

Esri DEVELOPER SUMMIT

Palm Springs, CA. March 26 – 30, 2012

By Bernardo Garcia – West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection - AML

The Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (Esri) Developer summit was held in Palm Springs California from March 26th to 30th 2012. What is this about and how can we, from TIPS and its supported programs, obtain benefits from this experience?



Figure 1 View of screen at ESRI Developers Summit

In the Esri people's own words: "The Esri Developer Summit (DevSummit) is an annual gathering of developers who want to learn what tools are available for creating mapping applications or adding mapping capabilities to existing applications." This event provides the attendant with many opportunities to talk to the people who develop the Esri wide range of tools to be used in GIS.

The difference with the famous user conference is that the developer summit is used to explain the raw tools created for building customized GIS solutions in every organization dealing with Geographic information. It is also a great opportunity for people to be heard and discuss problems with Esri products and further developments, as well as obtain specific guidance or ideas for solving GIS problems to the interior of any organization.

The DevSummit includes:

- Deep-dive sessions that cover various aspects of Esri's ArcGIS system
- Presentations by developers using Esri technology
- Opportunities to meet directly with Esri product engineers

The emphasis of this event was to demonstrate the possibilities for implementing Geographic Information Systems by using the cloud and ArcGIS mobile. The technical sessions and the Esri showcase let me figure out the possibilities for developing specific

tools, customized for the type of data used in the Abandoned Lands Program and adjusted to the users and infrastructure.

By using a wide variety of tools that have evolved the same way a programming language does (this means that you have available pre-established packages for performing specific tasks related to the management, analysis and correct display of geographic information), I learned that I could develop mobile and web-based applications to manage our data and take advantage of its geographic component. There are very well established software environments for developing GIS applications for Android devices, IOS devices and Windows Mobile based devices which cover most of the current tools we manage in today's organizations.

From this experience, I was able to develop an idea that I believe will help us to better manage and improve greatly our existing AML inventory.

I have noticed that having high precision for collecting AML field data is something not achievable in most of the cases, this is due to the environmental conditions, the training provided to the people collecting the data and the procedures established for collecting such data. The solution for this problem relies upon easier and better data collection and transfer procedures, and developing a web based tool with limited editing capabilities of an enterprise geodatabase.

Keeping the inventory up to date and ensuring its permanent availability to all interested parties will benefit my program. I hope to have accomplished this before the next developer conference and show a successful story that could be replicated by anyone interested. I will be glad to help in any way.

Finally, I want to thank TIPS for sponsoring my attendance to this event and give you all my contact information in case you might want any help or further explanation:

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