

New Features in ArcCatalog 9

ArcCatalog helps users browse, search, explore, view, and manage data and maps. Here are some of the enhancements to ArcCatalog that were made with the release of ArcGIS 9.

Repair References to File-Based Data Sources

With the new Set Data Source command, broken links to data sources outside ArcSDE geodatabases can be easily updated. Right-click on the desired map document (.mxd) in ArcCatalog to invoke the Set Data Source dialog box. Click the Select All button to change the data source for all layers in the map document or hold down the Control key and click to select multiple layers. Click the Replace button and browse to the current data source location. This command can also be used with a published map file (.pmf) if the map's publisher has provided full access to its contents when it was published.

ArcView 8.x Tools Return

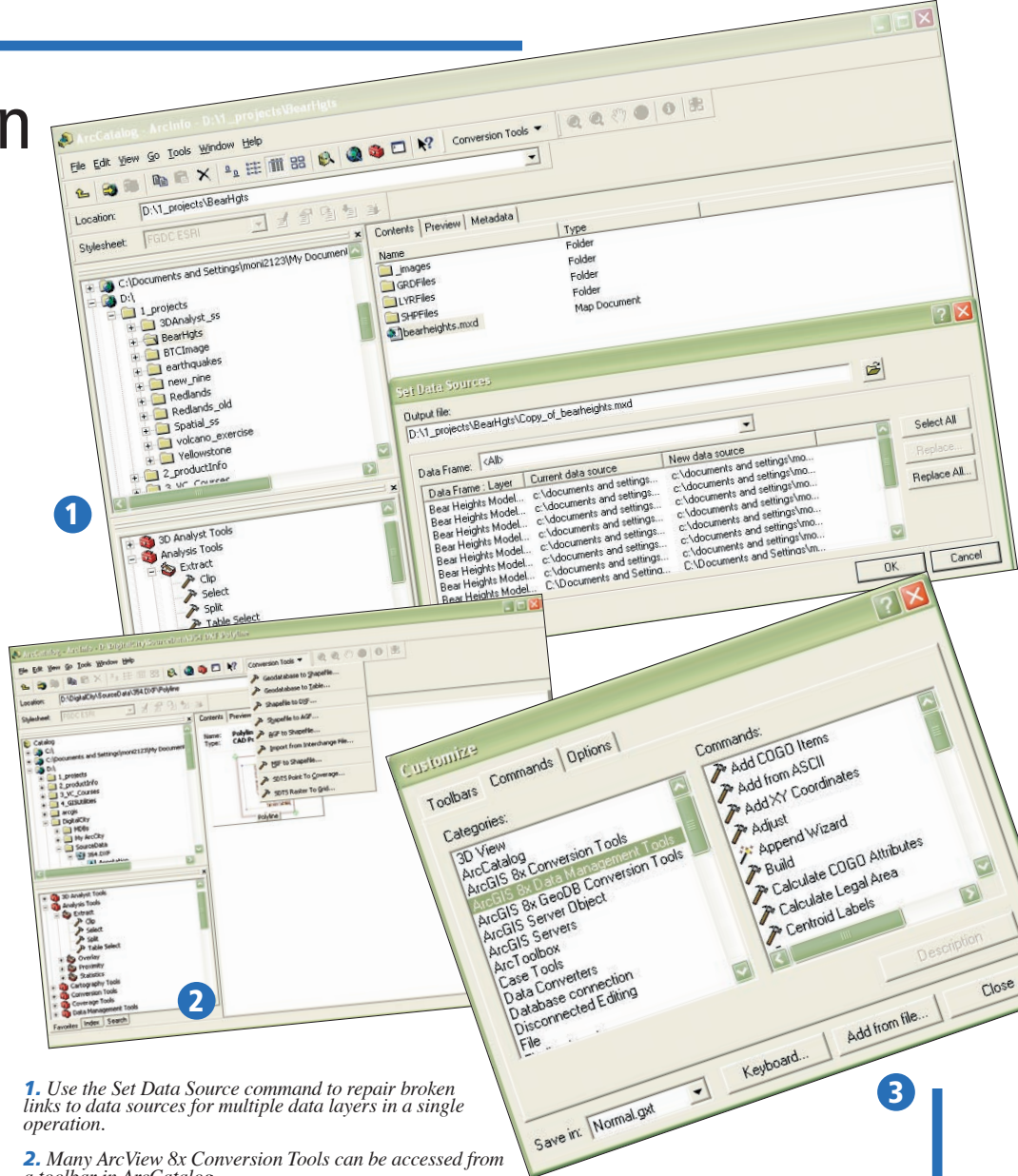
Back by popular demand, various ArcView 8.x tools have been included in ArcGIS 9. ArcGIS 8x Conversion Tools, ArcGIS 8x Data Management Tools, and ArcGIS 8x GeoDB Conversion Tools can be accessed either from a toolbar or by customizing ArcCatalog.

