

MetroGIS DataFinder Cafe User Survey

May & July 2005 Combined Results - 84 Responses Received

	Count	Percent
1. Your organization type:		
City, county, school, watershed, or regional government entity	50	59.52 %
State or federal government entity	15	17.86 %
Academic entity	8	9.52 %
Other	11	13.10 %
2. Jurisdictional authority (Where does your organization operate?)		
Completely within the seven county Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area	51	60.71 %
Within and beyond the seven county metropolitan area	28	33.33 %
Outside of the seven county metropolitan area	5	5.95 %
Are you the only person within your organization who uses DataFinder Cafe?		
Yes	26	30.95 %
No	58	69.05 %
4. How long has it been since you last used DataFinder Cafe?		
A day	6	7.14 %
A week	11	13.10 %
A month	30	35.71 %
3 months	24	28.57 %
1 year	6	7.14 %
More than a year	7	8.33 %
5. How frequently do you use DataFinder Cafe?		
Weekly	8	9.54 %
Monthly	14	16.67 %
Quarterly	38	45.24 %
Annually or less often	24	28.57 %
6. What data have you accessed via DataFinder Cafe in the past 12 months? Select all that apply.		
County and Municipal Boundaries	45	53.57 %
Parcels	44	52.38 %
TLG Street Centerlines	42	50.00 %
Generalized Land Use	38	45.24 %
Planned Land Use	30	35.71 %
Census Geography	30	34.48 %
ZIP Code Boundaries	28	33.33 %
Land Cover	26	30.95 %
Functional Class Roads	25	29.76 %
Water Features (lake or river polygons)	23	27.38 %
Watershed Management Organization Boundaries	21	27.38 %
School Districts	22	26.19 %
Soils	21	25.00 %
Elevation Contours	19	22.62 %
Streams Network	18	21.43 %
Transit Corridors	15	17.86 %
Bus Routes or Bus Stops	14	16.67 %
Highway System 2025	10	11.90 %
Shopping Centers	7	8.33 %
Major Highways	3	3.57 %
Other	1	1.19 %
(Not Answered)	4	4.76 %

Other replies: PSAP & ESZ boundaries

8. What feature(s) would you like to see added to DataFinder Café?

- Personal geodatabase as a download data format option
- Use more OGC Mapserver-like tools.
- aeriels
- I would like to see the last feature promoted more, the one where any organization can share data. As for data, I'd like the mosquito control district to post updates of their wet areas layer.
- Southern Minnesota county landowner parcel data information.
- Higher resolution topographic data (LiDAR?).
- census data . children and others living in residence ages?
- Thank you so much for the excellent resource.
- Some files appear out of date. For instance, the future transitways shapefile seems to have things in there that are not official anymore.
- Can't think of any features...but would like to see Area Code Boundaries, Telco Boundaries, Railroad mile markers, river mile markers..etc
- I don't use DataFinder Café
- Please make TLG/Parcel data free! Allow private surveying firms to access the data so the tax payers don't get taxed twice! Our plat checking fees to the county should be equitable enough for our clients to benefit from access to parcel data.
- A more concentrated effort to work with regional uses that are under the jurisdiction of the Met Council. I.e. regional transportation (mass and vehicle), metro land use, comp plan, rather than the efforts to have datasets that are better managed locally.
- Unknown
- more detailed info for parcels; wider geography for parcels
- any information is good
- email updates of changes or additions to data available
- More simplistic access to parcels.
- Ability to query the data and have a map and tabular output.
- select by criteria
- Dynamic Segmentation for Street Centerlines
- A 'quick-n-dirty' mode for getting commonly used data sets rapidly
- Comment: Because of a change in jobs, I use GIS much less frequently than I did a few years back. My responses reflect this fact. Similarly, I very rarely have need for data outside Hennepin County, though others within the County do
- No new features, just continuing improvement of the current ones
- I have heard many compliments on the DataFinder site, good work!
- I do not use DataFinder cafe because I am a council employee, so I have access to the data on the I drive. However, I use GIS weekly and identified the data I find most valuable.
- Complete and current bike trails data

7. How valuable are the following DataFinder Café-related functions to your organization?

Directions: On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the value to you of each of the following MetroGIS DataFinder Café functions. In determining the appropriate value, ask yourself “Do I use this function? Is it valuable to carrying out my job responsibilities? Does it save me time?”

