity levels are

- **Workgroup**—This level is designed and limited to run on a single machine with a single socket (single or dual core) and with an included SQL Server Express database engine.

- **Enterprise**—This level is designed to run and optionally deploy a GIS server on multiple machines, with scaling beyond two sockets per machine and on a user-defined database (SQL Server, DB2, Informix, or Oracle).

What is ArcGIS Explorer?

ArcGIS Explorer is a lightweight desktop client for ArcGIS Server. It can be used to access, integrate, and utilize GIS services, geographic content, and other Web services. ArcGIS Explorer can also be used with a variety of other GIS services such as those published using ArcIMS, ArcWeb Services, Web Map Services (WMS), and other Web services. In addition, ArcGIS Explorer can use local data such as shapefiles, file geodatabases, KML, JPEG 2000, GeoTIFF, MrSID, IMG, and other image formats. ArcGIS Explorer integrates the rich world of GIS datasets and server-based geoprocessing applications. It does this by accessing the full GIS capabilities of ArcGIS Server including geoprocessing and 3D services.

With ArcGIS Explorer, you can

- Explore data for the entire world in 2D and 3D seamlessly.
- Fuse your local data with data and services from ArcGIS Server, ArcIMS, Open Geospatial Consortium WMS, and ESRI-hosted ArcWeb Services.
- Perform GIS analysis using tasks (e.g., visibility, modeling, proximity search).
- Answer geographic questions about the maps you generate and share the results with others.
- Use maps and data from your own secure servers.

What training is supplied?

There is currently no formal training provided for ArcGIS Server via the grant. The grant recipient will be provided with eight hours of onsite support as a training vehicle. See grant guidelines section “What is Supplied?” Item 6.

My framework data needs differ from the grant requirements. Can I still apply?

If you are working on an application that would not use streets, parcels, and centerlines, please feel free to apply. Simply state what your core data layers are and describe the availability.

Who is Stratus Technologies?

Stratus delivers continuously available products, services, and solutions with unmatched operational simplicity, providing a compelling financial advantage to its customers.

- **Continuous availability**—Only Stratus servers deliver five nines (99.999 percent) and greater uptime; the company calls it continuous availability. From an end user's perspective, the Stratus approach to availability is automatic and transparent because every aspect of a Stratus system has been engineered from the ground up to safeguard uptime. Just plug in the system and load the application to get all the advantages of Stratus' Continuous Processing® features including lockstep technology, failsafe software, and ActiveServiceT architecture.
- **Operational simplicity**—Stratus server solutions eliminate the complexities of cluster deployment and its ongoing maintenance headaches. Because Stratus Continuous Processing features are engineered into the system, there is no need for failover scripting, repeated testing procedures, or any work required to make applications "cluster aware." Instead, Stratus servers automatically provide zero failover time and critical data protection for both memory and disk. As a result, your IT staff members are free to devote their time to other projects that are critical to your business success.
- **Compelling financial advantage**—Competitively priced to buy or lease, Stratus servers dramatically reduce the initial price of fault-tolerant systems and the costs associated with unplanned downtime and ongoing support expenses.

Stratus Technologies is a global solutions provider focused exclusively on helping its customers achieve and sustain the availability of information systems that support their critical business processes. Based on its 25 years of expertise in server and services technology for continuous availability, Stratus is a trusted solutions provider to customers in manufacturing, life sciences, telecommunications, financial services, public safety, transportation and logistics, and other industries.

Complete information about Stratus products, services, and technology is available at www.stratus.com.

What is the relationship between ESRI and Stratus Technologies?

Stratus Technologies is an ESRI Corporate Hardware Partner. ESRI and corporate hardware partners maintain relationships based on porting agreements as well as corporate sales and marketing alliances.

As a leading global provider of Continuous Processing technology and computer systems for more than a quarter century, Stratus Technologies has teamed with ESRI to offer the GIS community the most reliable solution possible for ArcSDE, ArcGIS Server, and ArcIMS applications. Stratus' field-proven ftServer systems have consistently delivered better than 99.999 percent uptime performance for applications that must be available around the clock. Moreover, the ftServer system is as simple to deploy, operate, and manage as a single stand-alone server.

What is the configuration of the software and hardware offered in the grant?

ArcGIS 9.2 Server installed with Advanced Edition and Enterprise-level licensing

The Stratus Server consists of the following*:

A 4U Rack-Mountable Stratus Fault-Tolerant 4300 Server including

- Two-way DMR, 3.2 GHz Processor, 1 MB iL2 Cache
- 4 GB DDR
- 74 GB 3.5 10000 rpm SATA Disk Drive
- 2 x 400 GB 7200 rpm SATA Disk Drives
- ftServer Slimline Read/Write DVD
- USB Floppy Disk Drive Kit
- USB Keyboard and Mouse
- ASN Modem, Backplane Mounted
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition OS with 25 Client Licenses
- ftServer 4300 JumpStart System Installation
- One-Year Assured Availability Plus Coverage (See details below.)

Assured Availability Plus Coverage Description:

- Assured Availability Program GuaranteeIncluded
(Terms and conditions apply.)
- Premium Services with MicrosoftIncluded
- Management priority escalation.....Included
- Same-day, on-site emergency service (where available).....Included
- ftServer system software update subscription.....Included
- Critical problem engineer response30 minutes
- Access to availability engineers.....24/7
- Access to software assistance24/7
- Access to hardware assistance24/7
- Remote hardware monitoring24/7
- Problem reliefSystem up and
running, plus root-
cause determination
- Advanced parts exchangeNext business day
- Secure remote accessInternet/modem;
bidirectional

*Server hardware provided will have been previously used in a demonstration setting at the ESRI International User Conference but will still be covered for a full year of Assured Availability Plus Coverage—a \$9,600 value.