GIS247 IN FOCUS

GIS247 – expert knowledge, flexible training. Providing e-learning for GIS users.

GIS247 Course Updates

In addition to full training courses at GIS247 there are also a huge range of mini modules available. Mini modules are short presentations addressing a specific topic. They are ideal for post training follow up when you want a quick 'refresher' on how to do something specific. The focus of our development work recently has been the production of a huge series of mini modules for version 10.2 of ArcGIS.

New training that has arrived:

Mini modules for ArcGIS v10.2 - in the following categories -

- About ArcGIS – 10+ presentations
- GIS Data Structures – 18+ presentations
- Adding Data – 40+ presentations
- Symbolising – 30+ presentations
- Working in Data View – 23+ presentations
- Working in Layout View – 35+ presentations
- Working with Attributes – 30+ presentations
- Spatial Analysis – 20+ presentations
- Shared Data Sources – 15+ presentations
- Editing Data – 35+ presentations
- Labels & Annotation – 35+ presentations

Access the mini modules at www.gis247.com/catalog/mini_modules_arcgis_10.2

New training that is on its way:

- ArcGIS Customisation – additional mini modules for ArcGIS v10.2 - 15+ presentations
- Beginners Guide to MapInfo v12.0 – full course with presentations & exercises
- Upgrading from ArcGIS v10.0 to v10.2 – full course with presentations & exercises
- Introduction to QGIS – full course with presentations & exercises

If you would like to see any particular training course, modules or new software/topics become available please do let us know. Email us at info@GIS247.com

Happy New Year!

This is our first newsletter of 2014 and we would like to wish you a very Happy New Year and Chinese New Year.

2014 is going to be a very big and exciting year for us at GIS247. We have some really exciting developments planned and are expanding the number of training courses that we provide.

There are also a few other changes and developments we will be making which will enable us to provide an even better service and continue to expand.

Newsletters

If you have missed any of our previous month's GIS247 newsletters, don't worry, you can find them on our news page

www.gis247.com/gis247_news

User Feedback

"I'd just like to proffer an update and personal feedback on my experience with GIS247 so far. I'm pleased to say that the site runs smoothly and quickly. The training materials have been exceptionally useful so far."

"I started as a complete novice to ArcGIS but a competent user of computers in general. I therefore pick things up quickly and sometimes find courses go too slowly. The pace of ArcGIS courses is excellent, I have never felt things have run either too quickly or too slowly."

"The exercises have been worthwhile, checking my understanding and expanding it. In a short time I've been able to incorporate ArcGIS into my work flow, thanks to your courses."

Dr Edward Almond, Natural England

In the Spotlight

Natural England - GIS software migration project

The GIS247 service was initially rolled out across Natural England to support GIS users as a software migration took place to ArcGIS. GIS247 has been a valuable training and support tool during the migration; it now provides different levels of ongoing training to all levels of user throughout the organisation. Access to the e-learning at GIS247 has helped support a range of projects including the spatial analysis component of the Native Bees study.

"There is a desire in the UK to ensure that the spread of non-native insect species to protected sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) is minimised. Geographical Information Systems and analysis are useful tools in modelling the potential spread of insects such as bumblebees across the landscape and locating sites which may be at risk."

"Some non-native bumblebee species are used by businesses to pollinate crops, if these non-native bumblebees escape from the site where they are used there is a strong chance that they may travel to nearby protected sites and establish breeding colonies."

"Using ArcGIS we were able to convert a spreadsheet containing information on the location of businesses using non-native bumblebees to a spatial dataset using coordinates provided in the spreadsheet. Natural England already stores and maintains a spatial dataset for SACs which could now be displayed alongside the bee dataset in ArcMap to enable cartographic output."

"By following the GIS247 courses, we were able to build up basic skills to use ArcGIS; and by using specific modules we were able to learn how to use the ArcToolbox buffer tools. Each module was broken into sections that allowed us to focus precisely on our learning requirements."

"Using ArcToolbox we could then buffer the non-native bumblebees data to simulate expected maximum distances the bumblebees are capable of travelling. Using these buffers it was possible to select SACs that were within the modelled distances and identify them as high-risk locations, as it was possible non-native bumblebees might migrate to these sites. This could both be mapped in ArcGIS or exported as a table to be used in other non-GIS software packages."

