GIS and CAMA Integration 101 - Getting Started
Brent Jones, Global Manager, Land Records/Cadastre, Esri, Vienna, VA

ABSTRACT TEXT: What does CAMA and GIS integration mean to me? Why is this important? What are the benefits? How do I do it? What do I need to know? How do I get started? If you're new to GIS and to integrating GIS and CAMA, this session will cover the basics of how to get full value of your GIS from integrating with CAMA. We will cover the types of integration – what works, what is easy, pitfalls, what to avoid and an update on technology.

Uniformity Using GIS and Queries
Daniel Hagen, Residential Appraiser, Skagit County, Mount Vernon, WA
Josh Greenberg, GISP, GIS Analyst, Skagit County, Mount Vernon, WA

ABSTRACT TEXT: Over the last 4 years, Skagit County has been increasingly using a combination of GIS and SQL queries to add consistency and uniformity to the Assessor's database. GIS is a tremendous tool for an Assessors office. Along with making appraisers more efficient in mapping inspections, determining the best routes for new construction inspections, and viewing sales in close proximity to a subject parcel, it is a huge tool for verifying production and uniformity of assessment. While far from perfect, there has been tremendous progress made in our office by going through three important steps.

The first step required a handbook that described details of coding, adjustments, or any other changes. These adjustments could be standard for when a property’s value was lower due to the proximity of a railroad or highway, or when to determine a home a 1.5 story house versus a 2 story home. Without a handbook that is required to be followed by all appraisers, there will not be uniformity of the data. You cannot have a list of what the land use codes are without a description of when land use codes are used and expect all appraisers to have the same ideas on proper usage.

The second step is using queries to make sure that all properties have an acceptable neighborhood (mass adjustment tool), building style, or land adjustments. When there is a standardized list, it is easy to make sure all parcels have one of the correct options chosen in that field. Whether it is checking the building style of an improvement versus the cost tables used on a building or seeing if any adjustments fall outside of an acceptable range. With queries, you can do spot checks of data for thousands of accounts without having to open each one.

The final step is displaying this data onto a map to search for uniformity in these adjustments. This also allows a visual inspection to check that data is used correctly in a locational sense. This can be the neighborhood, view or waterfront land tables, or land adjustments for specific attributes. The use of LIDAR, combined with sales data can show any adjustments needed for being in a floodway. LIDAR also allows us to know if our topography adjustments are uniform and needed.