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## **Welcome to The Harlow Report - GIS**

From all of us at The Harlow Report - Geographic Information Systems, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For a special treat, take a 360 degree tour of **The White House at Christmas** at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/holiday/>

It is here! The results of our Public Agency Parcel Level Data Survey are ready for your inquisitive minds. We were pleasantly surprised by the good response, not to mention the fact that so many public agencies make their data available at a reasonable cost. Read all about it in **Results: Public Agency Parcel Data Survey**

To help us all kick off the new year, we have some words of advice on success in **Chicken Soup Author's 4 Steps to Massive Success Formula.**

As always, we provide you with the latest links to new topics, products, services and oddball ideas that either pertain to GIS, or seem like fun. You know that is located in **GIS Net Surfing. If** you just want the latest in GIS news, then click on over to **News to Use.**

To read the on-line version go to <http://www.theharlowreport.com/2001/>

Thanks for your interest and support.

*Chris Harlow*



## Results:

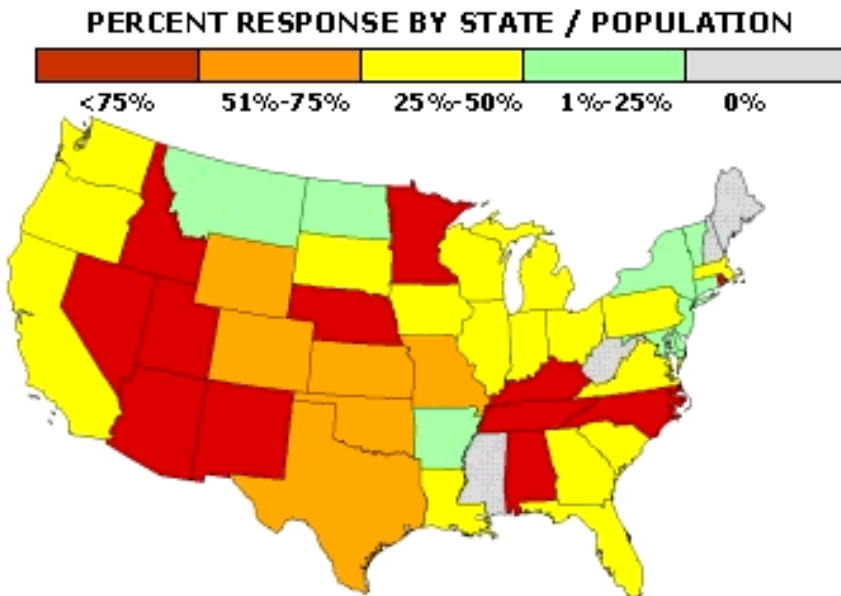
# Public Agency Parcel Data Survey

You may remember that two issues back we told you that we were conducting a nationwide survey of the state of public agency parcel data. We wanted to know how complete it was, what format it was in, was it available to the public, and so forth. The survey may be viewed at <http://www.theharlowreport.com/survey/> for those of you who want to see the specific questions

We extend our thanks to all of you who took the time to respond. With one notable exception you were glad to help and responded with the information we needed. Surprisingly, one major public agency did not feel it needed to tell the public what their policy was on the use of this public data. Thinking this was just a snub from a low-level employee, I wrote to the senior executive of the project to ask her if I had somehow offended someone, or was this really their policy? As you might expect, I have not received a response.

Why the rant? Too often public servants forget that they are servants of the public and think they are kings and queens. It is reassuring to know that in the local government GIS community, the spirit of the public good was alive and well. One bad apple doesn't always spoil the barrel. Sometimes it reminds us of all the good apples. So, again to all of you who responded, a heartfelt thanks goes out to you.

