



## GIS Mapping Adds a New Dimension to Municipal Property Information

Point Software, Inc. has formed an exclusive relationship with MainStreetGIS, LLC to develop a GIS/document center designed for municipal government. This online application will use Point's proven CitizenLink™ framework to couple GIS mapping with the property information for a municipality.

By adding the element of GIS, property information gains a new dimension. Consequently, the resulting product yields a robust set of new information and new abilities to an already data-rich system.

### Layers of Information

Through linking with the GIS database, municipalities can view literally layers upon layers of information. Presently, 14 distinct data layers are available for display in map form, including parcel lines, town roads, buildings, zoning, utilities, lot dimensions and land use. Data layers can be turned on and off at any time with a simple click of the mouse.

The town's officials and residents can also get a bird's eye view or better if image layers are also employed. A diverse library of imaging maps can be integrated into the GIS module, allowing the world to see satellite images, aerial photos, flood maps, USGS information and even nautical charts.

### Map Navigation Tools

Sometimes, a change in perspective is necessary when seeking an answer. Map navigation tools allow the viewer to zoom and pan in order to see other aspects of the municipal map. After a sufficient exploration of the neighborhood, the Home option returns the viewer to the starting point.

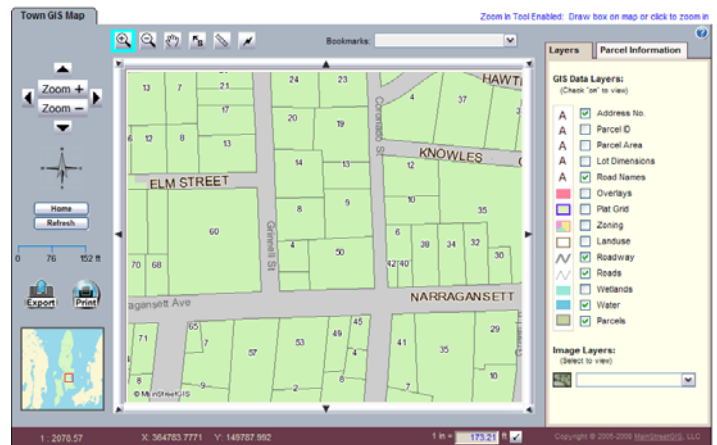
### For Good Measure

Finding distance and area is a snap with the measure tool. Clicking two points on the map shows their distance from each other. The square footage and acreage can be found through continuing to trace along the perimeter by clicking on each corner of the desired area.

### Beyond Assessment Info

While the foundation of the GIS/document center comes from the CitizenLink™ framework, the property information displayed for the selected parcel goes far beyond assessment information like location, valuation and zoning. The application incorporates Point's document technology to provide instant access to relevant public records such as soil assessments, building permits and business certificates.

Looking up property information for neighboring parcels is simplified with the selection tool. Rather than manually



*A Glimpse at What's to Come: Sample GIS Map and Navigation*

entering the criteria for another parcel search, the user merely needs to click on the parcel of interest within the map view.

### Abutters List

The ability to generate an accurate abutters list is crucial to the operation of the municipality's Planning and Zoning Board. The power of GIS makes it possible to get that information in short order.

A board member just needs to navigate to the desired parcel, go the abutters tool, then specify the search area to use in determining the abutters.

The list of abutters appears in a matter of moments after submission of the criteria. The list shows the relevant parcel ID and mailing address for each abutting property, ready for sending out abutters' notifications.

### Product Implementation

Point will be implementing the GIS/document center as a web-hosted service rather than as a traditional installed application. This design choice eliminates the need for the customer to buy or maintain any additional hardware or network components in order to run the application. The municipality pays only for the software's licensing and support.

Current Point customers will be receiving more information regarding the GIS/document center in the near future. Interested parties can also talk to Jim Regan at 1.800.368.9538 to learn more about this concept and how it will benefit their enterprise.



## Calendar of Events

Date(s)	Event	Location
Sep. 3-Oct. 6 <i>Mons. &amp; Weds.</i>	CCMA Course 1A: Assessment Administration	Prospect Fire House 26 New Haven Road Prospect, CT
Sep. 15-Oct. 20 <i>Mons. &amp; Weds.</i>	CCMA Course 1B: Assessment Valuation	Dept. of Police Services 314 Lambert Road Orange, CT
Sep. 23	CAAO Annual Fall Symposium	Hawthorne Inn 2421 Berlin Turnpike Berlin, CT
Sep. 29-Oct. 3	IAAO Course 102: Income Approach to Valuation <i>Sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of IAAO</i>	Rocky Hill Fire HQ 3050 Main Street Rocky Hill, CT
Oct. 6-10	IAAO Course 500: Assessment of Personal Property <i>Sponsored by the Massachusetts Chapter of IAAO</i>	Salonstall Building, 2 <sup>nd</sup> FL Conference Room D 100 Cambridge Street Boston, MA
Oct. 14-16	MAAO Fall Conference	The Williams Inn 1090 Main Street Williamstown, MA
Oct. 21	MCTA Fall Conference	The Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Road Holyoke, MA

### *Develop a Disaster Recovery Plan for Your Computer*

In past issues of *The Point*, we have repeatedly stressed the importance of backing up your data and maintaining a regular schedule for that vital task. If your hard drive dies, however, you will need more than files to recover. You will need the software components required to use them.

Data is managed through multiple levels in a computer. On the highest level are the files that contain the data. A level below that are the applications associated with the files. On the base level is the operating system (OS) that runs the applications. What you need, then, is a disaster recovery plan that addresses all of those levels.

Here are some steps you can take now to help restore your work and your sanity in the event of a hard drive failure:

- Keep a log of all software installed on your computer. With the number of programs found on a typical PC, remembering all of them is nearly impossible.
- Make sure you know where the product key is for each program and the OS. You may want to include that information in your installed software log. Often, the OS product key is found on the machine itself. If it is not, a label maker can achieve the same result.
- Print out the log. It won't do you any good if the only copy was on your hard drive.
- Store the installation disks in a single location to avoid having to hunt them down – a process that can take hours, even days.

## Tech Tips

If it seems more like your computer is walking than running, then it's time for a memory check. While there are a number of other potential causes for a sluggish PC, insufficient memory (or RAM) is frequently the culprit and checking the amount of installed RAM is a quick, easy task. In other words, a memory check is a good place to start.

To check the amount of memory currently installed in a computer using Windows XP as its operating system, simply follow these steps:

1. Right-click **My Computer**.  
A popup menu appears.
2. Select **Properties**.  
The "System Properties" window appears.
3. Select the **General** tab if it is not already showing.  
The amount of RAM will be specified in megabytes (MB) or gigabytes (GB). One gigabyte is equal to about 1,024 megabytes.

So how much RAM do you need? XP alone requires a minimum of 512 MB. The applications XP runs may have even greater memory requirements. If you look at the system requirements for a software program, often you will see two numbers specified for RAM – the minimum amount and the recommended amount. For optimal performance, it is best to have the recommended amount.

In fact, with memory being so inexpensive these days you actually should consider getting the maximum amount of memory that will fit in your PC. Operating speed increases with the amount of RAM, and what computer user wouldn't benefit from a faster machine? If you do decide it is time to upgrade your computer's memory, be sure to get a technically qualified individual to assist with its selection and installation.