

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q. How can I get started with ArcPad?

A. You can use the QuickProject tool to create a ready-to-use data capture project. QuickProject enables you to take ArcPad into the field, with or without preexisting data, and quickly start capturing data into new shapefiles. When you choose New QuickProject, with only two screen taps you can create ArcPad map, point, polyline, and polygon shapefiles with custom input forms and editable category values that can then be changed dynamically in the field.

In addition, a collection of ArcPad templates is available as a starting point for creating your own ArcPad project. The templates highlight specific applications of ArcPad technology to solve industry problems. These templates vary from tools to applets to forms, all of which illustrate the practical benefits of ArcPad.

Q. What data formats does ArcPad support?

A. ArcPad supports vector map and raster image display, which includes industry-standard data formats:

- ESRI shapefiles
- ArcPad graphics
- ArcPad photo layers
- Images – MrSID (MG2 and MG3), Jpeg, Jpeg 2000, TIFF, GIF, PNG, Windows bitmap, CADRg and ArcIMS image services via internet.

Q. What GPS receivers does ArcPad support?

A. ESRI does not publish a list of supported GPS receivers for ArcPad. However, ArcPad supports the following protocols for communicating with GPS receivers:

- National Marine and Electronics Association (NMEA) 0183, version 2.0
- Trimble Standard Interface Protocol (TSIP)
- Rockwell PLGR Protocol
- Delorme Earthmate

Q. Can I customize ArcPad?

A. ArcPad users are able to customize ArcPad and build focused applications using ArcPad Studio. Developers can build focused applications within the desktop environment and deploy them on numerous ArcPad devices in their organization. ArcPad Studio is free with ArcPad 8.0.

Q. What is ArcPad Studio?

A. ArcPad Studio is the desktop customization application included with the latest version of ArcPad software, ArcPad 8. All customization for ArcPad is performed on the desktop, primarily using ArcPad Studio, and deployed with ArcPad on the mobile device. ArcPad Studio gives users the tools to customize ArcPad but is not required to utilize a customized version of ArcPad.

Q. How do I deploy the custom applications I create for ArcPad?

A. The customization files (applets, extensions, default configurations, and layer definition files) can be deployed to any, ArcPad user. No special ArcPad runtime is required. Simply copy the customization files to the appropriate folders on the end user's device. More advanced installations can be created if necessary.

Q. How can I extend the functionality of ArcPad?

A. ArcScripts has numerous templates and scripts that have been created for ArcPad. These range from adding functionality to streamlining processes. The ArcPad Templates pages have been created as a resource for downloading a variety of industry-focused applications.

Q. Can you explain the difference between ArcPad and ArcGIS Mobile GIS solutions?

A. Because these technologies run on handheld devices under the same Windows mobile environment and support some of the same functionality, they are often confused. Both of these technologies boost mobile productivity and are used to support GIS professionals and their field efforts. However, they are built with different code bases and are different in their deployment and application.

ArcPad is an efficient GIS solution for mobile applications and field data collection; it provides dozens of tools for mapping, query, field editing, and analysis. It operates entirely in a disconnected environment where users download information from ArcGIS Desktop; take information out into the field; and, upon return, upload the edits and collected data to the desktop. ArcPad can also be customized for specific field tasks or projects.

By contrast, [ArcGIS Mobile](#) is used to build and deploy custom mobile applications and is installed as a part of [ArcGIS Server](#). ArcGIS Mobile is designed to support specific field workflows. Work done in the field can be published and made instantly available to the entire organization. ArcGIS Mobile is considered an enterprise application because it synchronizes directly with an enterprise server.

ArcGIS Mobile is used to develop focused applications. It is also a platform for real-time tracking where users can build an application that tracks the location of mobile workers from a central server environment (e.g., to create and share a common operating picture). One can easily imagine how an organization with many field-workers may wish to track the workers' locations as well as receive input and observations from their field activities.