

GIS and The Small Town

How the Town of York Funds and
Maintains Its GIS



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Agenda

- Background – Town of York
 - History
 - Funding GIS in York
- How We Expanded Our Capabilities
- Benefits and Future Plans
- Summary
- Questions

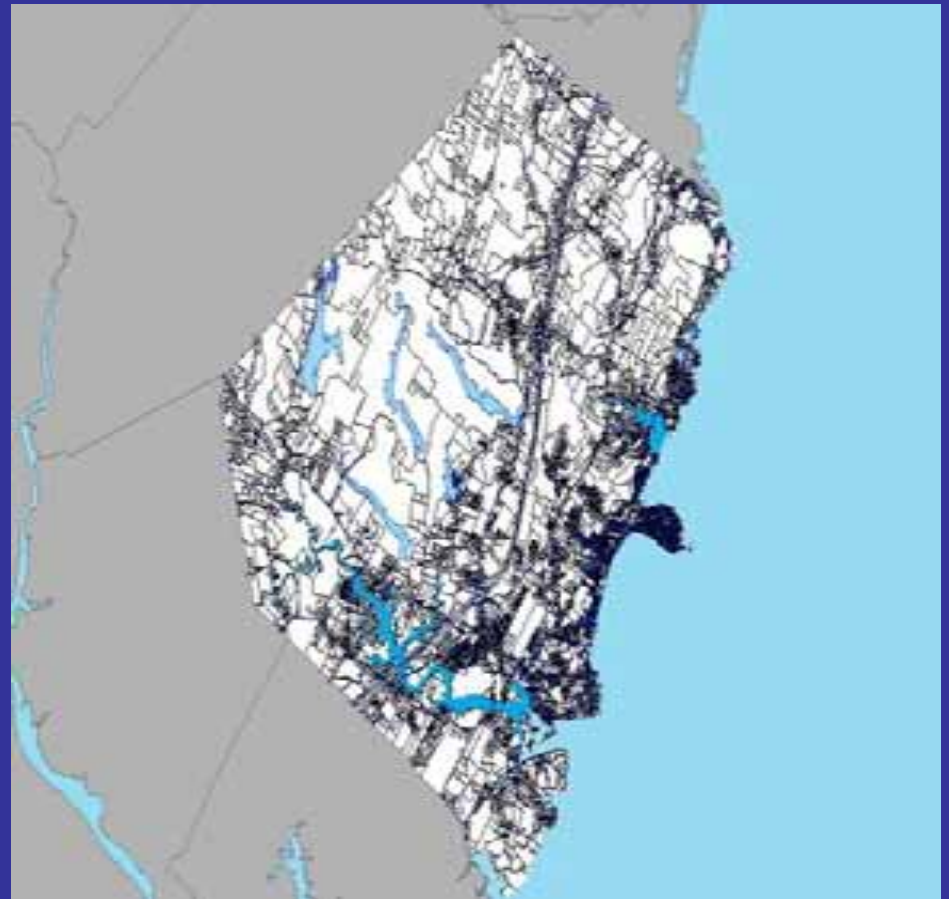


Background



Town of York

- 56 Square Miles
- “Year round” pop.= 14,000
- Summer time pop.= 60,000
- 11,000 Parcels
- 3 Code Enforcement Officers, 1 Planner, and 1 GIS Manager



What caused this change?

The end of GIS budget support means no money, and no money means:

- Loss of system currency
- Loss of system integrity
- Loss of system relativity
- Loss of system momentum



New User Fee proposed

- Amendment to the Town of York Building Code – Building Permit Fees are to be assessed at \$6.00/\$1,000.00 of estimated building cost
- 50% of the permit fee shall be put into an account to maintain and upgrade the Town GIS system and 50% shall be used to support the Code Enforcement Department



How did this work for us?

- With our revenue estimates we expected to split \$50,000 - \$75,000 between 2 departments.



How did this work for us?

Actual revenue has been
\$135,000 - \$170,000 a year for each
department



Expanding Capabilities

What this allows us to do

- Make air photo and GIS data updates
- Integrate the Assessing database with GIS data
- Add additional staff and equipment
- Make additional technology purchases
- Increase the use of our GIS data in the field



First things first

- Write an official plan for the GIS system
- Create a GIS budget and share it
- Stick to the GIS budget
- Be prepared to defend decisions and purchases whenever your leadership changes



One project the CEOs undertook

- Documentation was lost or destroyed in the field
- Multiple trips to sites because not enough information was brought along the first time
- Paper only office – not even e-mail is used



What we decided to do

- Provide Panasonic Toughbooks for the CEO personnel to use on the road
- Provide embedded dial-up cellular to provide an internet connection to leverage ArcIMS out of the office
- Scan and index documents and plans for digital retrieval



Why did we want to do this?

