

**Questions and Answers from ‘Overview of DSWorld’ webinar
February 16, 2012
Presenter: Malcolm Archer-Shee**

Q: Could you write out how to navigate there from the NGS homepage?

A: Click the following link:

http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/PC_PROD/PARTNERS/index.shtml

Or click ‘Tools>Download PC Software’ from the main page and then click ‘User Contributed Software’ part the way down the page.

Q: How often are updates to the program created?

A: Updates, when created, are usually posted early Saturday mornings. Users should check on a weekly basis.

Q: How do I submit BMs that do not have a PID?

A: All marks in the NGS IDB have PIDs. New marks to the IDB get PIDs when they are included in a leveling or GPS project (blue-booked) and sent to NGS.

Q: The description for a point called for a disk set in a concrete post. The concrete post was there, but the disk had been sheared off. How should this be reported?

A: Remember, the disk is the datum point (the point to which the elevation or position refers). The concrete post is its setting. The mark should be reported as ‘Not Recovered’. Place a note in the text such as ‘The concrete post was found broken off and the disk was missing. Distances verified that this was the mark called for in the original description.’

Q: Does red indicate not found or destroyed. I have found a lot of "not found" markers that USPSQD [USGS?] missed.

A: The ‘Stations>All NGS IDB’ menu plots all points in the NGS IDB, color coded as follows:
Green – Originally set (no subsequent recovery report sent in) or found in good condition.

Yellow – Reported not recovered.

Red – Destroyed or temporary point.

When submitting a non-recovery, include text that describes what effort was expended to find the mark or things like, “The concrete post was found broken off and the disk was missing. Reference distances matched the description for the point” or “The structure that the mark was set in has been replaced” or “a thorough search was conducted but no trace of the mark was found” or “unable to locate the mark as the reference objects in the original description no longer exist”. There are several stock phrases in the pull-down menus you can insert in the descriptive text. See DSWorld help for more information.

Here are a couple of points that I found and re-described in 2006: HU0937, HU0938.

Q: How do you print the NGS data sheets from DSWorld?

A: If you are viewing it in the DSWorld viewing window or Internet Explorer, click ‘File>Print’. If you are using Google Chrome, right-click on the web page and click ‘Print’.

Q: custom searches....I want to search a county but only marks updated after 2007.

A: That selection does not yet exist, but may be available in the very near future.

Q: Is it better to submit station recoveries with DSWorld or the NGS website mark recovery entry?

A: It is better to submit recoveries with DSWorld, as one can use the DSWorld submittal to correct items such as position, disk type, setting code, LOGO, etc., which are not available from the web page. These types of mark attributes should not be placed in the text portion.

Q: Is there a fix to this glitch - I tried DS World on my laptop, but ArcGIS Explorer starts up before Google Earth.

A: Check your file association. Google Earth should be associated with .kml files.

Q: Do the recoveries get automatically uploaded into the NGSIDB or does it have to be reviewed?

A: All recoveries and photos are checked and validated prior to loading into the NGS IDB. Anything that doesn't meet spec is edited or discarded. If there is a question about a mark, I may email the submitter for clarification, so please include your email address.

Q: I see Malcolm is using the Pro version. What features will not be available in the regular version of Google Earth, if any?

A: I use the free version of Google Earth at home to do almost everything I do with DSWorld.

Q: Is the date format for photos files - mmddyyyy or DDMMYYYY?

A: NGS has standardized on the yyyyymmdd format for all dates, including photos and recovery dates.

Q: HOW CAN YOU WEED OUT UNFOUND POINTS... IE... PLOT ONLY THOSE FOUND AFTER THE Date of 2010?

A: That option is not currently available, but may be available in the near future. A request has been submitted to Systems Development Division to have get_mark_list.prl output a condition code as part of the 'PID list' that is created. DSWorld uses the PID list to create the graphic display in Google Earth. Thus, if the PID list contains a condition code and last recovery date, DSWorld can filter that and display the points accordingly.

Q: When I key N in the Condition code it does not work..makes you drop down and select N

A: Fixed in version 2.10.22.

