
Subject: Re: Why doesn't IDL know the borders of Kazakhstan?

Posted by [Brian McNoldy](#) on Wed, 09 Dec 2009 22:40:51 GMT

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On Dec 7, 8:22 am, "Kenneth P. Bowman" <k-bow...@null.edu> wrote:

> In article <Pine.LNX.4.64.0912042153470.14...@lxserv0.kfki.hu>,

> FOLDY Lajos <fo...@rmki.kfki.hu> wrote:

>

>

>

>> On Fri, 4 Dec 2009, Ed Hyer wrote:

>

>>> Not wishing to cause an international diplomatic incident, does anyone
>>> have a substitute for the MAP_CONTINENTS,/COUNTRIES procedure? The
>>> country boundaries that IDL draws have significant gaps in Central
>>> Asia, that really damage the aesthetic appeal of the maps.

>

>>> --Edward H.

>

>> I think IDL uses the CIA world data bank, which was created in the 80s.

>

>> It is highly outdated, for example Hungary has five neighbors in this
>> data: Austria, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet-union, Romania and Yugoslavia.
>> Three of them do not exist today. (The current list is: Austria, Slovakia,
>> Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.)

>

>> regards,

>> Lajos

>

> I would think that some of the annual renewal fees that we pay
> every year could be spend on updating resources like the political
> map database, although that is not as much fun as adding new
> features.

>

> Ken Bowman

I second that. There's also been a long-standing issue with Kyushu Island in Japan. If you fill the continents, it doesn't fill that one island, but does fill the rest of the Japanese islands. Makes the plots look sloppy. The Mexican and Canadian states/provinces is something I've had to hack (use external shapefiles) all these years too. I think we could do with one less snazzy feature in the next version and update/upgrade the maps instead!
