Hearing Evidence Mapping Application: A Collaboration Between GIS Developers and Appraisers at Harris County Appraisal District

Tiffany Selvidge, GISP, GIS Programmer Analyst, Harris County Appraisal District, Houston, TX
Sherri Potts, RPA, CCA, Valuation Manager, Harris County Appraisal District, Houston, TX

**ABSTRACT TEXT:** The Hearing Evidence Mapping Application was first developed in 2012 and was created to assist agents, owners and appraisers in protests and hearings. In the beginning the application (HEMA) was programmed to display and handle basic queries involving only two sales layers: comparable sales and comparable properties. The two layers were displayed upon a map and mirrored the sales information provided in the hearing evidence pdf packets created for each protest. Appraisers from each of the major property types (Residential, Commercial and Industrial) were consulted to determine what information to display and how to display it. Since 2012 the application has become increasingly depended upon for the hearings; last count placed the number of hearings at greater than 330,000 per year.

In 2016 more sales type layers were added to the map and in 2017 additional widgets such as finding sales by max distance, neighborhood groups, and years were included. Along each step of the way team leads from Residential and Commercial groups closely worked with GIS developers to ensure each modification and addition were designed for the best interests of the end users. In the middle of 2017 the decision was made to migrate the application to an updated software development platform ([asp.net](http://asp.net)) in order to handle the increasing work load and stress that was being placed upon the platform by all of the additional layers and queries. The resulting application is faster in load time and more stable for the users.

Migration of HCAD to the Parcel Fabric

Joshua Dye, GISP, GIS Analyst, Harris County Appraisal District, Houston, TX
Van O'Brien, Director of Solutions and Services, The Sidwell Company, St Charles, IL

**ABSTRACT TEXT:** While the parcel fabric data model has been implemented in counties across the United States, few if any have been implemented at the scale of Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD). At 1.4 million parcels, a migration project of this scope required careful research, planning and execution to accomplish. This presentation will discuss the scale of data issues in the original cadastral base, the management of converting over a million parcels, the strategies in maintaining the fabric moving forward, and the variety of unique challenges that a conversion of this scale provides.