

## ESRI<sup>1</sup> Petroleum Users' Group<sup>2</sup>



Sedgwick & Associates' georeferenced video service

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### Introduction

Numbers were up at the 2005 ESRI Petroleum User Group (PUG), with about 950 registered. The PUG focuses on what's new in ESRI's Geographical Information Systems (GIS). We spotted four themes at the PUG, not all new. What makes them important though, is the various stages of corporate take-up, and the different degrees of readiness of the software for real-world deployment.

Theme one, **live GIS data**, dates back a couple of years, but much of ESRI's clients' data (perhaps a majority in oil and gas) is stored and manipulated in 'dumb' Shapefiles. Some majors (notably Shell) are making moves towards corporate deployment of 'smart' SDE-based data stores. But these are not helped by a wide range of third party legacy applications which, although they may have 'ESRI inside,' are likely only able to spit out their geo-data in Shapefiles. The pipeline industry seems to be ahead of E&P, most pipeline software vendors seem to be able to manage data in SDE and some can even handle GIS reference streaming media (see above).

Theme two, **3D**, is likewise as old as the (3D) hills. But the absence of true 3D (as opposed to the 'extruded' shapes 2½D that ESRI currently offers) has led to the creation of a 3D PUG Working Group which is to thrust ESRI into the 3D world. It should then be possible to view and manipulate a Petrel or other 3D model from inside ArcGIS. The stated intent is 'not to rebuild a Petrel in ESRI.' But in our opinion, few in the ESRI PUG community would complain if something like this actually happened!

Theme three is of course, **Web Services**. Here ESRI is re-aligning its early ArcIMS web support with the new Web Services paradigm. For the time being, this appears to be a predominantly Microsoft .NET-based offering, but ESRI stated that the Java community is 'very important' to ESRI and assured that there would be better support for non-Microsoft environments in the future.

Finally, although it does not merit 'theme' status, the issue of **interoperability**, with third party applications, CAD and other GIS systems, is omnipresent. Here Open Spirit Corp. has found a niche in GIS—treating GIS as a CORBA-based service. Safe Software

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<sup>1</sup> [ESRI](#) is not a listed company, but claims over \$ 500 million sales, generated by its 3,200 employees. Current revenue growth is running at around 10%/year.

<sup>2</sup> Some presentations are available on the [ESRI PUG 20005](#) website.

offers a competing solution which seems to have more support from ESRI—where SAFE’s FME is branded as ‘ESRI ArcGIS Interoperability Extensions’. Not the snappiest name—but it does say what it is.

### Highlights

- [Shell’s GIS architecture](#)
- [3D Working Group](#)
- [ANGEL gas leak detection](#)
- [Spatial data management](#)
- [Interview – Charles Fried](#)
- [Exhibitors](#)

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