

Overview

In this guide, you will learn how to enable anonymous access to the website domain for an ArcGIS Online subscription. This will ensure that URLs for items that you share to the public are accessible without prompting anonymous users to login.

Introduction

In the Esri Canada GIS Centres of Excellence App Challenge, your group will create an application using the Esri platform. If you choose to create apps and/or content in ArcGIS Online, you must ensure that all items required to use your app are shared publicly. For details about this, please refer to the video presented on the App Challenge web page that provides tips for sharing content in ArcGIS Online:

<https://ecce.esri.ca/wpecce/app-challenge/>

When you share items from your ArcGIS Online organization, you typically will be provided with URLs that use a website domain that is unique to the ArcGIS Online organization you are working with. These URLs will start with the following pattern:

`https://[organization].maps.arcgis.com/`

When you share these URLs, it is possible that anonymous users will be prompted to login to view the content in their browser, even if you have shared the item publicly from your ArcGIS Online content. This occurs for links to certain items when the organization is not configured to allow anonymous access to its website. If you are using an organization for a newly created developer subscription, it will not be configured for anonymous access by default.

There are two ways to ensure anonymous users can access URLs to items you share from your organization:

1. Configure the organization to allow anonymous access to its website
2. Revise URLs to your items to replace the '[organization].maps.arcgis.com' domain with the default 'www.arcgis.com' domain for ArcGIS Online

The first option is available if you are using your own developer account. If you are creating your content with an account in your school's ArcGIS Online organization, and it is not configured to allow anonymous access to its website, then the second option is an alternative method you can use to make sure anonymous users are able to access the links to your apps.

If you are uncertain whether the organization that your content is published to is configured for anonymous website access, you can determine this by logging-out, and attempting to access its home page in a web browser by navigating to [https://\[organization\].maps.arcgis.com/](https://[organization].maps.arcgis.com/) - if the home page is displayed without prompting you to login, then anonymous access is enabled. If anonymous access is not enabled, you will be redirected to login.

If your organization is not configured for anonymous website access, and you find that URLs to items you share publicly are prompting users to login, follow the steps in the following sections to ensure either that your organization is configured for public access, or that your URLs use the public 'www.arcgis.com' domain for ArcGIS Online.

Option 1: Enable Anonymous Access in Organization Settings

To enable anonymous access to the website for your organization's domain, you need administrative privileges for the organization. If you are using a developer subscription, you can enable this option by following these steps:

1. Navigate to 'www.arcgis.com' or '[organization].maps.arcgis.com' in a web browser, and login with an administrative account. If you are using a developer account, then the [organization] portion of the URL will be based on your developer account username (login at www.arcgis.com with your developer account to be redirected to your organization domain automatically).
2. Navigate to Organization -> Edit Settings -> Security
3. Check the box for the option that states "Allow anonymous access to your organization's website, [organization].maps.arcgis.com."

To verify that the setting has been successfully applied:

1. Logout of the organization (or open a new 'incognito' or 'private' browser tab)
2. Navigate to the main website for your organization: [https://\[organization\].maps.arcgis.com/](https://[organization].maps.arcgis.com/)
3. You should be presented with the default webpage for the site (i.e., you should not be redirected to sign-in).

Option 2: Substitute Domain in URLs with www.arcgis.com

If you are not able to control the organization settings to enable anonymous access to the website for its own domain, you can revise links to items that have been shared publicly from your ArcGIS Online organization's content to use the main 'www.arcgis.com' domain instead.

For example, the following link is an example that points to the item details page of a web map created in the organization content for a developer subscription:

<https://mleahydev.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=18317cc700624701bd4a6231330e079e>

The web map has been shared to the public from the developer account's content area. However, when the option to allow anonymous access to the ArcGIS Online organization's website is disabled, anonymous users will be prompted to login when they navigate to the URL in a browser.

The same item, however, can be accessed without prompting for login by replacing the organization's domain in the URL with 'www.arcgis.com'. The link below points to the same app, but will not prompt anonymous users to login:

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=18317cc700624701bd4a6231330e079e>

Conclusion

It is important to ensure that the content you create for the App Challenge is made accessible for anonymous users, so that your app can be easily reviewed by judges at the end of the competition. It also allows us to showcase your apps for everyone else to see! If you follow the instructions presented in the App Challenge video series, in most cases your apps and content will be accessible. However, in some cases the configuration for anonymous access to the organization website will also affect your apps. With the additional instructions in this guide, you will be able to ensure your apps are available for everyone to when you have completed the app challenge.

Happy developing!

<https://ecce.esri.ca>

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