

Virtual Classroom is a Real-Time Hit!

by Daniel Kestner

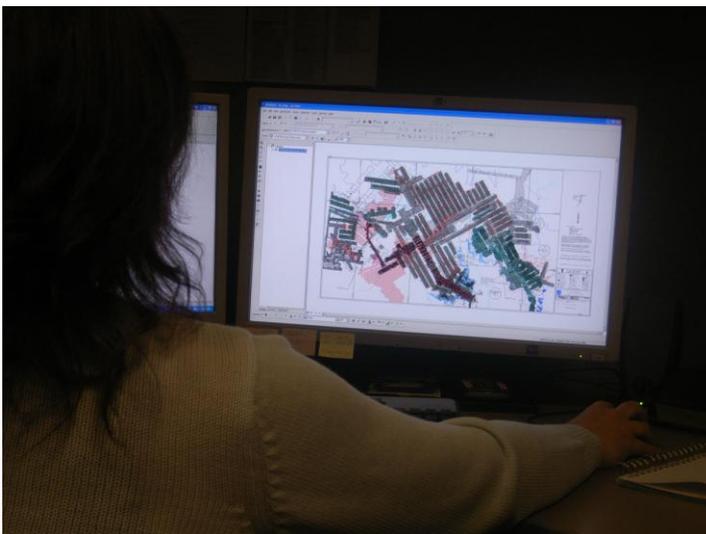
Geographic Information Officer

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

In an effort to save time, resources, and money, thirteen Virginia state employees recently attended a TIPS sponsored ESRI virtual course "Working with CAD Data in ArcGIS Desktop". At a cost of \$500/student, this course brought a live instructor and classroom to the student's desktop in three-hour sessions over a three-day period and offered instructor-led training delivered in real-time via the Internet. The class format was lecture, software demonstration, interactive on-screen question and answer, and hands-on exercises. For on-screen interaction and a video feed of the instructor, students connected through Live Meeting and a conference call line for audio connection.

There are many benefits associated with this educational delivery method including improved learning due to small class size and having an experienced instructor to lead the discussion and answer questions in real time. Virtual classroom courses provide high-quality, focused training without the need to travel. The general consensus of those who attend the course was positive: employees did not have to leave their offices; they had time to work on other assignments during training days since the class was only three hours a day; and they gained skills in topics directly related to the work they do.

Often software changes and advancements take longer to distribute through traditional training methods. This type of training can be provided directly to the users as software advancements and changes are made.



Using an AutoCAD drawing of a mine map in ArcGIS

For more information about this virtual course click

http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=catalog.courseDetail&CourseID=50114549_9.X.

Contact Karyn Evans, TIPS Training Program Team Leader, at 303.293.5067 regarding additional virtual learning opportunities TIPS may be able to sponsor for your organization.