**ORMAP Mapping Project - Outstanding Issues from week of testing (1/23/09)**

Jeff Barrette

The following are a summary of items addressed during the week that are still outstanding. These are either bugs or suggestions. Any changes to the following will require code modification and/or further testing. Testing was done with ArcPy updated on 1/22.

1. For some reason modifying the SCALE property has no affect on the output map (e.g., mainDF.scale = 1200). Currently each (zoom to) map index extent has undesirable scales that do not match the scale text that gets derived.
2. Can’t get X, Y coordinates from data frame in map units. I need to do this for a few reasons:
   1. Need to store the geometric center of data frame in pagelayout elements table,
   2. Want to get the X, Y Min/Max values of the dataframe to perform a spatial overlay to query other map index polygons.
   3. Want to determine the map index in the current extent.
3. ZoomToExtent does not work as efficiently as expected. The following code should work but doesn’t because the wrong formatted object is returned.

geom = mapIndexRow.shape

featureExtent = geom.extent

#mainDF.zoomToExtent(featureExtent) – doesn’t work.

Currently using:

mainExtent = arcpy.Extent(featureExtent.xMin, featureExtent.yMin, featureExtent.xMax, featureExtent.yMax)

mainDF.zoomToExtent(mainExtent)

1. Script tools run much slower. When I run the python script from an IDE, it takes about 2-3 seconds. Why I run the same script thought a Toolbox script tool it takes about 8 seconds.
2. ListDataFrames index list is backwards from bottom of TOC to top. This correction will affect my code.
3. ListLayers will list annotation sub classes as well. Something I don’t think is desirable.
4. It would be nice to have a ListLayerByName or a ListLayers with a wildcard filter to immediately return a layer object. Looping thought a list of layers and finding it by name is very inefficient.
5. Text elements vs page layout elements. There is a lot of discussion around this point. My thoughts are as follows:
   1. Pagelayout elements SHOULD be exposed. I realize the functionality will continue to be exposed in arcgisscripting but I don’t think it is an “advanced” feature to want to move elements on the page.
   2. I don’t think ListTextElements or UpdateTextElements is necessary. Make it even more simple by just providing access to Elements. From the Elements list you can get to text elements.
      1. Problem with Elements is that it does not have a .text property.
   3. Would need to create a ListElements command off of mapping. Elements is currently found off the MXD object and that should not be the case.
6. I’m currently using arcpy.gp.refresh graphics. It is my understanding that this is going away. Either this command be reintroduced into the arcpy.mapping level or the individual commands (e.g., zoom to extent) refresh. When I change the text string of a text element, wouldn’t I need refresh graphics?
7. Having an option to delete pages in a multi-page PDF would make the user experience much nicer. I have a situation where I have a starter PDF that has the title page. Next I run a process and append pages to that starter PDF. If I want to run the process again (as an update), I must delete the last PDF, make a copy of the backup starter PDF and rename it to match the name in the script. The enhancement request would be to have the ability to delete a range of page numbers in an existing PDF (e.g, page 2 and beyond) before appending.