

Top 10 Reasons to Migrate

While Autodesk MapGuide® 6.5 has been successfully deployed at thousands of sites worldwide, Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise 2007 is a completely new product that lets you integrate design and spatial data from a variety of sources, develop new applications, and distribute maps and spatial data faster and more easily. Here are just a few of the reasons existing Autodesk MapGuide 6.5 users should consider taking the next step in web mapping.

Choice of Platforms

Autodesk MapGuide software runs best on Microsoft® Windows® operating systems running Microsoft Internet Information Server and Microsoft Internet Explorer. Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise offers broader support for more operating systems (Windows and Linux), web servers (IIS and Apache), and browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox™, Safari, and others).

Easier Authoring

Where Autodesk MapGuide gives you diverse tools for processing and publishing different data types, Autodesk MapGuide Studio provides a single developer-friendly authoring environment that enables you to integrate data and build applications fast. MapGuide Studio leverages design concepts from popular web development applications.

Programming Flexibility

Autodesk MapGuide applications use JavaScript code that calls the Autodesk MapGuide Viewer API (application programming interface) on the client tier. In contrast, MapGuide Enterprise applications are written using PHP, ASP.NET, or Java™ using a new API on the web tier.

Simpler Viewing

Autodesk MapGuide requires developers to choose either the Autodesk MapGuide Viewer (ActiveX, plug-in, or Java Applet) or Autodesk MapGuide LiteView technology when designing and developing applications. With Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise developers can develop a single application that supports either the DWF™-based viewing of vector-based maps or pure raster viewing using AJAX technology.

Faster Innovation

Based on an active open source project, Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise benefits from faster innovation than normal commercial software release cycles, brought about by collaborative software development.

Lower Cost of Ownership

Support for the Linux operating system and Apache web server gives you a choice of platform, which can reduce your ongoing system costs. Also, the new Resource Database in Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise allows you to create libraries of layers that can be shared by many maps. Change the layer once and all of your maps are instantly updated.

Simpler Deployment

Autodesk MapGuide software uses a “thick client” or plug-in on the local computer to display and process spatial information. Although this setup has some advantages, the “server-side” architecture offered by Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise improves the accuracy of spatial analysis while simplifying application development and deployment.

Better Printing and Portability

DWF-based viewing in Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise enables more accurate printing and plotting, as well as support for a “disconnected mode” that makes it easy to take spatial data into the field.

Prettier Maps

Autodesk MapGuide software has some limitations with regard to producing high-quality map output, such as support for only 256 colors. MapGuide Enterprise gives you True Color support, greatly improved labeling, and easy publishing of web-ready maps from Autodesk Map® 3D that maintain all styling done in Map 3D.

Easier Data Access

Use of Feature Data Object (FDO)—Autodesk's latest data connectivity technology—makes accessing remote data sources easier and faster than ever. FDO provides consistent query and expression syntax for all data formats and allows applications to update spatial and attribute data.

Remote Administration

Administration of an Autodesk MapGuide server needs to be done directly on the server itself, often requiring administrators to go to another location or into a cold server room. Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise includes a browser-based tool that allows remote administration of server resources.

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