

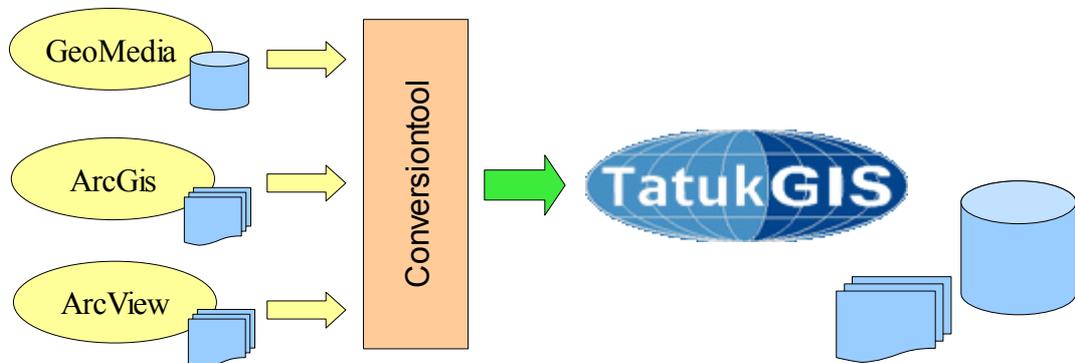
Newsletter March 2010

In this newsletter some tips and tricks using the editor. Furthermore an update of Open Street Maps and some information about conversion of data.

1 The year of migrations?

Well just 3 months past in 2010 and already SmallToGo sees a lot of migration taking place. Not only from other applications but in this case especially in TatukGIS. I guess some more will start or take place this year. I am myself involved in a project where a customer moves from GE Smallworld to another GIS.

But also the TatukGIS applications are involved in several migration projects. At this moment I have noticed 3 different migrations taking place. GeoMedia, ArcGIS and ArcView will probably this year be replaced by a TatukGIS solution or environment.



It is not a big surprise looking at the functionality of TatukGIS and the licencing of the other GIS applications. For the customer this will save a lot of money and if they do it well they use that again for other usefull investments to even increase the usability of the GIS application.

Actually a migration has also a positive side effect. The customer will clearly see what data it uses and the customer can set up a new data repository to improve the exchange of data in the organisation. All data can be looked at thoroughly and as always dataquality becomes an issue again. In the 14 years I am in this business, I have seen many migrations and none of them went right without any problem.

Also just a few companies know what data they have. During a migration all kind of users seem to have important data: MS Access, Excel, word documents, textfiles, shapefiles, well anything you can think of.

Very often the data they always maintained is of big value and should be taken in account during a migration.

If you need any help in migrating data or need to know how to handle migration processes, then you can always contact me.

2 Converting data

In earlier newsletters of december 2009 and january 2010 I talked about importing and exporting data using the editor. These are standard procedures to move data from one format to another format.

With the data itself nothing happens. There are however also conversions where data is moved to another database with another datamodel. Tables might be merged into 1 or some data needs to be put in another

table etc. All this is done to optimize the use of data. These conversions can be quite complex.

I will save you any further details. I can give you some tips where many conversions fail:

1. are the source and target data in a field of the same type (both integers or floating numbers)
For example: date fields. They can cause problems with the notation of the date. Does it store a date and time and will it be converted to a date field, then the time is lost.
2. Is it possible to transfer a table directly from A to B or does it need an intermediate table for the conversion of data?
3. Are there memofields (a textfield with usually an infinite number of characters) and is it being converted to a text field with a fixed size? Then you might loose some data.
4. What are the limitations of the new database or file format?

Using the editor some conversions can be done and a little bit more complex could be solved with some scripting but keep in mind that the editor is a tool to maintain geographical data.