### The Methods and Results

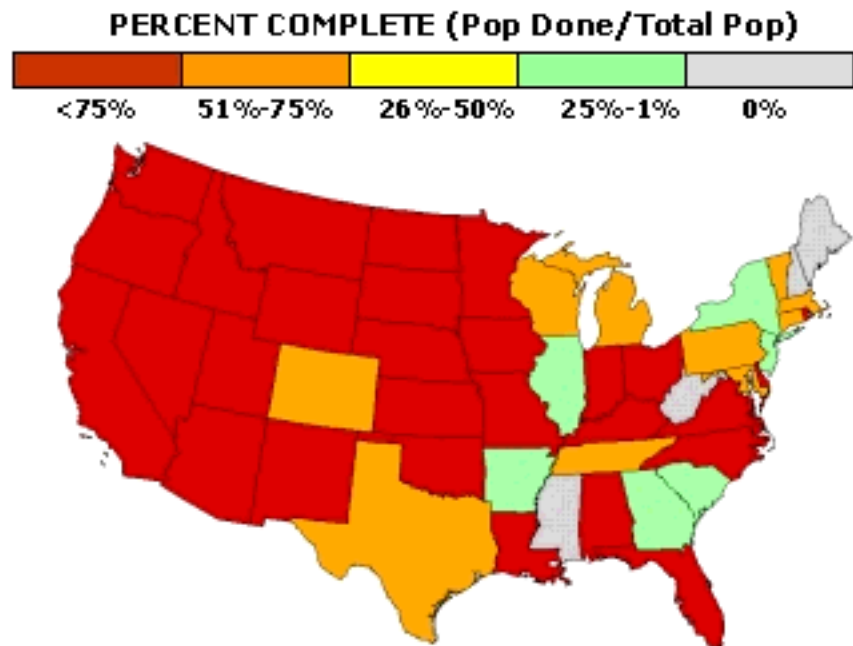


We established E-mail addresses for 230 jurisdictions by calling each of the 265 tax map jurisdictions located within the 140 major metros of the United States. We sent each an e-mail requesting that they complete the survey. Of these, 140 responded. States with the highest percentage of jurisdictions responding are red. Low response states are green and the gray states are those for which there were no

responses to our questionnaire. In those states with low response rates, the reliability of all other responses are of constrained reliability. Some responses were not complete. For this

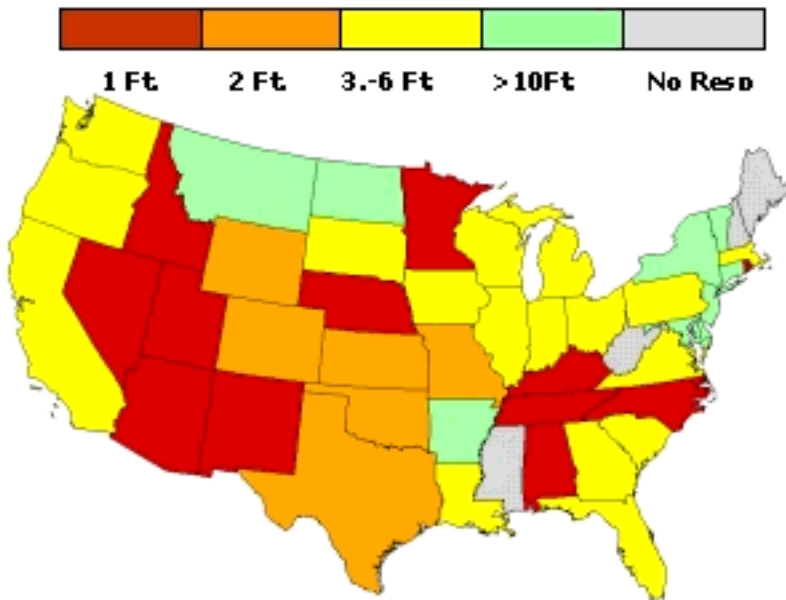
reason, in some of the subsequent maps, you will see some zero response states not because they failed to respond to the questionnaire but no one in that state provided a response to the question in point.

Percent complete was determined by multiplying the percent complete of each reporting jurisdiction by its population. The sum of all these values were compared with the total population of all major metro jurisdictions in the state. Many major metro jurisdictions in the Western states are over 75%



complete with their digital cadastral map databases along with many mid-Atlantic states. Weakest performance is in the Northeast Corridor and portions of the South.

