

Getting Started in the Spatial Analysis Lab

Network

The Spatial Analysis Lab is a Local Area Network (LAN) within the backbone of the UNCW system. Networks can be designed in several ways and in this lab we use Ethernet lines from each PC to switches and then to the UNCW network. Each of you has a folder on the GIS server (giserver) where you will work on your class exercises. This server maintains user directories and permissions, software license managers, data distribution, and security. Unlike other labs on campus, these computers are the only ones with the GIS software used in this course and enable you to access the server, and they also require you to login.

Login: your UNCW login

Password: your UNCW password

Domains

Each machine has a local name (FAS***) and the UNCW domain. Make sure you choose the UNCW domain or your login will not work. You can login to any machine but it is best to always use the same machine to minimize filling up the hard disks with profile data.

Home directory

Again, you have your own directory/folder on the server to store exercise data:

g:

This is a network path and is set up as a “mapped network drive”. Double-click on My Computer and you will see this g:\ drive. You must save your exercises to this folder. Otherwise, every night at 2 am the computers reboot and delete all files that are not supposed to be there!

File Management

File management is one of the most important concepts you must learn in this class! The data for all of the lab exercises are stored at:

\\giserver\public\GGY328-592\

If you have trouble locating the giserver you can find it by going to Start: My Network Places > Entire Network > Microsoft Windows Network > UNCW > giserver > public > GGY328-592

The exercises will require you to either modify existing data or create new data. In order for you to modify or create new data you must have permission on the server. Therefore, since you don't have permission to any folder except your g: folder you must first make a copy of the lab exercise folder and store it in your home directory (g:) and then work on the lab assignment. You will not have permission to edit any data located in the giserver\public folder!

IMPORTANT: You must have a new directory/folder for each exercise. Have a separate notebook (not your lecture note book) where you will keep track of all the files you create and what they are used for. Name your files logically. For example, Ex1.mxd is a logical name for the first exercise using ArcGIS. Keep detailed notes in your lab book for helping you complete the exercises. This will help you to study for the exams. Before you leave the lab check your directory and make sure you have written down all of the files in your directory and what they are for. Keeping notes is very important to learning the GIS software.

Printing

You may use any printer in the lab, however, it is best if you use the black and white (default) printer which is named HP 4350. Please let me know if there is a problem printing.