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Trail Stewards GIS Work

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To: Peter Lillie <peter.m.lillie@gmail.com>

Peter -

Congrats on the new addition to your family! I hope all is well with everyone. I feel bad asking for your time now that I know what you're up against! Those days are LONG behind me, but I remember how hard it was to find time to do anything but the esse

Please don't feel you have to jump in right now. I understand you have more responsibilities that are a priority. So if you can't get together with me for a while, I will completely understand.

On the other hand, if you are looking for a distraction, I'm SO glad to pick your brain. And Monday through Thursday of next week would work for me preferably after 7pm. I would let you choose the time as your duties allow. I'm a night-owl. So it's really n

In order to maximize the value of our call, let me give you a heads-up on what it is I'm looking to try to pull off. Once you understand, you may beg out, and I'm ok with that too. So here goes..

I'm a database guy. I write database applications in MS Access and also program tools in MS Excel and Word that integrate with other data sources like Access and SQL. I'm the guy you call when you want a button to push to replace the work you're doin

Over the years, the LTS has come up with various pockets of data that I think could be represented on a map interface. For instance, we have trail adopters who are responsible for specific trail segments. And those adopters may change over time. And t visualize that information when looking at a city-wide trail map. And if we can do that, then the next step would be to have some user-friendly interface through which that information could be maintained by someone in the LTS. I have attached a PowerP all of this is possible. Software makes ANYTHING possible given enough time and resources. But not knowing what's possible in ArcGIS, or, more specifically, HOW to pull this off in that software is where I am right now.

I know a <u>little</u> bit about the program as I had a subscription for a year to play with it. Without a mentor to go to with questions, I spent far too much time trying to look for the answer on-line. It was a very frustrating exercise that I had to abandon as I have r questions without having to do all the research. Maybe that's you!

Here's what I have to start with -

- all the official ArcGIS files that were used to create all of our trail maps
- a database schema for all the data that LTS would be responsible for maintaining
- an Access database with all the tables we need to get started on at least the Adopters
- · a cloud-based SharePoint site with similar data and lookup lists

Here are the topics I am struggling with

Modifying the existing tables in ArcGIS		
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		1. Is this an appropriate approach or should these new attributes be held in another 2. The data that would go in columns N, O, Q and W should be selected from a drop In my world, I call them lookup lists. For instance, the choices for column Q would be in an Access db pallure colorib excription ItBlue
	Primary Keys versus ObjectID	I've been told that the OBJECTID field is not a reliable primary key for tables in ArcGIS. record. The key needs to be semi-intelligent as we would like to build in some extensibil calculated key based on many pieces of info, such as date+state+town+groupname+etc segments are being added? The same problem exists in all the native tables that we wish to join to.
Identifying existing records on a map		In order to fill out these fields, it would be most helpful to be able to display a map where having to hover over the points or segments. I tried using a free product called QGIS to do this and was partially successful. But the leteration to be clear, I imagine myself sitting down with two monitors to do this. One monitor wou would be entering the data. I don't need a new interface within the map file.
Publishing the data to a public space	Much of this extended data would be useful to the LTS and would need to be made available online. The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission has a public-facing application called MrMapper that they said could host this info once we have it all together.	I think we would need to work with them to figure out how to push updates to their backe better to PUSH the data to them, or to have them LINK to a data source that we maintai

If you've read this far, kudos! You should have SOME idea of what I'm hoping to pull off. And you probably have a feel for whether you can help or not. Like I said, if this isn't your skill set, no problem. It was worth asking. And maybe you KNOW someone can help with these topics, then by all means, let's talk (when you have time and energy). There is no rush on this at all. I've been working on this for over a year already. It can wait a little longer.

I'll wait to hear from you either way. Like I said, Monday through Thursday works best for me. I just need to know if you use Teams or not. It's free to download, but it would be nice to know if you already have it.

Thanks for playing along. Looking forward to speaking with you whenever it happens.

Take care,

Rich

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2 attachments

ItBlazeColo	rs				
pkBlazeColortD	Description	StartDate	EndDate Sortindo	Sortindex	
1	Blue	1/1/2000		10	image003.pn
2	Yellow	1/1/2000		20	7K
3	Orange	1/1/2000		36	718
4	Red	1/1/2000		40	

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