Display the ArcGIS 8x Conversion Tools toolbar by choosing View > Toolbars > ArcView 8x Tools from the ArcCatalog standard menu. It contains the following tools:

- Geodatabase to Shapefile
- Geodatabase to Table
- Shapefile to DXF
- Shapefile to AGF
- AGF to Shapefile
- Import from Interchange File
- MIF to Shapefile
- SDTS Point to Coverage
- SDTS Raster to Grid

The dialog box for each tool also provides batch capabilities. Although this toolbar is available for all license types, ArcView users may find it particularly useful. It is not necessary to select appropriate data in ArcCatalog before accessing any of these tools. However, selecting data before opening a tool will automatically populate the input fields in the dialog box.

Several additional ArcGIS 8x Conversion Tools can be added by customizing ArcCatalog. Choose Tools > Customize from the ArcCatalog Standard menu and highlight ArcGIS 8x Conversion Tools. From Route Event Table, INFO to dBASE and Raster to MrSID are available through customization. The ArcGIS 8x Data Management Tools and ArcGIS 8x GeoDB Conversion Tools are also accessed using customization.



1. Use the Set Data Source command to repair broken links to data sources for multiple data layers in a single operation.

2. Many ArcView 8x Conversion Tools can be accessed from a toolbar in ArcCatalog.

3. Customizing ArcCatalog allows access to additional ArcGIS 8x Conversion Tools and the ArcGIS 8x Data Management Tools and ArcGIS 8x GeoDB Conversion Tools.

ArcGIS 8.x tools supplied through customization can be dragged and dropped onto any ArcCatalog toolbar, drop-down menu, or context menu for the appropriate input data type. Some ArcGIS 8.x tools added to toolbars or menus may only be available when data of the appropriate input type is selected from the ArcCatalog Contents tab.

Note: These tools are provided for the convenience of users and are “as is”—they have not benefited from any additional development. Because the 8.x tools are not part of the new geoprocessing framework, the new conversion tools in ArcGIS 9 are recommended and can be accessed by right-clicking data in ArcCatalog or using the new ArcToolbox window.

Changes to Internet Connections

The Internet Servers folder in ArcCatalog has been renamed to GIS Servers and contains connections to two types of servers: ArcIMS servers and ArcGIS servers. ArcIMS server connections are unchanged at version 9.0. Connections

to servers created using ArcGIS Server, a new server product in the ArcGIS 9 family that is purchased separately from ArcGIS Desktop, can be made locally or via the Internet. ArcCatalog provides tools for administering ArcGIS servers and their contents.

In ArcGIS 8.3, a connection to the Geography Network ArcIMS server was automatically installed by ArcGIS. This connection is still automatically installed, but it is now called Geography Network Services hosted by ESRI to reflect the fact that the services available on this server don't include everything available in the Geography Network—just those services that are hosted by ESRI on that particular ArcIMS server. Hundreds of additional services on the Geography Network, not hosted by ESRI, are now available. To access those resources in ArcMap, choose File > Add Data from Internet > Geography Network.

For additional information on new features in ArcCatalog, see the online help under “What's New in ArcGIS 9 Desktop.”