MAP DEV

newsletter

Nov 2026

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Celebrating GIS Day 2026



Abdullah Farsi

Map Dev. is celebrating GIS Day with the GIS Department at King Abdulaziz University. This year, we're highlighting how geographic information systems (GIS) help organizations plan services, improve access, and manage infrastructure.

On a university campus, GIS can help planners choose a location for a new student center by comparing walking routes, shuttle stops, and step-free entrances. The same approach can help facilities teams find clusters of maintenance issues and decide where to send crews first.

With more than 40 years of GIS expertise, Map Dev. helps organizations use location data to make informed decisions about where to invest and what to improve.

Happy GIS Day!

GIS Day 2026

UPCOMING EVENT



Join upcoming webinar to discover how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are transforming the way we understand our world, make smarter decisions, and shape the future.

November 17, 2026
11:00 AM - 02:00 PM
Online Webinar

Register now

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RECENT EVENT

Nov 2026



GeoHealth Geospatial Platform | Initial Testing Ahead of Launch

MAPDEV has completed development of GeoHealth, the Saudi Ministry of Health's first geospatial platform dedicated to managing and governing its healthcare real estate portfolio.

MAPDEV developed the GeoHealth geospatial platform for the General Directorate of Property Follow-up within the Agency for Supply and Engineering Affairs. GeoHealth gives the Ministry a unified geospatial view of its healthcare real estate portfolio and supports consistent governance across the portfolio, from how asset data is maintained and validated to how it is used in asset management and planning.

Built on Esri ArcGIS Enterprise, the GeoHealth geospatial platform draws on Esri's spatial analysis capabilities to help Ministry teams examine how assets are distributed, assess geographic relationships, and identify patterns across the portfolio. These analyses support decisions about healthcare real estate assets using accurate geospatial data that reflects conditions on the ground.

Completing development marks a major milestone for MAPDEV and the Ministry. The GeoHealth geospatial platform brings asset management, data governance, and spatial analysis together to support decisions across the Ministry's healthcare real estate portfolio. The project team is now conducting initial tests to verify GeoHealth's core functions and assess its readiness for launch.

Dr. Mohammed Adel



Director of the Geographic Information Systems and Technology Department King Abdulaziz University

Geographic Information Systems & Technology Department King Abdulaziz University World Day | GIS DAY Spatial Knowledge Supports Decision-Making and Shapes the Future

On World GIS Day, we celebrate the role of spatial technologies in serving society and supporting sustainable development. At the Geographic Information Systems and Technology Department at King Abdulaziz University, we reaffirm our commitment to utilizing these technologies to serve the university's academic, administrative, and research operations, and to enhance the efficiency of managing its assets and facilities.

The university's GIS project represents a step towards building a unified spatial reference that compiles data on buildings, facilities, and infrastructure networks, and links them to asset, operation, and maintenance records. This provides reliable information that supports planning, improves service quality, and guides development decisions.

In the second phase, we look forward to developing the dashboard and interactive spatial platforms, enhancing their integration with institutional systems, and employing spatial analytics and artificial intelligence technologies. This will enable us to monitor performance indicators, prioritize maintenance, analyze the impact of service outages, and evaluate the locations of future projects and expansions.

We are committed to developing capabilities, transferring knowledge, and fostering a culture of utilizing spatial data. We appreciate MapDev's efforts in implementing the project and the contributions of participating entities in supporting its outcomes.

We continue working towards an integrated spatial system that supports the university's objectives and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, contributing to building a more efficient and sustainable campus.

We transform spatial data into knowledge, and knowledge into decisions that support development.



ADOBE MAX 2026
Miami Beach & Online

The Creativity Conference online, gaining practical insights into the latest AI-powered creative tools and their applications in professional design workflows.

Key Practical Takeaways

- Explored AI-powered tools for faster image generation, editing, and visual content creation.
- Learned how to integrate AI into graphic design and UI/UX workflows to improve efficiency.
- Discovered new techniques for creative automation, concept development, and rapid prototyping.
- Explored AI-assisted image manipulation, visual enhancement, and creative experimentation.
- Gained ideas for combining human creativity with AI to produce more innovative and impactful designs.

The conference provided valuable inspiration and practical knowledge that I can apply to my daily design work, improving productivity, creativity, and the overall quality of design deliverables.

Ishaque Shadman Mohammed

GIS NEWS

November 2026 updates & announced future availability

AI Chat arrives in ArcGIS Online
ARCGIS ONLINE UPDATES

November 2026 update introduces AI Chat in beta for Experience Builder. Natural-language instructions can operate widgets, locate places, summarize data, and apply spatial or attribute filters.

Available Nov 2026

ArcGIS Reality Server
ESRI — IMAGERY & REMOTE SENSING

Optional capability server for ArcGIS Enterprise (Windows/Linux). Processes drone, aerial, satellite imagery into orthorectified imagery & 3D models — all in-house.

Availability Nov 17

Dashboards: richer time-series
ARCGIS ONLINE UPDATES

New histograms and calendar heat charts reveal daily, weekly, and seasonal patterns. Beta Arcade Assistant generates expressions for data workflows and advanced formatting.

Available

Esri + NVIDIA digital twins
ESRI

Joint demos at Smart City Expo (Barcelona, Nov 2). Connects GIS, AI, accelerated computing: sensor data, imagery, video, 3D models for infrastructure & real-time ops.

Announced Nov 2

Metadata & content governance
ARCGIS ONLINE UPDATES

ISO 3-19115 v2 metadata styling with ISO 19110, item details assistant now GA, and affected-item surfacing with deprecate option on content deletion.

Available

GEOSA wins ESIG 2026
GEOSA

Saudi Arabia's GEOSA wins Enterprise Systems Award for National Geospatial Platform & Digital Twins. 85+ gov entities, 55 private, 20 academic, 450+ web services.

Awarded Oct 15

GIS shifts to conversational analysis, time-aware dashboards & stronger governance — while enterprise reality capture and AI digital twins extend spatial insight into operations. GEOSA's award is a regional proof point.

Eng Osama Saleh

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STUDENT ZONE

Nov 2026

Cartography Insights
Art and Science of Professional Map Making

Is map making simply about adding geographic data to GIS software and selecting colors and symbols? Not quite. Professional map making is an integrated process that combines science, technology, and art.

A map is more than a representation of geographic features; it is a visual communication tool that transforms complex spatial information into clear and meaningful messages.

01. **Science:** The Foundation of Mapping

Every professional map starts with reliable geographic data. Understanding data sources, coordinate systems, map projections, map scales, and spatial accuracy is essential to producing accurate and trustworthy maps.

02. **Technology:** Transforming Data

GIS, Remote Sensing, GNSS, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Geodatabases provide tools to collect, manage, analyze, and process geographic information. However, technology alone cannot guarantee a good map; knowledge and expertise remain essential.

03. **Art: Cartographic Design**

Cartographic design transforms processed data into an effective visual product. Colors, symbols, line weights, typefaces, and visual hierarchy all contribute to making a map clear, balanced, and easy to understand.

04. **Advice for GIS Students**

Do not focus only on learning GIS software. Develop your geographic knowledge, understand cartographic principles, and practice transforming spatial data into meaningful maps.

Conclusion

Professional map making is the integration of scientific knowledge, technical skills, and artistic creativity. A successful map is not simply geographic data displayed on a screen; it is scientific information transformed into a clear visual message.

A Message to GIS Students

Learn not only how to use GIS tools, but also why and when to use them. Your software skills may help you create a map, but your geographic knowledge and cartographic understanding will make you a professional map maker.

Eng. Muath Obeidat

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