3 Update Open Street Maps

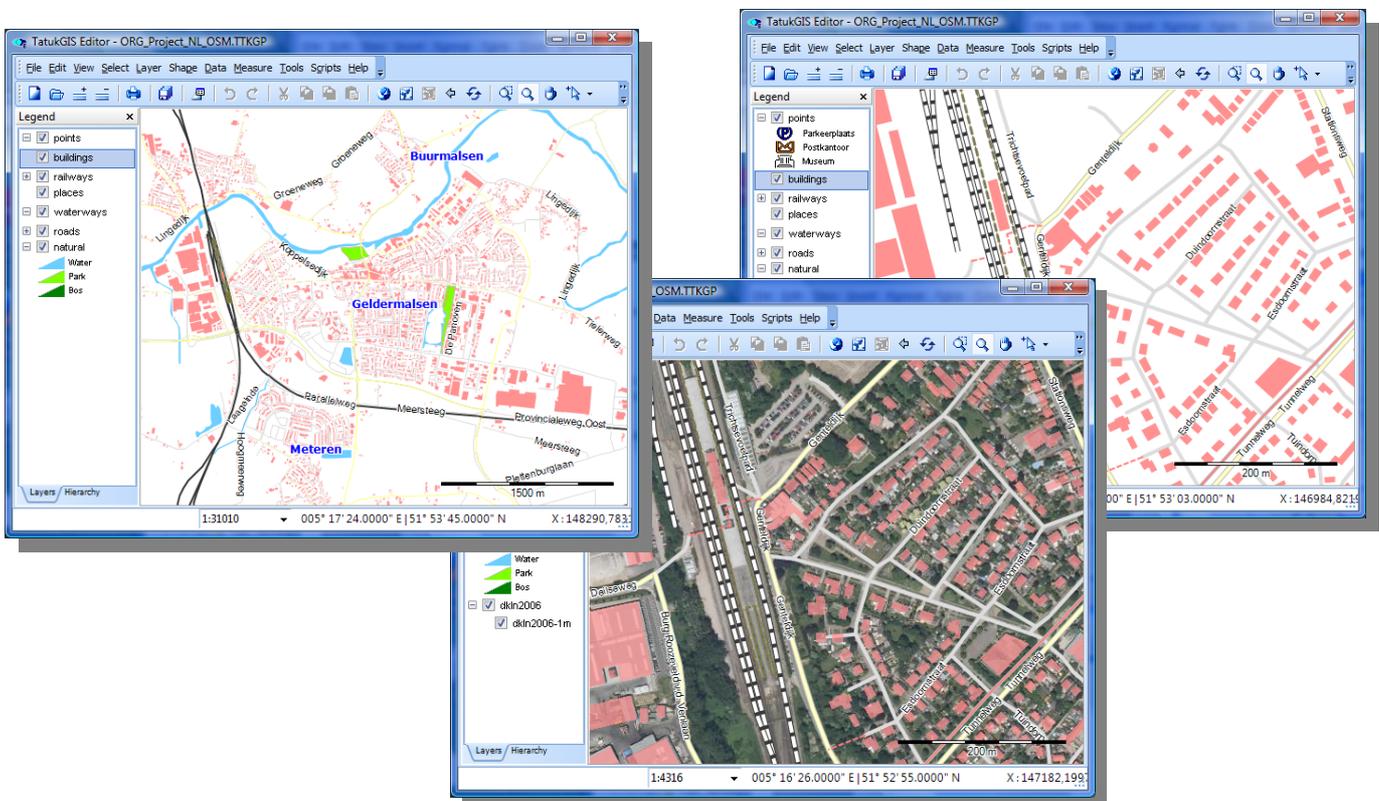
In earlier newsletters I have talked several times about Open Street Maps. It is free available data with roads, woods, parks, points of interest, rivers, canals and buildings. A huge amount of data maintained by hundreds of people around the world. Even I have done something in Open Street Maps.

Last time I downloaded the Open Street Maps data of the Netherlands was about 6 months ago. Now last week I downloaded again and I saw that the amount of buildings on the map has increased enormously. From a 4 Mb to more then 100 Mb!

Download Open Street Maps from this website: <http://download.geofabrik.de/osm/europe>

The files are in shape format or osm. Both are supported by the editor. SmallToGo splitst up the file to increase the performance and to have a better control over several types of road e.g. SmallToGo can do this for you for a small price.

Here an example of how it looks like around the office of SmallToGo.