Q: I did this for South Carolina and the CORS are outdated?

A: There appears to be a problem with the servlet that interrogates the IDB for CORS sites. I will see if that can be fixed in short order.

Q: Can Street Atlas Files work with the same publisher's TOPO?

A: Yes.

Q: For the Log generation, say for Recovery note submissions, I presume it has to be selected/generated before exiting the software. In other words, it doesn't keep a history of what's been done on that computer, right?

A: Each log file keeps track of what was submitted for that particular routine, and only for the PC from which it was sent. Log files may be deleted or edited if so desired.

Q: Can the designation be changed in a mark recovery form? It looks greyed out? I ask about the Designation because there are some stations that say COOP CORS, and we no longer have that category.

A: That will be changed in the next update.

Q: In Wisconsin DOT, the function to get update program to get an intermediate version does not work. Our security does not allow us access to the NGS FTP. Is there a way to get the latest version as a download from the NGS PC Software web site?

A: Yes. Here is an http site:

<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/web/tools/updates/dsworld/>

Just save the files to your C:\Program Files(x86)\DSWorld\ directory. A future update may include code that utilizes http rather than ftp.

Q: Is there a way to obtain a kml of either all horizontal or all vertical for an entire state?

A: I can do that by special request. If too many users attempted to do that at the same time, it would probably overwhelm the server.

Q: Can I submit multiple horizontal images for a certain mark?

A: Yes. Up to 16 horizontal photos may be submitted, one for each direction, such as N, NNE, NE, ENE, E, etc. GPS users usually submit 4 – N, S, E, W. That way one can determine what obstructions exist from the photos, which is very useful for planning a GPS survey.

Q: After updating to DSWorld 2.10.21, there is no longer "Recent HH Loads" listed under Stations. Is this something that maybe you are doing away with?

A: I was attempting to simplify things. If there is a strong desire for it, I can add it back in.

Q: How do I report GEOCAC as an agency? I have not been able to locate GEOCAC in the dropdown menus.

A: Select 'L' for the agency group. This populates the agency dropdown with GEOCAC and others in the same group.

Q: When editing multiple photos for the same PID, is there a shortcut that you can use instead of manually having to type the same PID each time for the closeup, eye level, and scale pics?

A: With the latest update, just double-click in the PID box to restore the last entry.

Q: Are recovery reports submitted thru DSWorld updated in the NGS database any faster than the older online submittal process?

A: Yes.

Q: When I go to Tools>Update Program, I get the window that says "Connecting to Server" and then a message that says "File Received" and then a message that says "Permission Denied." What is the problem?

A: Check the permissions on your C:\Program Files\DSWorld\ directory (Windows XP) or C:\Program Files (x86)\DSWorld\ directory (Windows7). Uncheck the 'read only' box and set the directory and files therein to 'change' or 'full control' for all users.

Q: Should I send photos in of marks that are surrounded by snow?

A: Please do not send photos of marks when snow covers the ground. It is difficult to see reference objects in photos of this nature.

Q: Is it okay to photo a point that has a GPS antenna set up over it?

A: For close-up(1) photos and eye-level (2) photos, remove all equipment from the mark, and make sure the top of the mark (and the concrete post if so set) is clean and free of dirt, leaves, grass and snow before photographing. Horizontal (3) photos may have GPS antennas, range poles, or other targets on them to help discern the location of the mark.

Q: Besides being compatible with Google Earth, specifically what version of the Free and Pro does DS World work with i.e. Google Earth 5 and or 6 etc.?

A: It currently works with GE 6.1.0.5001 (Free) and 6.2.0.5905 (Pro). It should work with previous versions too. Google made a small change in the structural requirements of the .kml format, but the latest .kmls created with DSWorld should work with previous versions of GE.

Q: I have downloaded and installed DSWorld. Once installed on me PC when I execute it requires Login and Password. How do I get a login and password?

A: DSWorld itself does not require a login and password. Google Earth occasionally asks for these, and you may be prompted for an internet login and password, if your IT people require it (some DOTs are configured this way). Check with your IT people.