Ranking Scale: 0- I do not use
 1- Little or no usefulness
 2 - somewhat useful
 3 – useful
 4 – highly useful
 5 – essential

Question	Average	0	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Responses
a. Browse (view) the geographic data	3.36	7	2	6	24	19	20	262	78
c. Browse (view) the dataset metadata records	3.18	10	2	10	15	24	17	248	78
j. When downloading data, the ability to download several datasets in a single bundle	3.16	12	1	3	21	27	13	243	77
b. Browse (view) the attribute data using the identify tool	3.09	12	1	8	19	21	16	238	77
k. Use of Cafe to download “secure” datasets ? either TLG data and/or MetroGIS Parcel data (requires user name and password)	2.94	21	1	4	8	22	21	226	77
l. Use of Cafe to download “non-secure” datasets - all other datasets available via anonymous login	2.91	15	3	7	18	17	17	224	77
d. Zoom to a predefined geographic area such as a municipality, county, school district or watershed district using gazetteer	2.70	14	6	5	27	19	8	213	79
h. When downloading data, the clip data function using a predefined geographic extent (where the user selects a feature from another data layer such as a jurisdictional boundary as a cookie cutter?)	2.46	17	12	7	16	20	9	199	81
f. When downloading data, the option to download subset the attributes or fields (meaning only selected fields are downloaded)	2.40	22	4	7	18	20	7	187	78
g. When downloading data, the clip data function using a self-defined geographic extent (where the user draws an ad-hoc polygon)	2.36	21	7	8	15	14	11	179	76
i. When downloading data, the clip data function using the clip to viewable extent option (the extent shown in the Cafe window)	2.05	22	6	15	20	8	6	158	77
e. When downloading data, the ability to specify data output format other than shapefile (e.g., MIF)	2.01	24	11	10	15	6	11	155	77
m. The ability to access data via a WMS (Web Mapping Service) format for use in a GIS web or desktop client	1.83	34	2	8	16	10	7	141	77
n. The service provided by DataFinder Cafe to distribute my organization’s data	1.71	35	3	10	8	7	10	125	73

Results - Follow-up Survey - July 2005

MetroGIS staff specifically wanted to understand how important certain Café functionality was related to secure (licensed) datasets. 33 organizations to date have used the Café to download secure datasets. These 33 organizations were sent a follow-up survey asking specific questions about TLG and parcel data. Eleven responses were received.

1. Name of your organization:

City of Brooklyn Center
City of St. Cloud
Hennepin County GIS Division
Three River Park District
Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
Hennepin County (Human Services and Public Health Dept.)
DNR
Osseo Area Schools
Ramsey Conservation District
saint paul regional water services
Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota

2. How long has it been since you last downloaded data from DataFinder Cafe?

One week	2	18.18 %
One month	6	54.55 %
Three months	3	27.27 %

3. How frequently do you use DataFinder Cafe?

Weekly	1	9.09 %
Monthly	3	27.27 %
Quarterly	7	63.64 %

4. Which procedure do you use when downloading the following data from MetroGIS DataFinder?

a) Parcel data

(Not Answered)	1	9.09 %
Do not download	3	27.27 %
FTP	2	18.18 %
Café	2	18.18 %
Both	3	27.27 %

Please explain why you choose one method over the other:

