



ESdatNEWS Q4 2010

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How do you manage your environmental standards?

A library of regulatory environmental standards is distributed with ESdat, and the latest changes are available at the ESdat web site.

These standards are arranged as given in each individual standards document, and hence are documented separately.

For many users however, the same collection of multiple standards may be used repeatedly. Many users have expressed a preference that they be pre-loaded into the database when a new project is created.

There are two available approaches to achieve this. The first is to populate the "New Database Template" (Access Versions – See the help file under Setup – Templates – Files – New Projects), or import the standards to "All" sites (SQL Server Version). However, this approach isn't suitable if you have different combinations of standards that you will want to use for different purposes. In general we recommend a second approach.

The second, and generally preferred, approach is to open each of the

standards that you wish to combine in Excel (outside of ESdat), and simply copy them into a single sheet underneath each other. Each of the standards will retain its unique name as given in the "ActionLevelSource" column. There is no danger of them all being "Amalgamated" into a single "Name". Save this document with a name of your choosing and you can import this single document into ESdat in one step (the name of the document is for your reference and isn't imported into ESdat).



Although there has been no software update released since the last newsletter (August), we have been busy working on the next release, which should be released to selected users in January. This newsletter includes more "handy hints", and other news to keep you informed, in addition to letting you know what to look out for in 4.2.



ESdat user survey

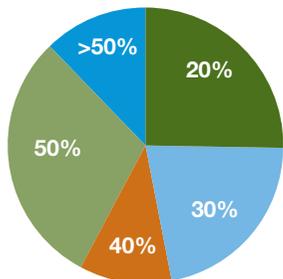
The ESdat Users Opinion Survey was conducted over October and November with several objectives.

We wanted to gain a better understanding of:

- How users perceive ESdat,
- The features users like and benefit from; and
- Understand your frustrations and suggested areas for improvement.

You told us that the benefits of ESdat include:

- Time savings which were quantified as a minimum of 20%, with over 50% of respondents saving at least 40% of their time on a typical project.
- Ease of use
- Storing data in one place including large files and historical data
- Accuracy and QA reporting



When compared to other methods, how much office time analysing environmental data do you save (on average) when using ESdat?

The top line result was very encouraging with 98.8% of respondents advising they would recommend the software to a colleague.

There were numerous constructive comments about possible improvements that can be made to ESdat. The suggestions included:

- Improving chemistry code matching and lookup tables.
- Being able to include more media, such as weather, radiation and air.
- Improving output table formats including a function to add company logos.
- More training and communication around upgrades.

These suggestions have provided great feedback in ways in which we can improve the software, and also where we need to target training and other resources to better communicate existing functionality that users may not be aware of.

Do you use the Well Code to associate samples with Piezometers?

Do you associate Piezometers with Aquifers?

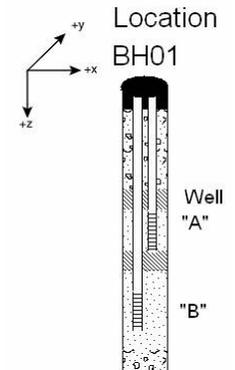
WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THAT THERE IS SOME CONFUSION IN THE USER-BASE AS TO HOW A "WELL" IS DIFFERENT FROM A "LOCATION".

The diagram to the right shows a single Location ("BH01") with two screened intervals or Wells ("A" and "B"). It can be seen that it is possible to have multiple wells at a single location.

Location information (ie co-ordinates, site sub-areas/zones etc.) is entered into the "Location" table, and Well information into the "Wells" table.

The Wells table also allows you to indicate the "Monitoring Unit" that the particular well is monitoring. Typically this would be populated with the aquifer name. Other information, such as screened interval, may also be entered.

When importing chemistry data associated with a particular "Well" the correct Location and Well should be specified. When this is done the outputs through ESdat will enable you to filter data for your aquifer unit, screened depth etc. prior to producing outputs such as Chemistry Tables or Charts.



■ REMTECH CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

WE RECENTLY ATTENDED THE REMTECH CONFERENCE IN BANFF, CANADA. THIS WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP WITH OUR GROWING LIST OF CANADIAN ESDAT USERS, AND TO SHOW THE SOFTWARE TO POTENTIAL NEW USERS. IN ADDITION, DEMONSTRATIONS WERE PROVIDED IN CALGARY, VANCOUVER, AND TORONTO.

User case study - GHD borehole and geological data

GHD use a variety of GIS and Borehole Logging software to represent site geology and chemistry, all of which have different data requirements. This variety of software leverages the strengths of particular applications, of user skill sets, and accommodates historical usage in particular service lines (ie gINT in Geotech, WinLog in Environmental).

Traditionally data has been, to a certain extent “captured” in these applications, with limited portability to other applications. This has traditionally raised issues related to data handling, consistency, time loss, re-usability and presentation options.

The Borehole Logging and GIS Service lines at GHD has developed procedures to electronically collect and import all geological and borehole data into ESdat, and maintain the ESdat data as the central point of truth. This means that this data is easily available in any of the internally used borehole or geological/GIS applications. Data re-usability is substantially increased.

GHD have customised ESdat outputs to send data to one of Four gINT reports, Eight WinLog reports, as well as internal ArcView, MapInfo and EVS templates. GHD have further developed a custom linkage from the ESdat database directly into MapInfo Discover 3D, a specialist geological data viewing application within MapInfo. This custom linkage reads directly from the ESdat database, and can be opened from MapInfo without needing ESdat to be used, or even installed. This in effect creates a “Second Interface” to data stored in ESdat.

Using this approach to managing geological data GHD is able to ensure that geological data is systematically managed, that reports are generated off the latest data, that data corrections flow through to all outputs, and that users can continue to use their preferred software of choice. For more information contact Justin Weaver at GHD (justin.weaver@ghd.com).