"Using this information it has been possible for Natural England to identify potential threats from non-native bumblebee species and to focus its resources to best effect."

This article has been put together in collaboration with Richard Clarke and Harjit Panesar at Natural England. Richard is a Lead Advisor in the Regulatory Improvement and Specialist Services Team. Harjit is a Lead Advisor in the Geographical Information and Analysis Services Team.

Access the full article on our GIS247 website www.gis247.com/testimonial
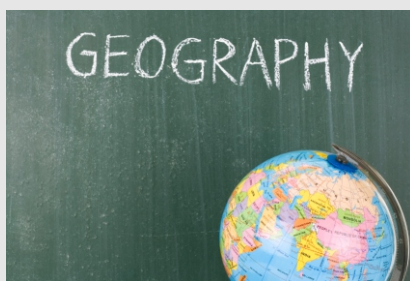

E-Learning Benefits

FLEXIBILITY FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF USER CAPABILITY

There are a range of courses at GIS247 which target the requirement of users who have different levels of skill and capability.

Therefore each user has the ability to pick and choose which course meets their personal requirement or specialist area that they are interested in.

So when an organisation has a licence to the training at GIS247 they are meeting the need of all their GIS users from beginners, those with intermediate capability and those that are advanced users – all for a single annual fee.

Read about all the benefits that e-learning has to offer on our website www.gis247.com/benefits_you

GIS247 E-learning Courses

- ArcGIS - beginner through to advanced

- MapInfo - beginner through to advanced

- ArcGIS Extensions

- GIS Essentials

ArcGIS and MapInfo courses are available in all software versions.

GIS247

www.gis247.com

Natural England's Carbon Challenge

Claire Edwards, the Team Leader for Geographic Information at Natural England explains how they have reduced their carbon footprint with a bit of help from GIS247....

"In 2007 Natural England was set the challenge of reducing our organisational carbon by 50% which in 2010 we had achieved. As a result of our amazing achievements we were awarded the European Travel Buyer award in 2012 and also have met the Carbon Trust Standard."

"This is an amazing achievement considering Natural England is a dispersed organisation located in over 20 offices across England. GIS247 and the work developed by Sological Solutions has helped us reduce and maintain our carbon footprint. GIS users are spread across the whole country and running face to face training programmes has been a real challenge."

"GIS247 allows trainees to learn at home or in the office at a time that is best for them. GIS247 has allowed us to reduce the amount of classroom courses, travel and therefore saved money too."

Question of the Month:

How many times can I take the same course at GIS247?

You can take a course as many times as you wish within your licence period. This means that you can really get the most from your training by being able to re-watch the presentations and re-do the course exercises until you are totally happy that you are confident with your new knowledge and skills.

Most of our users watch the presentations at least twice and also go through the exercises twice as they feel this really helps them consolidate.

It also useful to be able to go back over a certain topic if you have had a break from using the software for a while.

The exhibition is FREE but you do need to register.

Go to:
www.geobusinessshow.com

Come and see us on stand K4.

Interesting the World of GIS

Coldest Spot on Earth

The coldest place on Earth has been identified in the middle of Antarctica. It has been measured by satellite to be an extremely cold minus 93.2 Celsius (-135.8F).

Researchers say it is a preliminary figure, and, as they refine data from other space-borne thermal sensors, it is quite likely they will identify an even colder figure by a degree or so.

The current record low of minus 89.2C was also measured in Antarctica. This occurred at the nearby Russian Vostok base in July, 1983.

This was an air temperature taken a few metres above the surface, and so has the recognition of the World Meteorological Organization as the official coldest place on the planet.

The new satellite figure is the 'skin' temperature of the ice surface itself. But the corresponding air temperature would almost certainly have beaten the Vostok mark.

In comparison, the hottest recorded 'skin' temperature on Earth by satellite sensor is the Dasht-e Lut salt desert in southeast Iran, where it reached 70.7C in 2005.

Read the full article on the BBC website www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-25287806

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