



# ESdatNEWS Q2 2011

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## Version 4.2 rolled out



Nearly all users are now operating on version 4.2, and it is encouraging to see users really embracing some of the new functionality.

Even some organizations that have strong GIS capability and specialist software, have decided to use ESdat's inbuilt GIS mapping for final outputs, rather than export to full GIS or CAD packages (although we still maintain it's not designed for cartographers).

The ability to customize ordering of Chem Groups was also well received, and in general the overwhelming feedback was that people were impressed with the new additions.



## NZ - Hills Laboratories announce data in ESdat format

Hills Laboratiroes have been able to provide data in ESdat format for some months, now. See <http://www.hill-laboratories.com/file/fileid/35562> for contact information.



## handy hints

### Basemaps for mapping – download street maps direct from the web

ESdat supports all common basemap formats (ie bmp, jpg, ecw, dxf, shp etc.), and many ESdat users are lucky enough to be in organizations that have an in-house supply of basemaps. For those who don't have such resources, access to geo-referenced imagery can be difficult.

In version 4.2 the ability to download street maps directly into ESdat was added. There is no cost, and you already have the software. You simply need to ensure you have specified the correct co-ordinate system (Project table in Access versions, Site Table in SQL Server versions), and click the [+Web] button on the map layers toolbar, then "Get OpenStreetMaps" and you have your data points shown relative to streets.

Finding free geo-referenced imagery (as opposed to street outlines) can be a time consuming and frustrating exercise. Nearmap Hypertiles covers many urban areas and provides georeferenced and free

(conditions apply) imagery which is very useful. For other areas DigitalGlobe has a good collection of high resolution images for a modest cost.

If you have found a great imagery resource that is free or low cost, please let us know and we will promote it to other users.

### Do you use Post-Import Calcs? /running 95th Percentile

Post Import Calcs are an incredibly powerful way to get ESdat to run pretty much any calculation you want and store the result in any ESdat table. The calcs need to be written in the format that your database recognizes (ie Access or SQL Server compatible Structured Query Language). While being incredibly flexible, this can be a barrier to many users developing their own calcs, however your IT or ESdat support should be able to add others for you. A standard library is available in your installation directory.

A standard usage of such calcs is to convert results between "Nitrate as N" and "Nitrate as Nitrate" and similar situations.

These situations occur because of different labs reporting the result differently, or because guidelines require a particular style.

A different usage of post-import calcs is to maintain a running 95th Percentile for each compound. The post-import calc inserts the 95th Percentile as a new "Environmental Standard", which is output along with others (such as Drinking Water standards) on tables, graphs or maps.

\*The calculation assumes a normal result distribution, and as such the 95th Percentile calculated may differ from packages that may use other distributions, such as ProUCL.

### Timevariant TOC (Top of Casing)

At a practical level in ESdat Top of Casing (TOC) refers to the reference point which groundwater clips are measured from. Generally TOC is considered to be a constant value, and so only one value needs to be used, and is entered in ESdat in the Wells table. Waterlevel Elevations are then automatically calculated from depths by deducting depths from the TOC value.

Occasionally it is necessary to accommodate a varying value for TOC, either through ground subsidence, or the top parts of the Wells to being "excavated", and new headworks created.

ESdat manages this through the "Timevariant TOC" data table, which allows users to enter the survey date, the TOC, and an Effective Date (useful if an excavation occurs and the survey is taken some months later). The TOC values are then interpolated between these values and the water depth to elevation calculations processed. This is all managed in a database query, which you are welcome to review if you open the database in Access or SQL Server.

For further information about Timevariant TOC search for "TOC" in the help file.



## ■ Electronic chain of custody - Ancillary data

A first draft of data formats for exchange of lab analysis lists, sample containers, quote and other setup data, as well as exchange of lab sample receipt information is currently with interested laboratories and interested users.

Please contact [support@ESdat.com](mailto:support@ESdat.com) if you would like to have the opportunity to comment.

## New Mining Users

With recent sales to new users Linc Energy and Centennial Coal, and with Origin Energy upgrading their existing investment, in addition to all the existing users and other mining groups currently evaluating there continues to be encouraging uptake in the Mining Sector.

## ESdat In Mining

### Carbon Based Environmental

Building on the momentum ESdat has been enjoying amongst mining operations, Carbon Based Environmental have taken on an ESdat reseller role, including implementation and training to service mining operations.

Carbon Based Environmental are based in Singleton, NSW and provide environmental monitoring services at the majority of mines in the Hunter, also maintaining datasets on their behalf. They are experienced in using environmental data management systems and have decided to use and promote ESdat as their system of choice.

For more information on using Carbon Based Environmental's monitoring services, or having them implement an ESdat implementation for you please contact:

Colin Davies  
Carbon Based Environmental Pty Limited  
Singleton, NSW  
P: 02 65 713 334  
M: 0439 604 443

We are also seeing quite a few Brisbane based consultants, although not reselling ESdat, are providing value added services to their mining clients by providing ESdat import, implementation and training services.

