

Questions and Answers for the new FDO Provider for GE Smallworld

Autodesk Feature Data Object (FDO) Data Access Technology addresses the need for openness and interoperability between traditional geographic information system (GIS) applications and mainstream operational information technology (IT) systems, as well as integration with public or private web mapping services. Incorporated into Autodesk® Geospatial products, and also available as a stand-alone, open source technology for developers, FDO helps increase productivity and save time by enabling users to work on a variety of spatial and non-spatial databases and file formats natively, without the need for translation and risk of data loss.

1. The new FDO Provider for GE Smallworld

Leveraging the proven FDO technology, Autodesk now offers GE Smallworld Utility customers the FDO Provider for GE Smallworld's Version Managed Datastore (VMDS). Built in collaboration with Spatial Business Systems (SBS), the new FDO Provider provides read only access to Smallworld data, allowing display, query and analysis in Autodesk products such as AutoCAD® Map 3D, Autodesk MapGuide® Enterprise, Autodesk® Utility Design and Autodesk® Topobase. Customers see the big picture, improve efficiency and data quality, and reduce operational costs.

1.1 Who are the customers that benefit from the use of the new FDO Provider for GE Smallworld?

The new FDO Provider for GE Smallworld benefits AutoCAD Map 3D, Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise, Autodesk Utility Design and/or Autodesk Topobase customers who need to access live geospatial data from their GE Smallworld corporate repository.

1.2 Is the new FDO Provider GE Smallworld available today?

Yes. The initial version of the new FDO Provider, developed to support Autodesk's 2009 geospatial products, was made available in July 2008. The initial FDO Provider is a read only provider.

1.3 What are the capabilities of the FDO Provider for GE Smallworld?

The new FDO Provider provides read only access to GE Smallworld data, allowing display, query and analysis in the 2009 version of Autodesk geospatial products such as AutoCAD Map 3D, Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise, AutoCAD Utility Design and Autodesk Topobase.

1.4 Can I update data in GE Smallworld from AutoCAD Map 3D?

This release of the FDO Provider for GE Smallworld facilitates read only access to the GE Smallworld database. It is not possible to create or update data in the GE Smallworld environment. Autodesk will consider future development based on customer demand for additional capabilities that can be enabled via the FDO Provider for GE Smallworld.

1.5 How would a customer use AutoCAD Map 3D and Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise within a GE Smallworld environment?

AutoCAD Map 3D and/or Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise can be used as viewing clients for GE Smallworld data. AutoCAD Map 3D enables mapping, planning, and facilities/infrastructure design staff to access, view and edit CAD and GIS data in an AutoCAD® environment. By using the FDO Provider for GE Smallworld with AutoCAD Map 3D, GE Smallworld utility asset information can be combined with road, cadastral, land, topographic and environmental data for design and mapping projects. Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise gives internal teams a fast, easy, and flexible way to query, analyze, and view this same information on-line while saving printing costs and valuable time.

By turning to AutoCAD Map 3D and Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise, organizations can:

- Integrate spatial data for all design, maintenance and mapping needs
- Streamline the process of disseminating data
- Accelerate decision making with easy-to-use, real-time information

1.6 How can I get access to new FDO Provider?

The FDO Provider is *not* supplied out-of-the-box with 2009 product releases. To get the free FDO Provider for GE Smallworld, please contact us at fdosmallworld@autodesk.com.

This FDO Provider has a unique system requirement in that it is dependent on the server-side SWConnector™ interface component from Spatial Business Systems, Inc. (SBS). SBS has provided similar interface components to other GIS solutions and has a proven track record integrating 3rd party software components to GE Smallworld infrastructures.

Customers must acquire the SWConnector directly from Spatial Business Systems (SBS), www.spatialbiz.com.

1.7 Who is Spatial Business Systems, Inc?

Spatial Business Systems Inc. (SBS) is a leading developer of geospatial interoperability solutions with many years experience implementing GE Smallworld solutions. SBS is based in Lakewood, Denver, Colorado, USA.

SBS will be supporting Autodesk's efforts in all aspects of selling, implementing and supporting GE Smallworld customers wanting to integrate with the Autodesk Geospatial products.

1.8 Which version of GE Smallworld does the FDO Provider for GE Smallworld work with?

The FDO Provider has been tested with 4.0, 3.3 and 3.2.1 versions of GE Energy's Smallworld Core Spatial Technology™ using the SBS SWConnector v3.0. providing a stable platform for companies considering upgrading their back-end Smallworld platform. For older versions of GE Smallworld, please contact Spatial Business Systems, Inc.

2. SWConnector from Spatial Business Systems

2.1 What is the SWConnector?

SWConnector is a comprehensive Application Programming Interface (API) for the Smallworld product. The SWConnector API is provided as a dll supporting the GE Smallworld TICS architecture and leveraging data marshalling to provide lightning fast performance. SWConnector isolates the developer from having to learn the Magik language. For more information please visit <http://www.spatialbiz.com/pages/SWConnector.htm>

2.2 Can Autodesk sell the SWConnector from SBS?

No, customers must acquire the SWConnector form SBS. To engage with SBS directly, please email fdosmallworld@autodesk.com

3. Implementation and Support

3.1 What is the effort involved in implementing the SWConnector?

As with most other database environments, an in depth understanding of GE Smallworld is required to get the most out of the FDO Provider for GE Smallworld. Spatial Business Systems, Inc. will provide services to Autodesk channel partners and customers directly if required.

3.2 Who provides support?

Autodesk will provide application support including installation of and use within AutoCAD Map 3D, Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise, and Autodesk Topobase. Issues that are deemed to be FDO Provider (or SWConnector/GE Smallworld) issues are escalated to SBS. SBS will handle ongoing maintenance of and updates for FDO Provider development until the end of April 2010.

*Free products are subject to the terms and conditions of the end-user license agreement that accompanies download of the software.

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