Are you a local government GIS user? Do you have the need to collect data in the field? Have you been thinking about implementing ArcPad? Come and learn about ArcPad. If you haven’t considered integrating this technology into your organization, you should be. It can significantly reduce your long-term costs and provide you with the data you need to make informed decisions. This presentation will discuss the advantages this new technology has to offer to make collecting and analyzing data the field even easier. Several real-life applications will be presented. Common implementation pitfalls and budget considerations will be discussed.

**ArcPad Overview**

ArcPad is a powerful mobile tool that can be used for a variety of local government GIS applications. First, let’s explore the basics capabilities of the latest version of ArcPad. Functionally includes map display, pan, zoom and query functions. Custom forms can also be created to assist with data collection.

**Uses In Local Government**

There are many examples of how ArcPad can be an effective tool for the management of information for local governments. City inspectors use ArcPad to assist with the review of existing data when in the field. These same inspectors also use ArcPad to update and add information when outside of the office. Emergency managers use ArcPad to assist with damage assessment out in the field. Engineers use ArcPad to review existing site conditions while out in the field. The Department of Public Works record inspection information in the field using ArcPad.

**Implementation Pitfalls**

The following are common implementation pitfalls that should be considered when implementing ArcPad applications: Not enough memory, not enough battery power, failure to customize application to meet specific users needs and provide ease of use in field, poor weather conditions which limit functionality of hardware (cold/rain), and lack of data replication/integration plan.

**Budget Considerations**

In addition to the procurement of the ArcPad software there are several other budget considerations when planning an ArcPad project. These considerations are: GPS equipment, hardware (ruggedized),
CONCLUSION

The functionality of ArcPad can assist local governments improve their ability to review, collect and query information while out in the field. It’s an affordable tool for data management.

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