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# GOSPATIAL

## In-house mapping tool aids departmental decisions

*By Melissa Northey, GISP, Information Technology*

From inspections to last year's code cases, Marion County employees not only access reports, but can visualize their progress. Inspectors can start their day with a map of their inspection locations. Growth Management personnel can print a report at the click of a button listing all the boundaries that a particular piece of land is within. The Office of the County Engineer uses it to quickly determine which roads are maintained by the County or which roads are under mowing contracts. Utilities crews can access scanned drawings aiding in field asset location, and the list goes on.

Fleet Management Director, Mike Zeak, views GoSpatial as "a very helpful tool in mapping and keeping up with all of the emergency generators in the county." He also adds that "Now that we have a bird's eye view we are able to save time and money by using this system in our regular and emergency maintenance of standby power generators."

The in-house mapping interface was first implemented four years ago to add on to the capabilities of existing web based mapping software. The interface enables employees to access the common data layers such as parcels, land use, aeriels, flood zones, and commissioner districts as well as view data from asset inventory and permitting systems (previously only viewed in lists and reports). Maps can be saved, marked up, emailed, printed and even added to presentation slides all by the employee.

Cindy Gaughf, Permitting Specialist II, Marion County Office of the County Engineer agrees that "The volume of information that is available at the click of a button that interfaces GIS/Property Appraiser/CDPlus is invaluable." Cindy goes on to say that "No other program is available for Marion County that is so user friendly and provides such thorough information at such a fast speed."

Being browser based, there are no extra computer requirements. It works out to be about a tenth of the yearly cost of other desktop GIS software per user. There are no limits to the number of employees added to the system as there are no seat licenses. A small investment is still paying off. GoSpatial is completely customizable and has been added to and enhanced over the years by in-house staff.