

Integrated Alaska Science Center (ASC) IT Issues

Datum Collection Conversion

There is a lot of project data on both electronic and paper media taking up space in file and map cabinets. Four or five years back there was some thought to have this information scanned into a large database as a means to provide on-line access both internally and externally. It was also about that time that the USGS put a moratorium on any such investments so that the USGS could standardize on the hardware and application. With the large facilities cost renewals, it might be easier to downsize and reduce the space if we could get these documents scanned into an on-line database. Once that is done, the physical documents could be sent to a NARA records archival management site.

Physical Location:

In Anchorage, three of the ASC discipline district offices are co-located on the Alaska Pacific University (APU) Campus, with a field office for one of these disciplines located further in town. The fourth Alaska Science Center discipline is located further in town. There are other field office located around the state, including Fairbanks and Juneau. Administrative and management personnel in Anchorage must travel or alternate work days at each location to perform the work and stay visible. The GIO team members reside in five different offices; four offices in Anchorage and one in Fairbanks. The team members provide back-up remote and on-site support to all of the discipline locations.

Off-site Backup tape rotation/Buddy Site

Need to look at implementing an off-site tape rotation with another site outside Alaska as part of the C&A process. Is it required we have fire proof data safes in all the offices where we rotate the tapes. Right now only one office has a fire proof data safe.

Logon Authentication Cards for personnel

When can we move to this technology? We think it will make our lives a lot easier not have to remember and change every password on the suggested schedule. Would like to integrate this card system with our computer room access so all access to systems is logged and centrally controlled.

Registering Users: (procedural differences)

Registering users through Lotus has made it easier. The decision on the Geologic discipline to require a separate approval process hinders the seamless approach for the rest of us. It just adds a few for steps.

Lotus Notes does not really accommodate the combining of the disciplines. Having to certify different discipline designations (i.e. /BRD/USGS/DOI, /GD/USGS/DOI, /WRD/USGS/DOI, /CONT/USGS/DOI) does not provide us with a seamless integrated look. It still separates us out by disciplines. It would make more sense for those of us in the ASC to have a /ASC/USGS/DOI designation. I am not sure, but I think there are also some Administrative issues on the common business practice side of things that relate to this. The division lines are still there. They need to be cut out if we are to integrate.

Isn't there an on-line USGS user orientation guide?