- Office staff and field staff use the same tools, such as ArcIMS
- Reduce number of trips to sites
- Prevent loss of documentation and data



Why not use ArcView?

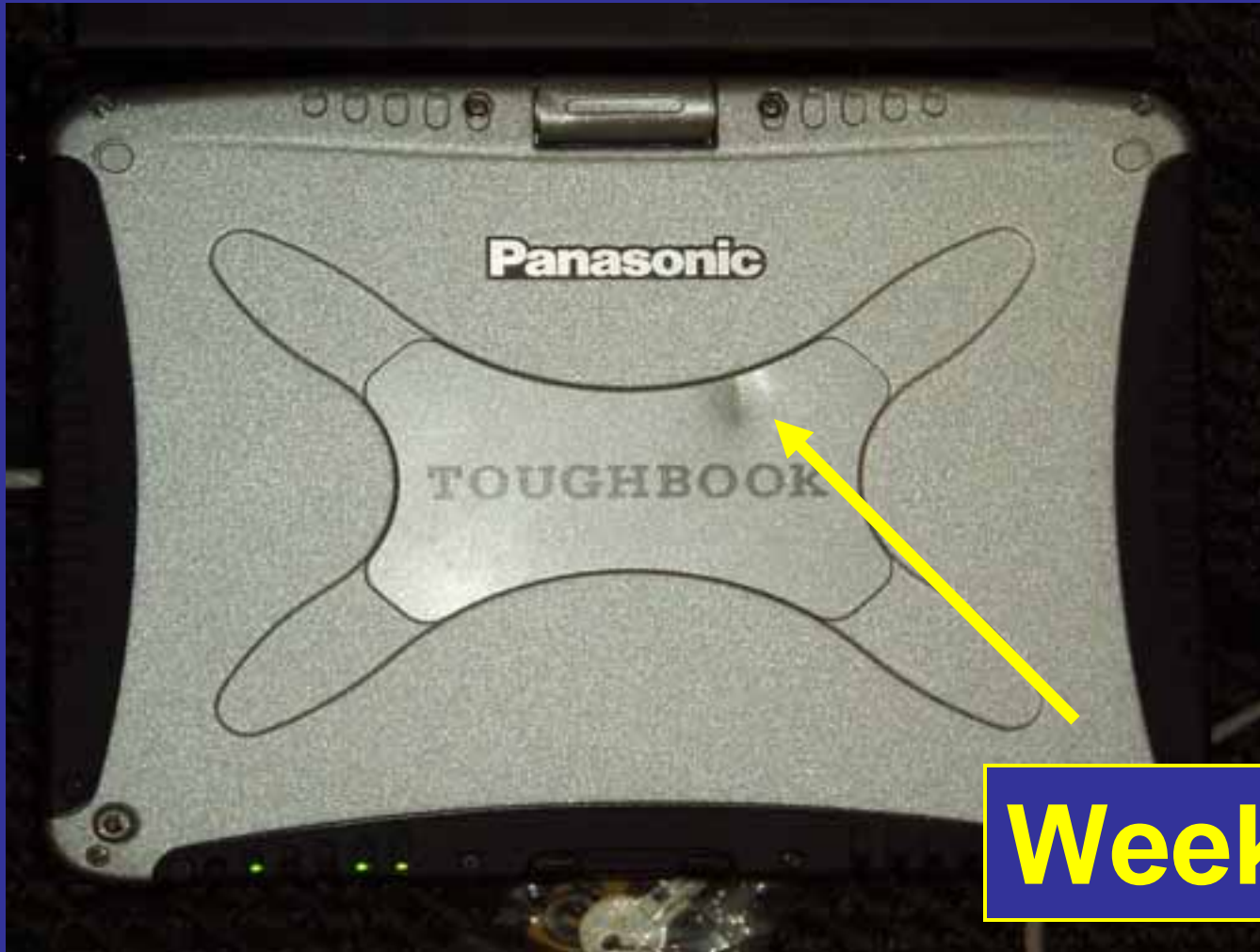
- ArcView 3.X to ArcView 8.X Change
- No time to learn new ArcView
- Ability to customize ArcIMS for CEO staff use
- Consistent use of software and data



Why Toughbooks?