### ACCURACY

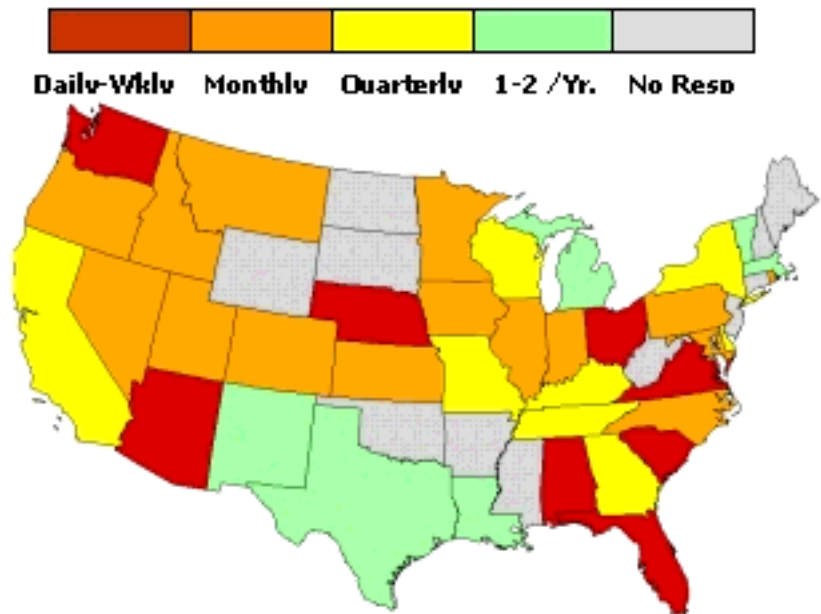


In about a fourth of the states, major metro jurisdictions reported accuracy levels in their best mapped areas of less than 1 foot. A fourth of the states reported accuracy of less than 2 feet. The rest of the reporting states claimed 3-6 feet with only a few reporting lower accuracy rates of 10 feet or more.

NOTE: All ratings represent the most frequently reported response by each jurisdiction in the state

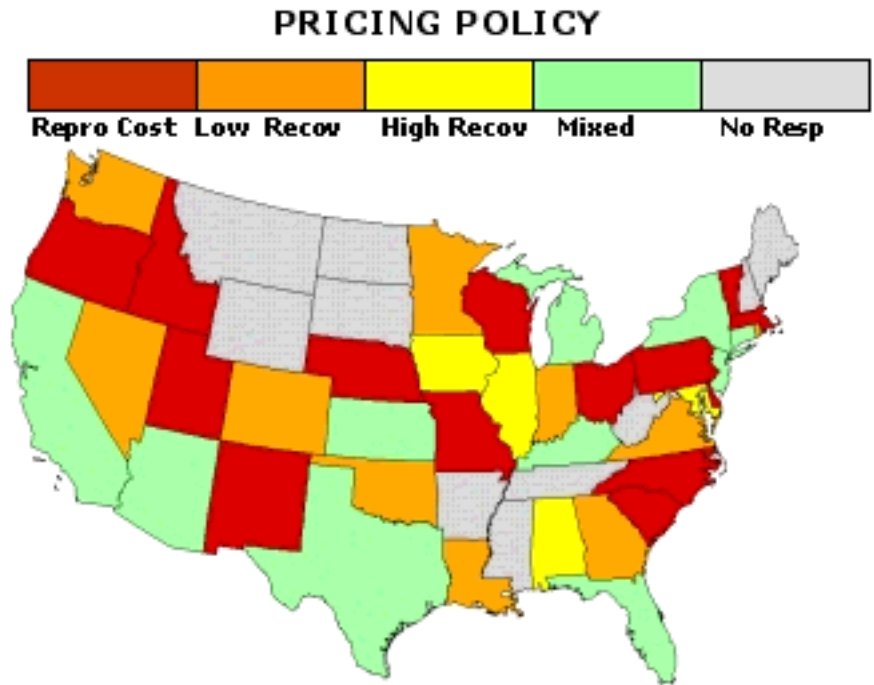
This response indicates how rapidly a new lot split, join or new subdivision is added to a jurisdiction-wide GIS map. Jurisdictions in a few states generally reported, with exceptions, daily updates. Most other report weekly to monthly updates. However, interviews with some of these respondents indicated that these updates were for in-house use only and that the master GIS database shared with the general public were typically updated quarterly. A few states have a policy of updating their map on a semi-annually to annual basis only. Some states are in this category due to some of their jurisdictions, where deferred maintenance, has put them more than a year behind. Check before you use! NOTE: All ratings represent the most frequently Reported response by each jurisdiction in the state.

