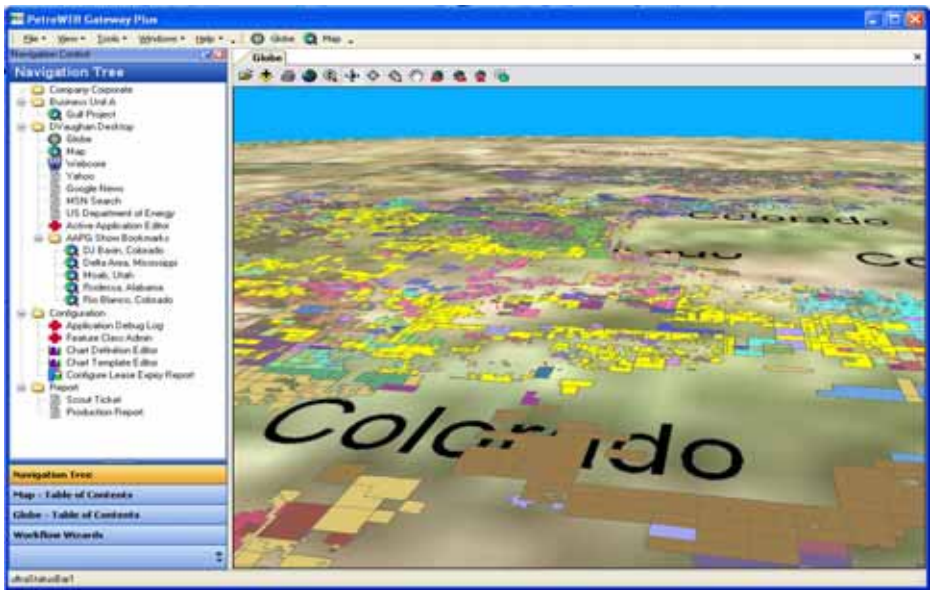
AAPG 2006, Houston.
Houston, April 2006



PetroWeb's new ArcGlobe-based Gateway Plus

The AAPG, like the other major trade shows, may have up to a dozen simultaneous presentations. This means that there is something for everybody, as just about every geoscience nook and cranny is covered at some time during the proceedings. It also makes it hard to choose which to presentations to attend. But a side effect of the geological 'feast' is that more and more attendees spend most of their time at the talks and less on the exhibition floor. Exhibitors naturally complain about the poor traffic. But it could be that declining traffic means less preparation, fewer announcements or new software timed to coincide with the show – leading to a vicious circle. Petris and Paradigm, despite being firmly in the geology business, took this to the extreme and did not exhibit at this year's show. We did manage to dig out one significant software development – the transmogrification of Landmark's GeoProbe seismic interpretation flagship into a full blown geomodeling environment – a process that will likely take some time.

The message of the state of the industry forums confirmed the strengthening position of the National Oil Companies. People shortages in the industry are forcing companies to look to Asia and Central America for graduates. Scott Tinker (University of Texas) highlighted the International Oil Company's (IOC) 'trilemma[1]' of reserves, technology and talent, all of which are 'at risk'. Only 7% of worldwide reserves are open to US companies. This contrasts with the NOCs' growing technology strength as witnessed in presentations from Saudi Aramco – which is also developing a major training program to balance the dwindling geoscience graduate population.

The AAPG Forum on reserve estimation and reporting offered a good summary of the sometimes divergent views on this timely and complex issue. Finally, again on the technology front, an interesting presentation from Tim Killeen of the NCAR gave an insight into the huge IT resources that are devoted to weather forecasting and how they could be applied to 'decision support' for the oil and gas industry.

Highlights

Forum – state of industry
Forum – R&D, staffing and training
Forum – Reserves
Forum – E&P Organizations
3D modeling in GeoProbe

[1] *A three-way dilemma!*

Contents