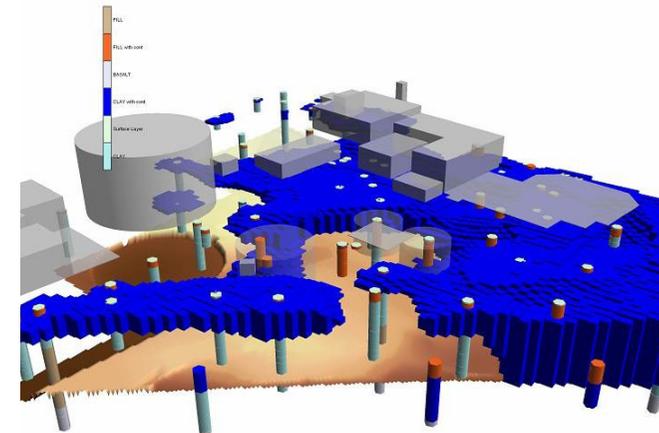


Figure1 : Borehole lithology shown with depth down the borehole, and layer (Clay) interpolation.

If you have an interesting usage of ESdat please contact support@esdat.com.au to discuss a case study for inclusion in newsletters.

Future developments

In the last newsletter we flagged our priority areas for current development. These include:

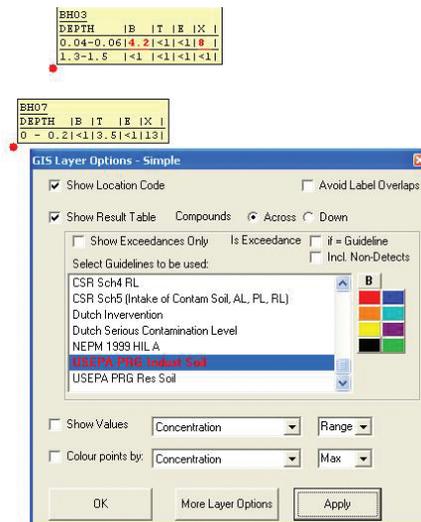
- Updates to map labelling and other GIS functionality,
- The ability to explicitly order Compound groupings (Chem_Group, Method_Type/Name) in chemistry tables.

These tasks are either completed, or are being fine-tuned. Release of this functionality will be included in the next release, scheduled for selected users in January. See below an example of the draft interface for the enhanced labelling options, which shows soil chemistry data exceedances, and the options that will be available.

Feedback from the user survey has led to some additional functionality being developed, which will be included in the next release. Extra functionality will include:

- Ability to import data logger data in a "Cross-tabbed" format;

- Ability to compare data logger data to environmental guidelines;
- Ability to specify the guidelines to be excluded/included on Chemistry Charts;
- Additions to the standard list of ChemCodes in the database; and
- A number of other minor variations to existing functionality.



PLog saves time

- How much time do you lose retyping boreholes logs and file notes into ESdat or borehole logging software?
- How much time is lost in the field using hand notes, instead of point and click lithology descriptions, and auto-copying of layer descriptions?
- Can you keep up with the rig?
- How do you backup your field notes?
- Can you effectively take field notes in adverse weather conditions?
- Would a water proof, impact resistant PDA designed explicitly for logging boreholes and collecting COC data save you time, provide greater data backup options, and make you more efficient?



2. Field Data Collection

Collect Borehole Logs in the field – Collect all sample information, COC and lab analysis request information.

3. Reporting

Import borehole logs straight into ESdat and gINT/WinLog. Review and submit your electronic laboratory analysis request.

1. Sample Planning (optional)

Electronic Sample Planning (specify where you want samples collected and what you want analysed).

■ News from the labs

Analytical Reference Laboratory (ARL)

ARL is a leading Australian, privately owned, environmental laboratory that has assisted customers for over twenty years achieve their environmental needs. ARL strives for best practice - using the latest technology to provide an ever expanding array of analytical testing ensuring accurate results in your required time frame. Our team is dedicated to understanding your analysis requirements and tailoring personalised solutions.

ARL recognised that ESdat can provide a standardised, interpretive report in a most time efficient manner. As a consequence, ARL has completely redesigned its laboratory electronic management system making ESdat formatting a simple procedure. Our process has evolved beyond ESdat reporting to create a far more interactive ARL website and a revision of ARL report presentation.

Look beyond the white coats at ARL, throughout Australia and South East Asia, we're as passionate about helping our customers as we are about the science itself. Issues that ARL deals with include:

- Water testing and analysis
- Soil and sediment testing and analysis
- Acid sulfate soil testing and analysis
- Food contaminant testing and nutritional analysis
- Asbestos testing and analysis
- Dust and diesel particulate analysis
- Occupational hygiene monitoring
- Air monitoring and analysis

Don't hesitate to contact our friendly team for your specific analytical requirements including error-free ESdat exports:

www.arlwa.com.au
P: (08) 6253 4444

Contributions invited ■

Do you have photos collecting geoenvironmental data (ie supervising drill rigs, collection soil or water samples) that you would like to submit for us to use on our web site?

They will be credited to you if you would like recognition.

Are you an expert in a particular industry-related topic that you feel may be of interest to others?

We are looking to add a new section to our newsletter. Please let us know if you have any ideas and would like to submit an article.

Mining

We are going to focus on promoting ESdat in the mining sector over the next 12 months. News releases and advertisements will be sent to a number of publications and web sites. Any organisations that have used ESdat in mining situations, either in-house or as consultants are invited to send brief project descriptions. This will be included in publicity, and should provide a valuable and free promotion opportunity for your company. If this is of interest please send through a brief description of each relevant project, a contact person, and optionally a brief description on the benefits you can provide in managing data for mine-sites using ESdat.