

## Factsheet No: atlas\_005 GIS terminology

This is part of a series of factsheets developed for the JVAP/AGO funded "Bioenergy Atlas of Australia project by Lyndon Zimmermann and Ian Nuberg of the University of Adelaide Faculty of Sciences.

Watch the RIRDC webpage for more information on the Atlas Project.

email <lyndon.zimmermann@adelaide.edu.au>  
<ian.nuberg@adelaide.edu.au>

Mr. LYNDON ZIMMERMANN  
RESEARCH OFFICER

FACULTY OF SCIENCES, WAITE CAMPUS  
PMB1 GLEN OSMOND, SA, 5064  
AUSTRALIA  
TELEPHONE +61 8 8303 6571  
FACSIMILE +61 8 8303 6717  
MOBILE 0414 91 4577  
lyndon.zimmermann@adelaide.edu.au

Dr IAN NUBERG  
CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

FACULTY OF SCIENCES  
ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS  
ROSEWORTHY SA 5371  
AUSTRALIA  
TELEPHONE +61 8 8303 7729  
FACSIMILE +61 8 8303 7979  
ian.nuberg@adelaide.edu.au

### Terminology

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ActiveX	Microsoft alternative to Java Applets, but lacking the security of the JRE.
AFFA	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
AGSO	Australian Geological Survey Organisation, agency of ISR
AGO	Australian Greenhouse Office
ANZLIC	Australia and New Zealand Land Information Council
Applet	Small program, usually provided to the client computer by the server to assist in execution of an Internet based function. Unlike an "application", an applet usually uninstalls at the conclusion of the session with the server.
ArcView	A widely used GIS package developed by ESRI
ASSESS	Product developed by BRS as a front end to ArcView and ArcInfo as a large coverage decision support tool.
AutoCAD	Popular engineering drafting package often used for GIS. Apparently limited interoperability with other GIS packages.
Avenue	the ESRI ArcView OO scripting language, unsuitable for any other application.
AUSLIG	The Australian Survey and Land Information Group.
AVIMS	ArcView Internet Map Server
BRS	Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra. "BRS is the scientific bureau of AFFA".
C++	Object oriented programming language.
CADDET	IEA Centre for the Analysis and Dissemination of Demonstrated Energy Technologies
CGI	Common Gateway Interface, used to develop dynamic web pages
Client side	Application that runs primarily on the user's PC calling data from a server. The application may automatically disappear when connection with the server is broken.
DSS	Decision Support System
EA	Environment Australia, Dept Environment and Heritage
ERIN	Environment Australia Online, Dept Environment and Heritage

FWPRDC	Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation
GRDC	Grains Research and Development Corporation
HTML	Hypertext markup language, the scripting language used to develop static Internet web pages
Hypertext	See HTML.
IEA	International Energy Agency
IMS	Internet Map Server, software for making a GIS available over the Internet
ISR	Federal Dept Industry, Science and Resources
Java	Object oriented programming language, operating system independent. Java evolved from C++.
JavaScript	Java based scripting language
JRE	Java Runtime Environment, the secure environment typically needed to run Java applications.
JVAP	Joint Venture Agroforestry Program, administered by RIRDC, with partners RIRDC, LWRRDC, FWPRDC, Natural Heritage Trust, Murray Darling Commission, GRDC and AGO
LWRRDC	Land and Water Resource Research and Development Corporation
Metadata	Data about data
MO	ESRI's MapObjects
MOIMS	MO Internet MapServer, required to launch MO on the Internet.
OO	Object-oriented (programming language)
OGC	US based OpenGIS Consortium. Mechanism developed to enable a data clearinghouse concept, allowing users to use the web to obtain compatible datasets held by any number of data custodians. AUSLIG have expressed interest in OGC, some agencies appear to be actively pursuing it.
OS	Operating system. Windows, Macintosh, UNIX and Linux are the common operating systems, the latter more popular for server applications.
PDF	Adobe's Portable Document Format, a means of compressing text and images into a compact, readable, stable, platform independent but non-editable format.
Perl	A programming language popular for CGI applications. Free, operating system independent, superset of the popular C programming language.
PHP	Another web scripting language, free
Production server	Server with the capacity and licence to serve the full client base, as opposed to a development server with limited capability.
Raster	Image that is a matrix of pixels (small squares), as opposed to vector
RIRDC	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
Server side	Application that runs primarily on the server. See client side.
Shapefile	Spatial data filetype as developed by ESRI for its ArcView product. The definition is public domain and a popular industry standard.
SQL	Database development and interrogation tool
Standalone	As opposed to Internet or network connected personal computer.
UML	Unified Modelling Language, a standard for describing object oriented computer code.
VB	The programming language Microsoft Visual BASIC.

VBScript VB based scripting language.

Vector image Image that is a collection of points, lines and areas.

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