

Course Completion Report Introduction to Online GIS Maps

Course 4.4



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1 CONTENT

- Course data
- Course objectives
- Training focus group
- Practical and theoretical work
- Course evaluation: comments from participants
- Recommendations for next or other courses

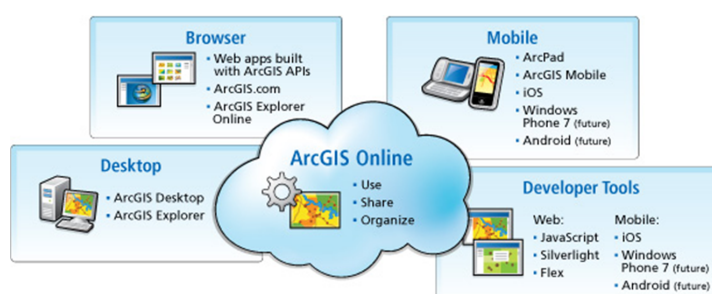
2 COURSE DATA:

Name of course:	Course 4.4: Introduction to Online GIS Maps
Number of participants:	11 trainees from: RuWatSIP, MRRD, MEW, MoM
Location for training:	RuWatSIP Conference Room, MRRD
Date of implementation	16 th to 17 th September 2014
Course organiser	Mr. Andreas de Jong
Supporting presenter	Prof. Zarinkhail

3 COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this course were to introduce GIS users to (i) GIS maps using the ArcGIS Online utility, and (ii) demonstrate the use of ArcGIS Online in making hydrogeological maps of Faryab province. The course was designed to be mainly practical and taught using hands-on training.

ArcGIS Online is a simple, cloud-based utility for producing, editing, and sharing geospatial data. ArcGIS Online is a Web-based mapping solution for everyone from GIS professionals to those with no formal GIS training.



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4 TRAINING FOCUS GROUP

The focus group of this course were GIS professionals who are already familiar with ArcGIS and the MS Office suite of programs. Participants from the various ministries are as follows:

- RuWatSIP/MRRD: 6 persons
- MEW: 2 persons
- AGS: 1 person
- ESD: 1 person
- OFWMP: 1 person

5 PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL WORK

The course covers two days. The concept was to introduce the participants to ArcGIS Online during the first day, and then to use that knowledge to start using real data from Faryab during the second day. For this course the project had hired a dedicated 2MB Wi-Fi internet connection. The speed was sufficient for 11 participants, but the company had to be reminded to re-allocate the 2MB on the second day as the speed had dropped to below half of what it should have been. This caused some delays during the morning of the second day.

Day 1: during the first day there was a short presentation to introduce the concepts, advantages and limitations of the ArcGIS Online utility. The key topics covered included the desktop, internet browser and mobile ways to interact with ArcGIS Online, subscription and public accounts, the limitations of free public accounts, data types which are compatible with ArcGIS Online, and the data flow paths necessary to process the data.

This was followed by an ESRI tutorial called *Getting Started with ArcGIS Online*¹, which uses example data from the Island of Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean. A paper printout of the tutorials was made available to the participants. Each participant set up free individual student accounts with ESRI in order to access the tutorial data, and either worked on their own laptop or used one of the ones provided by the project. The following tutorials were covered during this course.

- Tutorial 1: Explore a map (15 minutes)
- Tutorial 2: Create a map (30 minutes)
- Tutorial 3: Add a layer from a CSV file (30 minutes)
- Tutorial 4: Configure pop-ups (45 minutes)

The first three tutorials were completed during the first day. Note that a multiplier of about three needs to be applied to the ESRI time estimates for each tutorial, in order to cover translation time and associated explanations.

¹ Available at: <http://learn.arcgis.com/en/projects/get-started-with-arcgis-online/>

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Day 2: The forth tutorial was completed during the morning of the second day. Then the participants started exploring available data from Faryab to create their own water resources maps of the province. The data layers which have been uploaded by the project were the starting point for this training. A small sample of the hundreds of other layers available online were introduced, and it is hoped that the participants will continue to explore these in their own time.

The day was concluded by a short workshop to discuss the impact and use of online GIS maps in Afghanistan.

6 COURSE EVALUATION: COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

The course was evaluated with the three standard questions as shown below. Feedback was collected and organized in an Excel spreadsheet. The course evaluation document is available on the project website with full comments.

The evaluation questions and the participants' response in percentage were as follows. Note that one of the eleven participants did not grade questions 1 and 3, and the percentages have been adjusted accordingly:

Question 1: Did the training course meet your expectations?

1= Completely, 2=Partially, 3= Not at all,

Response: Completely:40%, Partially:60%, Not at all: 0%.

Question 2: What do you think about the overall relevance of training course? Considering the limits on your time and the topics discussed? 1= Too Long, 2= Just right, 3 = Too short

Response: Too Long: 9%, Just right: 36%, Too short: 55%.

Question 3: How the relevant was the training workshop to your organization or project's need? 1= Very relevant, 2 = Somewhat relevant, 3 = Not relevant

Response: Very relevant: 90%, Somewhat relevant: 10%, Not relevant:0%.

7 RECOMENDATIONS IF THE COURSE WAS TO BE REPEATED

1. This course is designed to be repeated for three different audiences. The first course was targeted at GIS users, who have not yet used ArcGIS Online. Several of the participants have already asked for a more advanced follow up course, and this should be implemented once they have finished the MS Access course, and possibly a short course on practical data management. i.e. it is planned to run an *Advanced Course in ArcGIS Online* in a few months' time.

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2. There is another very important group of people who may find ArcGIS Online useful in their professional lives, but who do not need to necessarily upload their own data. For this group of users a separate course is planned which will introduce them to the *Practical Application of ArcGIS Online*.
3. An internet speed of minimum 1MB per five participants is prerequisite for this course.

Report prepared by: Andreas de Jong, International Training Expert, Norplan, September 2014.