### UPDATE FREQUENCY





This is the most disjointed result. Data pricing policies often range from free to excessively expensive in a single state. Based on limited interviews, most jurisdictions committed to high cost-recovery prices started their GIS years ago, spent millions on it and are now digging in their heels to try to get their money back. On the other hand, many jurisdictions charging cost-of-reproduction prices (free ftp downloads to less than \$300) produced their GIS recently. The GIS of many of these jurisdictions is of higher accuracy and cartographic quality at a fraction of the price paid by those who started their maps long ago. Thanks to the most recent GPS, orthorectification and data entry technology combined with low bid prices of numerous skilled service companies, cost-of-reproduction GIS pricing to better serve the public interest comes easier to these jurisdictions having spent so much less to create their GIS. NOTE: All ratings represent the most frequently reported response by each jurisdiction in the state.



# ***Chicken Soup Author's 4 Steps to Massive Success Formula***

*by Mike Litman*

## **Editor's note**

**Chicken Soup For the Soul** and the rest of the series were monster hits for Mark Victor Hansen and Jack Canfield. In this article, author Mike Litman reveals an insight into their formula for success, based on a recent interview he conducted with Mark Victor Hansen

Mike Litman is the host of The Mike Litman Radio Show, the “World's #1 Personal Development Radio Show.” <http://www.mikelitman.com> His new book *Conversations with Millionaires, What Millionaires Do To Get Rich, That You Never Learned About In School!* contains his actual word for word conversations with 9 of the top entrepreneurs in America today: You can learn more at:

[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1931866007/qid=1005922914/sr=8-1/ref=sr\\_8\\_1\\_1/107-8027112-1085367](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1931866007/qid=1005922914/sr=8-1/ref=sr_8_1_1/107-8027112-1085367)

**T**he following is a excerpt from my radio interview with multi-millionaire and best-selling author, Mark Victor Hansen:

### **Mike Litman:**

You have a simple four step success plan. Can you talk about that?

### **Mark Victor Hansen:**

Sure. Four principles: First of all, you've got to figure out what you really want.

In my case and in Jack's case (Jack Canfield - co-author *Chicken Soup For The Soul*), we didn't want a best-selling book. We wanted a MEGA best-selling book, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

Beyond that, we didn't really want a best-selling book, we wanted to make a best-selling SERIES.

The clearer you are, the easier it is to execute.

**So #1: you figure out what you really want.**

**#2:** you put it in writing. And where I differ from all of my peers is, I say you've got to have too many goals. I've got over 6,000 goals in writing.

Most people say, "all I want is a new car." When you were 16, Mike, you said, "Well, if I get a car the girls will like me." And then you get a car and you find out that they want something else. [Laughs] So, figure out what you want.

**#2: put it in writing.**

**#3,** visualize it.

Flip Wilson said, "What you see is what you get." We're talking about what you see with your inner eye.

We cut out the New York Times Bestseller list. Then we put our names at the top before we ever got to the top in real life. Then we put it on my mirror and we put one up at Jack's office, on his mirror.

**So in our mind's eye, when we were shaving, or the ladies were doing cosmetics, we owned the concept that we were best-selling authors before we actually were best-selling.**

Then, the **fourth one**, you take your two index fingers, and one and one equals the power of 11.

When you've got your team together, you get your dream together.

**And two people can create miracles.**



Chicken Soup Author's 4 Steps to Massive Success Formula  
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## GIS Net Surfing

### Imaging Resource

<http://imaging-resource.com/>

This is the site to visit before you buy a digital camera, scanner, or printer. The site includes extensive reviews of these products, plus their Comparometer image comparison database and Camera Finder.

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### Degree of Confluence Project

<http://www.confluence.org/index.php>

I am not sure that a mere mortal such as I can explain this site. So, instead, here is what the site says about itself: "The goal of the project is to visit each of the latitude and longitude integer degree intersections in the world, and to take pictures at each location. The pictures and stories will then be posted here. The project is an organized sampling of the world. We've excluded confluences in the oceans and dropped some near the poles, but there are still 12,810 to be found" It is a fun site to explore. It may be particularly useful on those days when you do not care to look into the inner secrets of an ArcObject, or a GeoMedia command. If your boss asks what you are doing, simply state that you are doing research on confluences.

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### Test Your CPU Speed

<http://www.techtv.com/screensavers/downloadoftheday/story/0,24330,3358765,00.html>

Megan Morrone of the ScreenSavers, suggests that if you are a speed freak or just a curious PC user, you should download this freebie called TestCPU. What will it tell you about your PC? As this list shows, the answer is just about everything you could want to know about the CPU.