- Rugged cases
- Sealed cases prevent salt air from oxidizing motherboards and other internal components
- Heated and swappable hard drives in case of any computer failure
- Water resistant for outside use
- Previous experience with computer hardware life-span when used in the field

Why **Tough**books?



Week 1



How does it work?



What does it look like?



ArcIMS on the road



Issues with the concept

- “Dead zones” are in the populated areas
- Slow draw time
- Too few cell towers in York
- Staff had little experience with technology



What we like about it

- Greater contact with Code Enforcement Officers – e-mail is always available
- Quicker response to messages
- Always “on” - always available
- Greater use of GIS data and software
- Everyone is on the “same page”



Benefits and Future Plans



Our future plans

- Provide support to CEO's vision
- Encourage achievable ideas
- Make all documentation digital
- Provide online public access to all CEO processes
- GPS data collection in the field



What are we doing now?

Update digital aerial photography



What are we doing now?

2003 aerial photography from Emerge



What are we doing now?

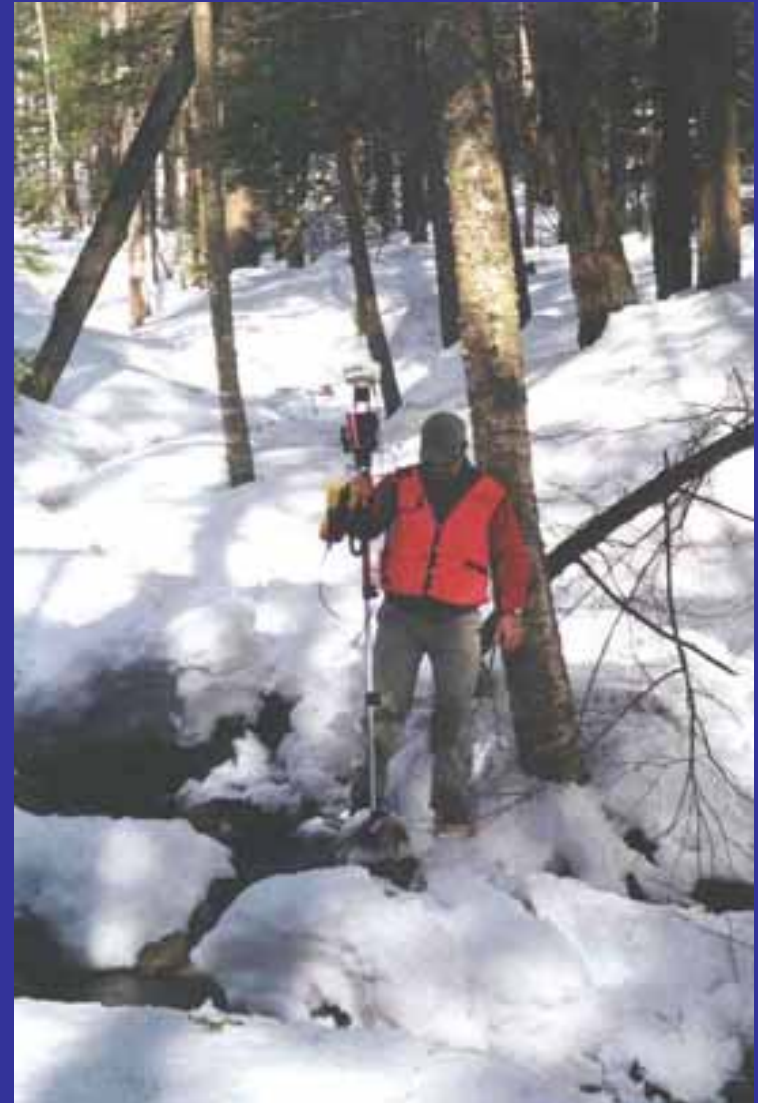
2005 aerial photography from Bradstreet
Consultants



What are we doing now?

Updates are handled internally

- Use of GPS mobile-technology with iPAQs, Trimble GeoXT, and ArcPad





Words of caution



- Be prepared to defend your decisions
- Be prepared to defend your monies from money grabs
- Create this as an Enterprise Fund not a Budget Account
- Be prepared for the “Slush Fund” comments



Summary

- Funding will always be the key to provide more creativity, technology, and solutions
- Adding the above has made the Town more efficient
- Continue to fix identified problems
- Provide some relief to the taxpayers



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Questions?