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Subject: ESRI Shapefiles

Posted by [David Bowman](#) on Wed, 05 Jul 2006 23:50:31 GMT

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Dear all,

I have an ESRI shapefile containing the surface trace of an active fault. I need to extract the lat/lon from this file for use in IDL.

Sounds easy, right? Not so much... (at least for me)

I know IDL includes a whole suite of programs that supposedly read and manipulate GIS files, but I've found the documentation to be shockingly confusing, even by RSI's standards.

Can anybody point me to a simple explanation/procedure/resource? Small words would be appreciated.

In my career there have been two enormous time-sinks that I've managed to avoid: ARC/Info and object-oriented programming. My greatest fear is that I've finally come across a need for both of them. I would be eternally grateful for any help avoiding that horrible fate.

Cheers!

David Bowman

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