If you believe you have the skills please contact [info@ESclS.com.au](mailto:info@ESclS.com.au) to initiate a discussion.

## US news

### Conference attendance - Chicago

ESdat was presented at RemTech in Chicago (<http://www.remtecsummit.com>). Kevin Leung provided demonstrations to prospective clients. The indication was positive, but cautious, as many people who had tried other systems had found them difficult to use. Some resultant trial periods are ongoing at the moment.

If you know anyone in North America who may be interested they can send an email to [support@esdat.com](mailto:support@esdat.com), attention to Kevin or Scott.

### More North American Labs providing ESdat data

With increasing requests for the ESdat format in the US and Canada the list of North American labs that can provide data in ESdat format include:

- Columbia Analytical Services
- Accutest
- Test America
- ALS
- AirToxics
- Maxxam
- Exova
- Caro

## ■ News from the labs



**mgt LabMark are one of the top environmental laboratories in Australia and South East Asia, and have been supporting and inputting to the ESdat format since the early days. mgt Labmark currently issue over 70% of all their analytical reports in ESdat format.**

### **One, new, state of the art LIMS**

Associated with the consolidation of previous labs (Amdel, Labmark) into the mgt Labmark umbrella is the retirement of the LIMS systems at Amdel & Labmark and migration of all lab data management to the new

LIMS called ELVIS (Environmental Laboratory Valued Information System) which is a flexible web-based system that operates in a paperless mode allowing the analysts to concentrate on producing quality results in a timely fashion. ESdat files can be generated as a standard deliverable and a secure web client login facility has the ability to generate ESdat files on-line as well as downloading Reports, COC's, SRA's, Invoices and spreadsheets.

### **New Laboratory in Lane Cove and new analysis suites for air, stack and soil vapour**

The Sydney Asquith and Thornleigh laboratories have closed and moved to a new purpose-built laboratory in the centrally located Lane Cove Business Park in January 2011. The laboratory is within easy access to Sydney's orbital road network and it's also a pleasant working environment with views over Blackman Park and the Lane Cove River. A Lab area of approximately

1300m<sup>2</sup>, houses the laboratory's environmental testing facilities for a comprehensive range of air, water and soil testing.

As well as servicing routine Environmental analysis for the Contaminated Land, Water and Waste Water Sectors a feature of the Lane Cove laboratory is the analysis of air samples including indoor, ambient, stack emission and soil vapour monitoring according to US EPA TO-17 methodologies. Accordingly, all out puts will meet ESdat reporting requirements.

With the recently refurbished Laboratory in Oakleigh Victoria; a new Laboratory in Brisbane which will be NATA accredited in September 2011, and existing offices in Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and Newcastle; mgt LabMark have a significant network capable of servicing local and regional requirements.

### **Lets get more electronic**

mgt Labmark are enthusiastically supporting and inputting to the further development of electronic COC, sample receipt, and other laboratory-client data interactions. If this results in elimination of transcription errors and reduction of sample login time, mgt Labmark sees further potential for more reliable and cost effective services.

For further information contact :

**Sefton McGraw:** (03) 9564 7055  
(sefton@mgtenv.com.au) or

**Dr Bob Symons:** (02) 8215 6222  
(bob.symons@labmark.com.au)

**This section features a lab that provides data in ESdat format. Lab submissions are sought for future newsletters, and interest should be registered with support@esdat.com**

## ■ ESdat skills **needed**

The following vacancies have been advertised for staff with skills in ESdat.

Please contact the relevant organisation directly.

- Golder Associates, Melbourne, Assistant Environmental Data Manager
- ERM, Sydney, GIS Consultant
- Perth, Environmental Scientist
- Parsons Brinkerhoff, Melbourne, Environmental Engineer / Scientist
- JBS Environmental, Sydney, GIS Officer
- ASX Listed Company, Port Headland, Environmental Specialist
- Hydrogeologists, Perth
- Environmental Consultants, Perth
- ESdS, flexible, Senior Data Manager and Implementation Consultant

Please let us know if you have advertised a position where ESdat skills are desirable and would like it to be included.

### Contributions **invited**

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

Do you have an interesting case study that shows a use of ESdat?

Please let us know if you would like to make a contribution and receive recognition from your peers in the industry.

## PLog saves time

*“This is really both an excellent time saver and a great way to standardise the way we record lithology in the field... I personally used PLog and the tablet PC out on a drilling job last week. We installed 5 bores/wells down to 10m below surface. I had the bore logs printed and in my hand within 15 minutes of returning to the office. It was THAT simple and easy! On this project alone it has saved 4-5 hours.”* **Craig Ross, ERM**

In response to the question “How much time do you save when producing borehole logs?” James Coley at FMG Engineering responded “More than 50%”

Last chance to purchase PLog Environmental / LSpecs at the **INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF \$2,000.**

*After 30 June 2011 the standard price will apply (\$2,600+GST) per unit.\**



\*PLog runs on a Windows Tablet PC or a PDA. Ruggedised PDAs are available from \$550