HOW TO CONNECT TO THE ArcSDE server for ArcMap, ArcCatalog, ArcGIS-Explorer

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Notes: For ArcMap, you must have version 9.3 or later. You will need the SDE login name (currently “sde” (without quotes)), but this may change, and the service name (currently 5151 but there may be additional services and databases in the future) and the sde password which will be sent to you via email.

Basic idea: **SETUP** a connection to the SDE service as an ESRI data access method (you only need to do this once) and then, in any GIS session, **USE** the connection by navigating to this service and retrieve data from it. See **ARCGIS-EXPLORER VARIANTS** near the end of this document.

**SETUP:**

1. Use ArcCatalog (this can be done with ArcGIS as well, but the catalog is a little easier). Under “Database Connections” check “Add Spatial Database Connection”.

![Add Spatial Database Connection](image_url)
2. Double click on the “Add…” element and see the form as per the illustration below to define connection parameters. Fill out exactly as per illustration. Be sure to “test” the connection. If this fails, then something is wrong which you will have to figure out. The most basic problems are network problems. Best check is to open a Command Prompt (DOS) window and enter the command: ping calmap.gisc.berkeley.edu. If you get a timeout error message then you have network problems. If ping works and you still can’t get a successful test as per below then contact me at h_foster@pacbell.net.

![Spatial Database Connection Form](image)

Remember, in the future, many of these parameters may change but there should be a document on the resin gis website which explains this.

3. You should now see the SDE service shown as a geodatabase object (round drum/database graphic) under the Database Connections in the Table of Contents (far left). Note the little red blob in the graphic. That means that the connection has been defined but it is not yet open.
4. Now simply double click on the icon and you should see a listing of all the layer objects available to you (point, line, polygon, raster, table). As per below:
USE:

Use of these data is very similar. In ArcMap desktop for example, go through the usual data add procedure (yellow diamond cross icon) but navigate to “Database Connections” as per below.
Clicking on this should reveal:

![Add Data dialog box]

Double click on this object should open the layer list. Pick from this list as per any ArcMap data selection.

One gotcha: If successfully make a connection as per SETUP #2 but are continually asked for connection parameters such as username, password, etc., then make sure that you check “Save transaction version name…”.

**ARCGIS-EXPLORER VARIANTS (.net, java)**

Explorer .net version:

The dialog boxes define virtually the same information as SETUP but the graphics, etc are a little different. Here they are (self-explanatory)
Note: “Specify a different geodatabase” is selected.
For ArcGIS Explorer java:

Note: in the Catalog window you may have to double-click on the “WWW” and “Add Web Site”, etc, to get the “Add ArcSDE Connection” option to show up. Note that the instance (service) is defined as “Port:5151”.
Click on a couple of “OK”s and see…
Select as per usual.

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