

MSDIS Update – August-September 2026

New Data

- MSDIS is pleased to report that it has received NG911 data from Barry County. The geodatabase delivered includes address points, road centerlines, and the PSAP boundary. MSDIS staff are currently working on writing appropriate metadata. These data will be distributed via the MSDIS Open Data Hub thanks to an MOU recently signed between Barry County and the University of Missouri. MSDIS staff are reaching out to other Missouri counties to gauge interest in sharing their own NG911 data with the clearinghouse.

Updated Data

- MSDIS did not receive any data updates during this reporting period.

MSDIS General News

Anticipated Funding Shortfall

Bad news first... several state agencies are already aware by now, but the expansion funding from the Office of Geospatial Information has hit a snag. OA will likely not be able to provide a sizeable chunk of the previously agreed funding for the clearinghouse and, as a result, has taken to petitioning several state agencies for support.

I am treating this like a budget cut no different than what everyone else is facing. Between what we expect to receive from OA and our existing reserves, MSDIS currently has enough funding to continue current operations through FY27 and, at present, there is no reason to believe that funding for MSDIS will be cut entirely. We are actively engaging with some of our private sector partners who may have the ear of the Governor's Office to advocate on our behalf and, now that Senate Bill 959 has passed, we trust that we can count on the Advisory Council to push to restore the misplaced funds.

For a more complete assessment, please see Appendix I

MSDIS Web Presence

The new MSDIS WordPress site is live, but we are still working to refine the tablet and mobile browsing.

ESRI Health and Governance Review

One of the only major purchases made with our FY26 expansion funding was an ESRI Health and Governance review of MSDIS architecture. I'm pleased to finally be able to announce that we have taken the first steps to start collecting the data necessary to inform a three-day site visit from ESRI to help us better understand how MSDIS' data architecture can be improved. This consultation will also include the creation of a comprehensive playbook for how to run MSDIS more effectively.

This agreement has already paid dividends. The installation of ArcGIS Monitor has been a key component in helping recover from the 15 August server outage. Also, it's just fun to watch the data roll in. I can tell when you guys all show up to work in the mornings, when you go to lunch, if it's a state holiday that I forgot about... It's just super neat.

August Presentations – MITAC and SLAC

On 26 August, Tom attended the Missouri Information Technology Advisory Council (MITAC) to introduce MSDIS to Missouri's assembled IT coordinators. This was an excellent opportunity to discuss the role the clearinghouse plays in Missouri's overarching information and data infrastructure. The attendees asked several excellent questions about the data distributed by MSDIS and its relationship with that state, local, and private sectors.

AT THE EXACT SAME TIME... Katilin was introducing MSDIS to the final quarterly meeting of the USGIF St Louis Area Community of Interest (SLAC). The invitation to speak at this event was a direct result of the MSDIS field trip to St Louis in early August.

New Semester, New Team

You guys should know this routine by now. With a new academic semester comes a new team of MSDIS student employees. The Fall 2026 MSDIS Team will include Rikki Ascani as a Graduate Student Intern, Casey Hagedorn and Kaitlyn Laurentius as Undergraduate Interns, and Andrew Hantak as an Independent Study Student.

We say goodbye to Addison Vallier, who will be focusing on other opportunities.

State Training

State training workshops continue, but the important news this month is that Continuing Education Units for the Introduction to ArcGIS Pro workshop are being approved. This means that everyone who completed one of our ArcGIS Pro workshops will receive documentation that they have earned a small number of credits for Continuing Education requirements.

MSDIS Downtime

The Statewide Imagery Server suffered a significant disruption on the afternoon of 25 August 2026 that could not be resolved by restarting the virtual machine. On investigation, it was revealed that a single IP Address was overwhelming the server with exportImage requests. This IP Address was blocked via both IIS Manager and the University of Missouri firewall, which immediately resulted in the server returning to normal operations. Additional adjustments have been made via IIS Manager to fortify the server against similar situations, and I continue closely monitoring the traffic levels.

For a more complete assessment, please see Appendix II

MSDIS Traffic

This section remains pending.

Donate To MSDIS

Anyone wishing to directly support MSDIS can still donate to the [MSDIS Excellence Fund](#).

MSDIS would like to thank both Aaron Addison and Arthur Crawford for their generous donations to the fund.

MSDIS Socials Media

Your Friendly Neighborhood GIS Data Clearinghouse is proud to announce its triumphant return to the world of social media. You can now follow MSDIS on both [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Appendix I – MSDIS Budget Shortfall

In this year's state budget, the legislature unilaterally decided to change the MSDIS expansion funding model from being sourced entirely by General Revenue to being evenly split between General Revenue, the Conservation Commission Fund, and the State Highways and Transportation Department Fund (which, contrary to the intention of whoever made this change, is not in any way related to MoDOT).

The timeline is a little hazy and, to the best of my knowledge, the individual (or individuals) responsible for the change remain unknown. What I can tell you is that in the Governor's Recommended Budget, the MSDIS funding was split into a 66/16/16 split between General Revenue, the Conservation Fund, and the Transportation Fund. That change was exacerbated by the legislature, which made it an even 33/33/33 split. I attempted to raise concerns about this issue with several individuals but was repeatedly advised to let the situation play out.

The result is that two agencies (including one that has probably never even heard of MSDIS) somehow got put on the hook for finically supporting MSDIS. Obviously, that's not an ideal situation. ITSD is currently engaging several other state agencies to gauge their ability to contribute funds on top of the 33% from General Revenue, but I am deeply skeptical that this strategy will generate any additional funding. This situation wasn't well understood by anyone until after everything had been signed into law, most of the agencies being contacted now had no prior knowledge of the change, and none of them planned for being asked to throw money at an agreement they had no part in writing.

People are justifiably frustrated with suddenly being asked to fund something they hadn't previously budgeted for. Getting upset at each other isn't going to help, though, and I would remind everyone that nobody involved in these discussions is responsible for the need for these discussions. I am happy to schedule a meeting to discuss the situation in more detail and plan how the Council can make a case to the legislature and the Governor for why the funding should be restored or, at a minimum, stabilized.

Fortunately, the Mizzou fiscal office assures me that MSDIS has enough surplus funding from last year to cover FY27 while we work with ITSD, OGI, and others to figure out how best to move forward into FY28. Furthermore, while this funding change was enacted without advice from anyone actually affected by the new model, it is worth pointing out that both the Governor and the legislature specifically included MSDIS funding in the state budget and included at the previously agreed-to level, so there is every reason to believe that all entities WANT a funded clearinghouse, they just need to figure out a sustainable way to make that happen.

Appendix II – 25 August Server Outage

After experiencing higher than usual traffic for several days, the MSDIS State Imagery Server suffered a significant failure at approximately 1:30 PM on 25 August 2026. Once it was clear that restarting the server was not resolving the problem and that there was nothing obviously wrong with the network, storage, or virtual machine, I opened a help ticket with ESRI. The ESRI support desk could also not isolate a problem and requested copies of MSDIS log files to review.

During the morning of 26 August 2026, I resumed troubleshooting the problem myself, along with the aid of Copilot. After several attempts at diagnosing the problem, Copilot came to the same conclusion both I and the Mizzou Division of IT had, that the server was being overwhelmed with incoming requests. Using Copilot to rapidly review the last 48 hours of server logs, we were able to identify a single IP Address responsible for the flood of additional traffic. That IP Address was banned at the IIS level (and at the University of Missouri firewall) and performance immediately began returning to normal.

I have been keeping a close eye on traffic levels since restoring the server to functionality and there have been no additional extended periods of significant traffic.