

ArcMap MXD Redirect Data Sources

By: Ronnie Richards

Updated: Dec 7th 2006 (See change log)

Version: 1.0.1

Platform: ArcGIS 9.1 Sp1 / Windows XP / VB6 SP3

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Purpose: | 1 |
| Installation: | 1 |
| Usage: | 1 |
| Interactive Method: | 2 |
| Search and Replace Method: | 2 |
| Common Data Sources: | 3 |
| Notes: | 4 |
| Change Log: | 4 |
| Future: | 4 |
| Warning: | 4 |
| Contact: | 4 |

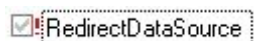
Purpose:

Within the open MXD document, this tool will allow you to repair broken Data Source links or redirect featureclasses Data Source paths to a new location. This tool offers 2 very different methods to perform this task. It has been tested to work with shapefiles and personal geodatabases. (SDE will probably work too)

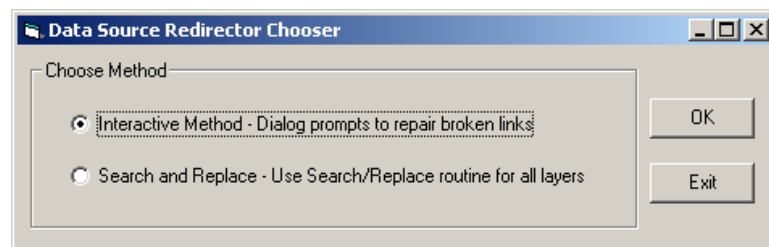
Installation:

- 1) Copy the RedirectDataSource.dll to your C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\Custom folder. (or use the Install.VBS included in the ZIP file)
- 2) In ArcMap -> Tools -> Customize -> Add From File -> Browse to the DLL in the above location.
- 3) Go to the DSD Tools Category and drag out the Redirect Data Source tool onto your favorite toolbar.

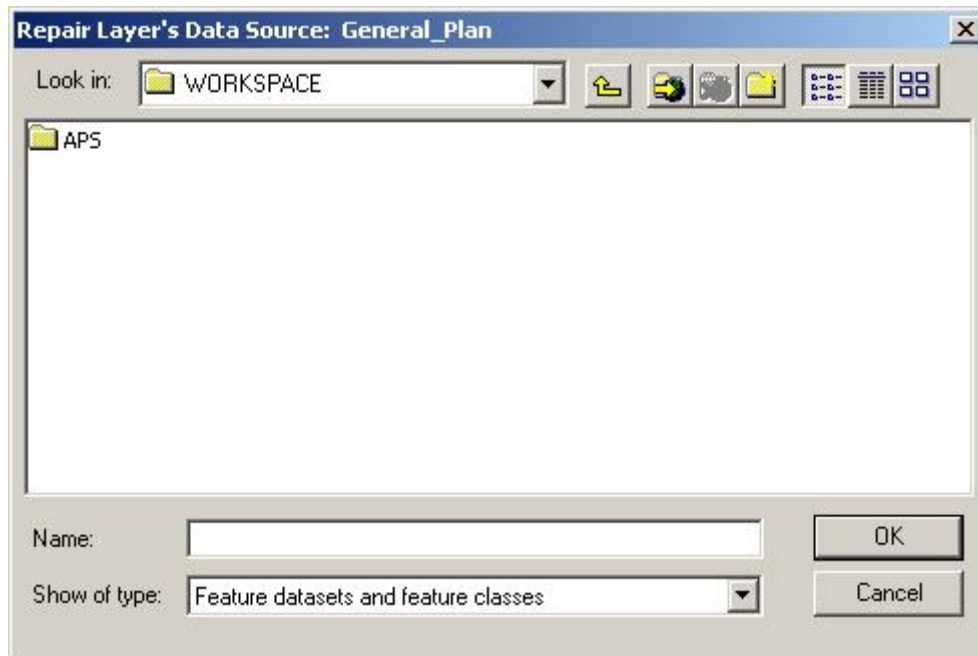
Usage:



There are 2 methods currently offered in this tool.

