



GEO-ENABLING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PRACTICES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

EPA METADATA EDITOR (EME)

E-GOV

Background: High quality metadata is critical for enabling discovery of and access to geospatial resources. It also provides critical information about resources such as data quality, processing, intended use, or other relevant contextual content.

Value Statement: The EPA Metadata Editor (EME) allows users to easily create and edit Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)-compliant geospatial metadata. Its simple user interface and flexible design assists users across numerous organizations in creating high-quality, accurate and consistent metadata records.

Challenges: Creating metadata has been challenging for agencies across the US for many years, often due to lack of tools that provide a simple editing interface that is compliant with all requirements.

How Has the EME Addressed These Challenges?

- EME's streamlined design, integrated help system, and use of defaults and drop-downs greatly simplify the process of creating metadata that meets FGDC and Geospatial One-Stop (GOS) requirements.
- The EME is designed as a flexible tool that uses defaults stored in a Microsoft Access database. Users can edit the database with their organization's defaults to use the EME for their needs.
- The EME is provided with a custom EPA Synchronizer, which allows users to customize which metadata elements are synchronized with the underlying data set.
- EPA provides a number of resources at the EME website (<http://www.epa.gov/geospatial/eme.html>), including recorded training videos, frequently asked questions, metadata samples, and EME source code.

Results: The EME has become a key component of EPA's metadata framework and is also used across numerous other organizations. EPA has recorded thousands of EME downloads from numerous countries, almost all US states, and over hundreds of organizations.

How Can You Leverage EME For Your Needs?

- Download the EME and use it to meet your metadata editing needs <http://www.epa.gov/geospatial/eme.html>
- Access EME help section to better understand metadata editing and standards
- Strengthen the quality of your data by providing high-quality metadata
- Encourage data sharing and transparency

For Additional Information, Please Contact:

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Key EME Achievements

EME is a key part of EPA's Metadata Framework, which has received significant recognition in the past few years, including:

- * Winner of Government Computer News Award for Agency IT Achievement, 2008
- * Winner of EPA Mason Hewitt Award for Technical Excellence in GIS, 2008
- * Winner of ESRI Best Embedded GIS Application, 2007