- \* Type of processor
  - \* Vendor
  - \* Type
  - \* Family
  - \* Model
  - \* Stepping
  - \* Code name
  - \* Frequency
  - \* Speed of calculations
  - \* Level 1 and level 2 cache sizes
  - \* Processor features
-

**Canada Centre for Remote Sensing**

<http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ccrs/ghomepge.html>

See Canada from space, understand the geospatial standards, and just about everything else going on in Canada in relation to remote sensing

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**EUROGI -European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information**

<http://www.eurogi.org/>

EUROGI twas established in November 1993 to develop a unified European approach to the use of geographic technologies. It is established as a European Foundation under Dutch law with its headquarters in Amersfoort, The Netherlands. Its stated mission is :“To maximise the effective use of geographic information for the benefit of the citizen, good governance and commerce in Europe and to represent the views of the geographic information community. EUROGI achieves this by promoting, stimulating, encouraging and supporting the development and use of geographic information and technology.”

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**State of the Environment in Georgia  
(Formerly of the USSR)**

[http://www.grida.no/enrin/htmls/georgia/soegeor/hp\\_soege.htm](http://www.grida.no/enrin/htmls/georgia/soegeor/hp_soege.htm)

If Georgia (the country) is on your mind, check out this site. It has tons of information and good maps and other resources describing the environment of this country.



## **News to Use**

**GE Smallworld** (<http://www.swldy.com/>) was selected by Dakota Electric to help develop a Technology Roadmap to support the IT strategies at Dakota Electric. GE Smallworld will work with Dakota Electric to define a future direction that will allow the utility to gain maximum value from its current and future investments in technology. Dakota Electric Association is a distribution cooperative, providing electric service to end customers. Dakota Electric covers 507 square miles and serves more than 86,000 customers. Dakota Electric is the second-largest electric cooperative in Minnesota and is ranked among the top 20 electric distribution cooperatives nationally, serving parts of Dakota, Goodhue, Scott, and Rice counties.

**Contact:** Dennis Murphy • GE Power Systems • Phone: (770) 859-6948•  
E-mail: <mailto:dennis.murphy@ps.ge.com>

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**ESRI's BusinessMAP Travel Edition** (<http://gisstore.esri.com/>) is now available. "Our newest database mapping software is much more than a travel planner. BusinessMAP Travel Edition offers the business traveler access to the complete Dun & Bradstreet business listing searchable down to 8-digit SIC/description. This permits a very narrow search for potential customers, competitors, and points of interest," said Bill McNeil, manager of ESRI's Business Products Group. Some features include:

- \* Direct links from ACT!, GoldMine, Outlook, and Excel, as well as reading data from Access, dBASE, text files, and others.
- \* Business locator with Dun & Bradstreet's database of 11 million business listings.
- \* Door-to-door driving directions for routing between customer locations.
- \* Optimized routing to multiple stops using the traveling salesman solution.
- \* "Find Nearby" feature to locate hotels, restaurants, rental agencies, gas stations, hospitals, and any other type of business that you may desire.
- \* Complete customization of toolbars and menu selections.
- \* The ability to save maps and driving directions to your Palm organizer.
- \* The ability to print maps in sizes that range from day planner to multipanel wall charts that are helpful in preparing presentations.

**Applied Geographics (AGI) of Boston** (<http://www.appgeo.com/>) is leading a team hired by the State of Maine Office of Planning and Office of GIS. The consulting firm will study, and design a cost-effective statewide GIS. Joining AGI in this effort are Camp Dresser and McKee and Maine-based GIS Mapping and Analysis.

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**The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA)**

(<http://www.gita.org>) announced the publication of The Geospatial Technology Report--2001: A Survey of Organizations Implementing Geospatial Information Technologies. The report contains detailed information on the completeness, complexity, and direction of geographic information system (GIS) projects being implemented at 157 infrastructure-based organizations. The 66-page report on CD is divided into five industry sections: electric, gas, pipeline, telecommunications, and water/sewer/storm. The report will be provided free of charge to survey participants. It is available to GITA individual members for \$85 and to nonmembers for \$125. Copies of the report may be ordered online at, or by contacting GITA at 303-337-0513 or E-mail: <mailto:info@gita.org>



*If you change your  
Email address,  
tell us!*

[Mailto:Charlow@charter.net](mailto:Charlow@charter.net)

