

# MSDIS Update – April 2024

## Updated Data

- MO County Boundaries
- MO State Boundary
- MO Townships Boundaries
- MO Public Land Survey System

## MSDIS General News

There is a lot of news to share this month, so I'm going to sub-divide this section up to make it easier for everyone to skip to the part(s) they are interested in...

### The Genuinely Important News

Much to my own great surprise, we've somehow already made it to the end of the Spring 2024 semester. I'd like to thank Dr Aida Guhlincozzi, Katilin Belk, Ryan Holladay, Tony Spicci, Chris Dunn, Josh Jacomb, Wiley Howell, Kaleb Bauer, and Seth Fredrickson for generously donating some of their time to speak to my GEOG 1800 students about what GIS is like in the real world. I cannot fully describe how important I think it is that students hear from current geospatial professionals about what day-to-day work is like to better understand the depth and breadth of the careers they might eventually end up in. I can teach them all about what buttons to push, how to organize their data, and how to think about the technology as it applies to things they are interested in, but that is only a small part of what they need to be aware of before they graduate. Hearing about the current state of the industry from people currently active in the industry is a truly invaluable opportunity and I am grateful to everyone who gave up some of their day to help prepare these students for what comes next.

I would also like to thank my two MSDIS interns, Brennan Meyerhoff and Rachel Riley, for their outstanding work this semester. Brennan and Rachel spent the semester learning the ins-and-outs of ArcGIS Online to build story maps (which you can find [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)) in fulfillment of MSDIS' contract with the Missouri Census Data Center. In both cases, their work was truly outstanding, and I am very excited to work with them again next semester. I'd also like to congratulate Brennan for earning the 2024 MSDIS Excellence in GIS award. When I originally conceived of hijacking the Department of Geography's annual award ceremony to acknowledge my own interns, I only had one eligible recipient, so it was a pretty easy, guilty-free process. This year, with multiple eligible students, the decision was a lot tougher. So that backfired in a hurry.

Congratulations are also owed to Niko Tapia, for successfully defending his master's thesis in the Department of Anthropology. For those who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting him, Niko has provided critical administrative support to MSDIS (and to the MGISAC) over the past few years. I quite literally could not do this job without Niko's expert help, so it was a real treat to be able to watch his defense in-person.

### The News About Data

Following a brief comment made last month, I am absolutely delighted to confirm that we have established a working, AGOL-based data exchange with our colleagues at OGI. The four datasets that were updated this month were delivered via an AGOL collaboration group and, other than needing to reimport the correct metadata before posting the layers to MSDIS, the process worked very well. I don't

even mind the extra metadata step since that is the first part of the data that I inspect before posting anyway. I'd like to give a big thanks to Thomas Moore for spearheading this effort to restore the important connection between MSDIS and OGI.

### **The News About Money**

I am extremely pleased to announce that I can finally confirm that the imagery server expansion funds that were secured for MSDIS by the Missouri 911 Service Board via the American Rescue Plan have made their way to the University of Missouri system. The funds are currently being funneled through what I imagine is a labyrinthine web of red tape and needles bureaucracy before being deposited into a MSDIS-accessible account. These funds will be used to set up a second server specifically designed to host the 6-inch resolution state imagery.

**Before anyone asks, no, there is no timeline for completion of this project, and I will not speculate on one.**

### **MSDIS Downtime**

No downtime was reported in April 2024.

### **Image Server Statistics**

Since the replacement of the MSDIS Image Server, we have struggled to find a software to provide a comprehensive breakdown of server and service usage. We had hoped that the statistics pulled directly from ArcGIS Server Manager would be a suitable substitute, but the very bare-bones records were significantly less than what we wanted.

Moving forward, we will no longer publish these numbers in our monthly reports. We will remain on the lookout for a reliable option for parsing the server usage in the hope that we can publish these numbers again. The raw server logs are still being saved if anyone requires them. Should anyone need a rough estimate of usage for certain specific services, we are more than happy to run those numbers via Server Manager.