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Subject: Re: Editing Shapefile

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 14 Feb 2010 23:53:33 GMT

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Adakite writes:

- > So, What I am trying to do now is quiet tricky, I know! I would like
- > to open and display this shapefile, containing elevation information
- > (this is already done actually), so as to edit it by two ways:
- >
- > (1) able to change "by hand" the elevation attribute of each curve
- > inside the shapefile displayed (e.g. when I select with mouse a
- > specific coutour line, get a text box pop-up with elevation attribute,
- > and the edit it and save.
- >
- > (2) still mouse selected countour line in this shapefile, so as to
- > obtain discret points lying along the countour line. Then I once I
- > selected one of these points I would like to move it on the map
- > (meaning that the countour line will be reshaped/remodeled).

I would say all of this is \*possible\*, but it certainly doesn't fall into the "easy to do" category. For an example, you could view the AnnotateWindow application. Draw a polygon, now click inside the polygon to select it. Handles appear at each vertex, which you can move, etc.

<http://www.dfanning.com/catalyst/annotate.html>

My goal was to make these kinds of user interactions easy to accomplish. I would say I probably failed miserably in that regard. These objects are complicated and much more difficult to program than I expected them to be.

Getting the selection right might be the most difficult thing. If you are lucky your contours might be easy to select with the mouse, but my experience with luck is that it usually runs against me. I would be tempted to come up with some other selection method (contour levels in a pull-down menu?)

Once you have the contour selected, ARCSAMPLE from the Coyote Library might help you establish "control" points which can be manipulated and moved. You don't want too many of these, but you don't want too few either.

Once you have control points, I think you can probably find your way home. Moving the point is not so difficult,

if you have done some thinking about the problem ahead of time. It will help if each contour line is its own "object", I think, so it can be drawn individually. You might consider using ISOCONTOUR to draw your contour plots.

Humm. Now that I am thinking of all the difficulties again, it might be a better idea to figure out a way to sneak away for cheap margaritas. :-)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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