- I just like Cafe it's all I ever use.
- Usually download all 7 counties at once
- I need the entire dataset.
- I use the Cafe to get sections of the data set and ftp if I want it all.
- I like using the map to clip an area that I need
- Depends on size of download try to choose the fastest method

b) TLG Road and Landmarks data

Do not download	1	9.09 %
FTP	4	36.36 %
Café	4	36.36 %
Both	2	18.18 %

Please explain why you choose one method over the other:

- Convenience
- I prefer the Cafe because I only want data for the St. Cloud metropolitan area, not the entire state.
- same as above
- Again to download all 7 counties at once

- Force of habit, probably. I've done it via FTP for a while, so I continue to do it that way each quarter.
- I need the entire dataset.
- I choose FTP because typically I need all of the 7 county street data. Again, I would use the Cafe if ever I needed only a portion of the data.
- I like using the map to clip an area that I need.
- I haven't downloaded this because I didn't realize it was there

c) Other data

(Not Answered)	1	9.09 %
Do not download	2	18.18 %
FTP	1	9.09 %
Café	6	54.55 %
Both	1	9.09 %

Please explain why you choose one method over the other:

- Ditto
- I use the cafe for other data because it is nice to visualize. Also, because some projects are not metrowide.
- I find that I search for data (other than TLG street centerline) via Cafe, and then I just download it via the Cafe.
- I need the entire dataset.
- Same as above.
- I like to look at the data before I save it.

5. For those who use Café to download data, do you use any of the following features?

a) User defined polygon for clipping?

(Not Answered)	1	9.09 %
No	2	18.18 %
Yes	8	72.73 %

a1) If you answered "yes" to question "a", would a rectangular bounding box be sufficient to meet your needs? (As opposed to the unlimited sided polygon)

(Not Answered)	4	36.36 %
Yes	5	45.45 %
No	2	18.18 %

a2) If you answered ?no? to question "a1", please explain why not.

- School district boundaries are not rectangular and we may sometimes only want specific geographical areas.
- too much extra data would be clipped

b) Predefined polygon for clipping jurisdictional areas, such as a city or school district?

(Not Answered)	1	9.09 %
No	6	54.55 %
Yes	4	36.36 %

b1) If you answered "yes" to question "b", would a rectangular bounding box be sufficient to meet your needs? (As opposed to the ?cookie cutter? type clip?)

(Not Answered)	7	63.64 %
No	4	36.36 %

b2) If you answered ?no? to question "b1", please explain why not.

- City boundaries are subject to change with annexation. May be difficult to keep boundaries current.
- It saves a step on desktop GIS if the data needs to be clipped to those boundaries. However, this not a huge hassle!
- The current options are nice to have available if needed.
- same as above
- I would actually like both; even though studying a specific jurisdiction, sometimes it is helpful to know about information just beyond the borders.

c) Ability to bundle several themes of data in a single download?

(Not Answered)	1	9.09 %
No	3	27.27 %
Yes	7	63.64 %

c1) If you answered ?yes? to question "c", please explain any impact that your organization would incur if this feature were no longer supported.

- Take me longer to get data
- IT would be nice to grab all the data at once instead of doing them all separate.
- It would just take more time to get what we need.
- Time is the biggest key to all of this. Wouldn't it take longer to get each theme?
- It would add time to the downloading process and I'd become more choosy about what I decided to download. So I might miss out on a layer I didn't know that much about. As data bundling operates now, I'm able to download many layers, including those I am only guessing might help me.
- It's a time-saving convenience; probably minimal impact on my organization.

d) Request the download data in a format other than ?Shapefile??

(Not Answered)	1	9.09 %
No	10	90.91 %

6. Additional comments:

- Keep up the good work.
- Thank you for continuing to support these data download options.
- I like what you have created. We have not used it for a while because the way that the street centerlines are identified as left and right do not fit with the program we are importing into. The destination application's programmers are looking into it.
- The cafe' is a great success as far as I'm concerned. I work within Ramsey County, but sometimes our groundwater protection zones go beyond our borders.
- a very good site