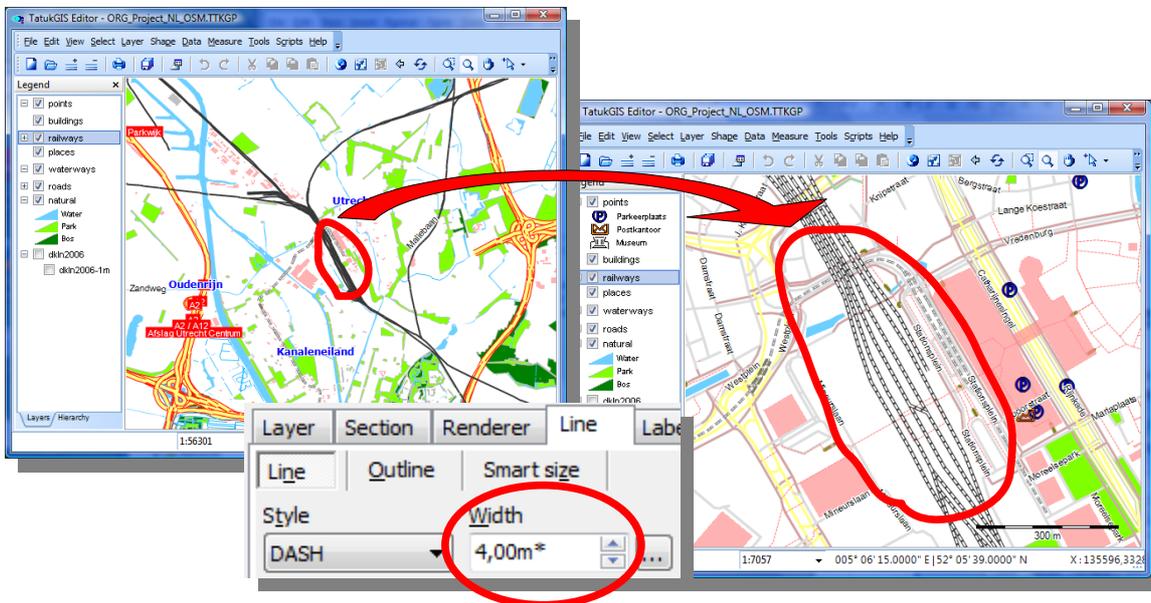


In the middle picture you can see the airphoto's which are in the project as WMS layer.

4 Fix size

Fixing the size of a symbol can be usefull but the other way around to change the size depending on zooming in or zooming out is also very usefull. That means a symbol with a fixed size of 5 meters is becoming smaller when zooming out or becoming bigger when zooming in. The editor tries to let it be 5 meters. If zoomed out to far the geometry is automatically hidden as the symbol would get too small to be able to display it.

For roads the fixed size is usefull when a road should always be of 4 meters wide. In this example here the railroad is drawn with a fixed size of 4 meters. See what happens when zooming in or zooming out.



Setting a fixed size is done in this example with 4,00m*. Watch the * at the end, that is the character used to specify a fixed size.

5 Your contribution

In the Dutch newsletter there was a nice contribution of a customer but it is not meant for the foreign market. If you have something you would like to share with other newsreaders, please let me know.

6 TatukGIS News

TatukGIS has released version 2.4.1.4094 of their Editor. The editor has a new implementation of the language module built in. Furthermore a number of fixes especially in relation to the MS SQL 2008 format.

At this moment TatukGIS works hard to finish IS9, the internet server version 9. That will probably support SilverLight to make websites look fancier.

Remember that the webserver is a very powerfull (like the editor) product. You can present, query data, do spatial analysis, link to many files and databases etc.... Soon more information will follow.

7 SmallToGo News

SmallToGo is busy in investigating setting up a user conference. When and how it will take place is not known yet but you will be hearing from it soon. As a VAR I and other resellers and even customers want to show you the power of TatukGIS. If you want to join or want to show some of your solutions, please let me know!

8 Finally

Next newsletter I will talk about topology and give you an example of some script in the editor.

Best regards, Danny van Hooren