

Getting Started with ArcGIS Explorer: Viewing ESRI Maps and Layers

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University GIS Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series, "Essential ArcGIS Tutorial Series." The task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing specific tasks in GIS.

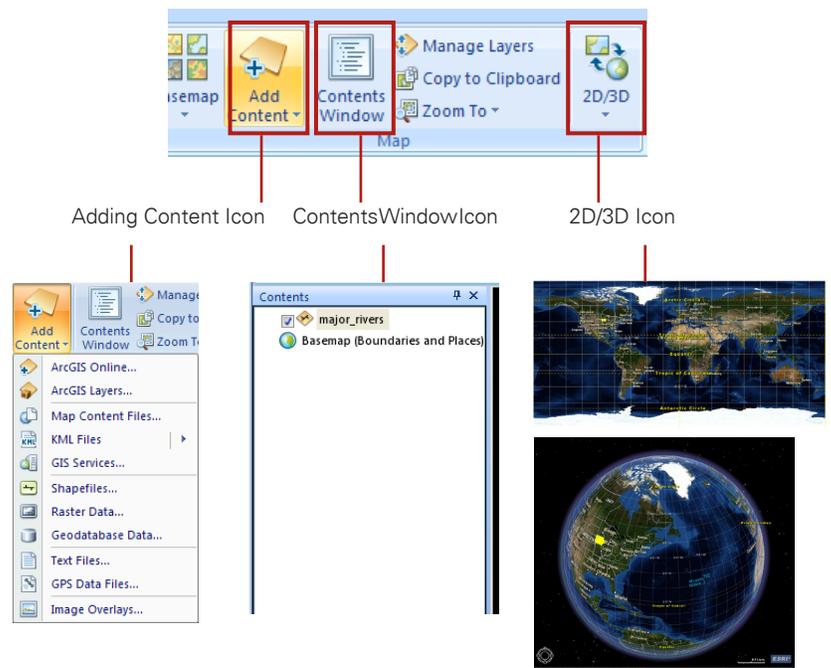
ArcGIS Explorer is a free GIS application produced by ESRI that can be used to access, view and interact with online and local GIS content. The software is available from <http://www.esri.com/>

1. Open ArcGIS Explorer

Click **Start > Programs > ArcGIS > Explorer**.

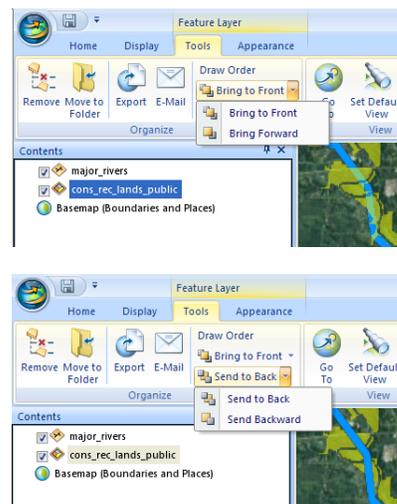
2. Viewing Content

1. Add content from a local or online source by selecting the **Add Content** icon from the **Home** ribbon.
2. To view content added to the map, select the **Contents Window** icon from the **Home** ribbon.
3. To switch between a 2-D or 3-D display, select the **2D/3D** icon from the **Home** ribbon.

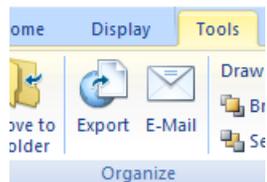


3. Organizing Content

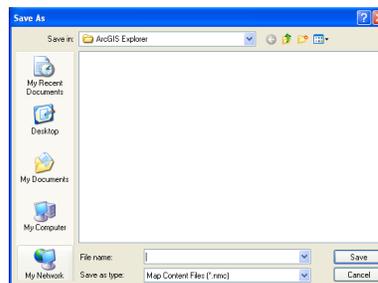
1. Under the **Tools** tab from the ArcGIS Explorer ribbon are a variety of options to organize, share and view layers.
2. Under **Organize**, select **Bring to Front** under **Draw Order**, to bring the selected layers to the front of all other layers. Select the arrow beside **Bring to Front** and select **Bring Forward** to bring the selected layers in front of the previous layer in the drawing order.
3. Under **Organize**, select **Send to Back** or select the corresponding arrow and **Send Backward** and the selected layers will move behind other layers on the map.



4. Select the **E-Mail** icon to send the layer using the operating system's default e-mail program.

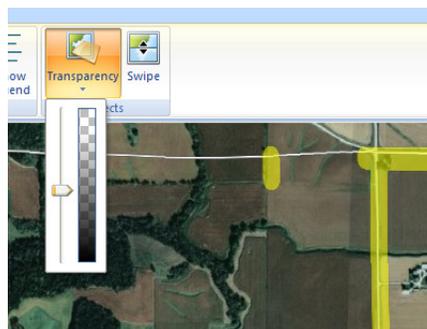


5. Select the **Export** icon to save the layer as a **.nmc** file (an ArcGIS file format) to a drive connected to the computer.

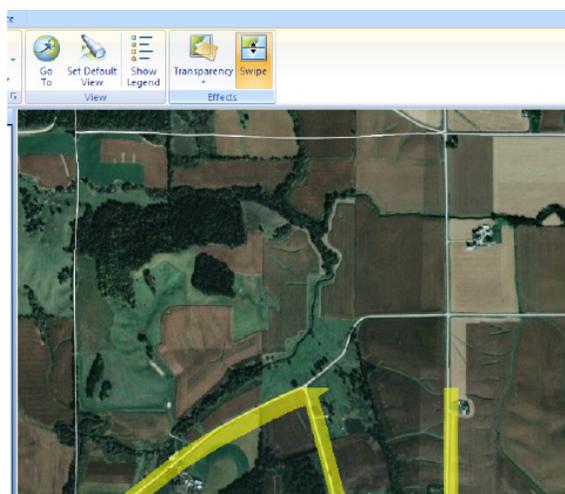


4. Effects for Content

1. Under **Effects**, select the **Transparency** icon and drag the slider to adjust the transparency of the selected layer. The selected layer will become transparent, and content below it will become visible.



2. Under **Effects**, select the **swipe** icon then click and drag the cursor across the map to view a portion of the layer. A section of the selected layer will still be visible while the remaining portion will be invisible.



Contacts

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This task sheet and more are available for free download at www.extension.iastate.edu/gis.

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