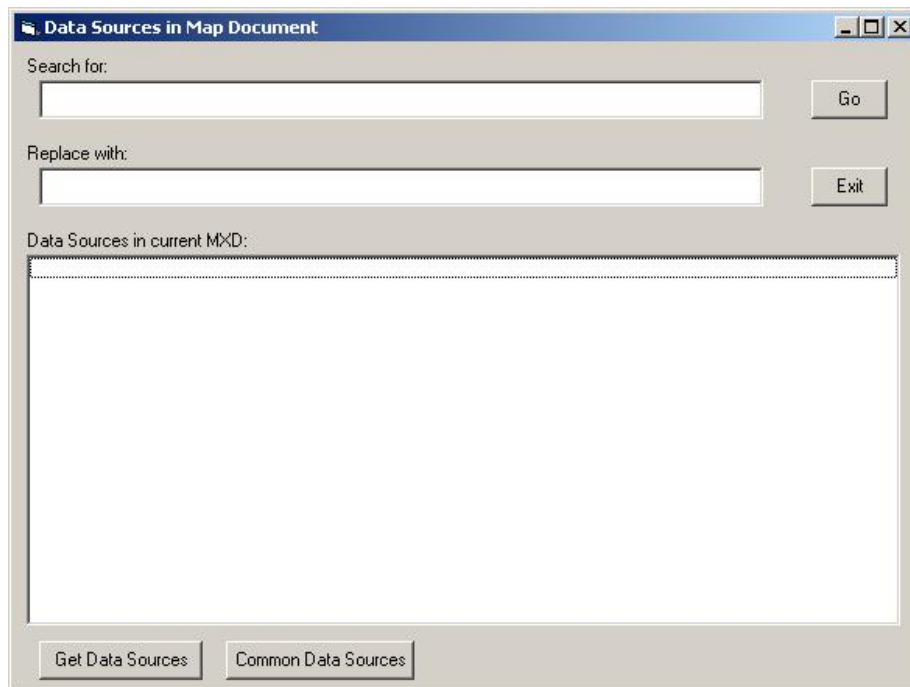


Interactive Method:



The interactive method will prompt the user with a dialog box for each broken link found in the MXD. The user has the ability to interactively browse and find the new data source location. This works great for featureclasses that might have been renamed or moved to another location.

Search and Replace Method:



The Search and Replace method is a bit more complex but very powerful. Start off by clicking on the "Get Data Sources" button. This button will list all of the currently assigned data sources (broken or not) in the listbox. The user then has the ability to double click on the data source path and perform a search and replace routine very similar to Microsoft Word or Excel. The search for text box will contain a string to search in the data source path and the replace with text box will replace that string with a new one.

For example:

Say the data source was listed as: [\\pwgis1\vol1\gis\ADMIN_BOUNDARIES](#), double click on this source and both text boxes will be filled with the string:

Search for: [\\pwgis1\vol1\gis\ADMIN_BOUNDARIES](#)
Replace with: [\\pwgis1\vol1\gis\ADMIN_BOUNDARIES](#)

You can then change whatever you want in the search string.

For example say you want to redirect this to the new server, you would do the following:

Search for: [\\pwgis1\vol1\](#)
Replace with: [\\entgis01\shares\](#)

Hit the GO button and it will all take place behind the scenes. It will search for ALL LAYERS using [\\pwgis1\vol1\](#) and replace it with [\\entgis01\shares\](#) You can then click on the GET DATA SOURCES button to check the new paths.

Save the MXD and reopen it and the data sources will be redirected!!

Common Data Sources:

The tool now allows users to create their own Common Data Sources to save from typing them in. Use the Common Data Sources select the path you would like to use. A notepad button has been added to allow additions/deletions of common data sources. After saving the changes in notepad, closing the Data Sources form and reopening will allow these data sources to be available.



Notes:

I have an open bug report with ESRI due to the TOC refresh. It is supposed to refresh the TOC and redraw the layers, however this is not occurring. Save the MXD and reopen and everything you redirected will have the new path.

** Dec 7th 2006 – This still appears to be a bug in ArcGIS 9.1. Hopefully 9.2 this will be fixed. Obviously I have not had much time to be working on this tool but I am still getting numerous emails about it so I wanted to make some small improvements that are easy to implement.

Change Log:

- Redesigned form for better usability with long paths
- Allowed the form to be resized and controls to be scaled
- Manage and Create custom "COMMON DATA SOURCES"
 - Hard coded to C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\Custom\RedirectDS.txt

Future:

- Work with SDE Layers, Workspaces and Featureclass names
- Allow the user to filter the data sources by Feature/Layer type
- Work with MXDs outside of ArcMap thru ArcCatalog

Warning:

This is version 1.0.1 of this tool so I expect there to be bugs! Make sure to backup all of your MXD's before saving them with this tool!!!

Contact:

Thanks for all the excellent feed back, I have been amazed by all the individuals who have contacted me regarding this tool!!

Please submit any comments, advice, bugs, changes to
rgrichards@cityofsacramento.org

Hope you like it!!!
Ronnie