What's Happening...

waterRIDE™

WorleyParsons
resources & energy

From user queries, we are seeing an increase in the sharing of datasets between organisations and cross-organisational data requests in general.

Many users have come to us with the questions along the lines of "I would like to give my waterRIDE™ data to this agency. What is the best way to do it?"

This can be achieved in a number of ways, and we thought we would use this months newsletter to highlight some of the fastest approaches, and emphasise good project setup practices.

Next issue, we will look at approaches to sharing data with non-waterRIDE™ users.

Sharing waterRIDE™ Projects with External Organisations

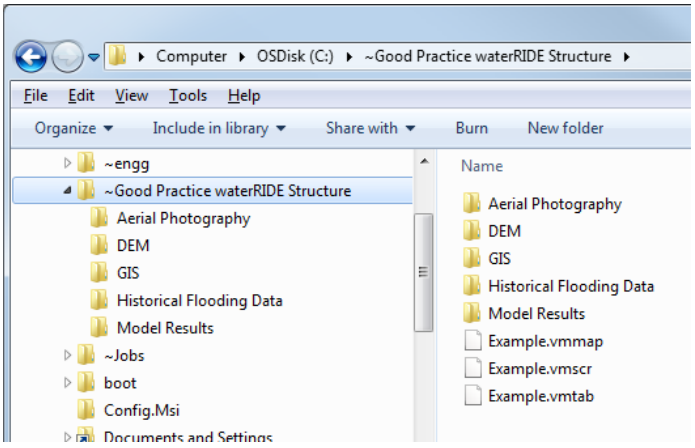
waterRIDE™ provides an excellent means of sharing flooding and spatial datasets across an organisation.

But how can you provide an external organisation that does not have access to your network with the same easy access to your waterRIDE™ projects?

A waterRIDE™ project (*.vmmap file) does not contain any datasets itself. It stores links to dataset locations (flooding, GIS, etc), as well as the structure of the Table of Contents and how each layer should appear in each view.

By default, waterRIDE™ uses *relative* paths to store the location of each dataset. These paths are relative to the location of the project file (*.vmmap).

When working in one location, it is good practice to save the project file at the "top" of the folder tree, with folders containing datasets "under" this location.



In the above case, all datasets are stored on "C:", and you could simply copy the entire *"~Good Practice waterRIDE Structure"* folder to a portable hard drive and deliver to another agency.

However, datasets do not usually all reside in the one location. Frequently, a waterRIDE™ project will refer to datasets scattered across a network (eg air photos, cadastre, etc)

In this case, tools such as the "File->Pack n' Go" are very useful. This tool analyses a waterRIDE™ project, collects all referenced/required datasets, and then copies them to a specified location (usually a portable hard drive).

This is also a common way to "take" a waterRIDE™ project offsite (eg community or client meetings), and also an easy way to deliver a fully functioning waterRIDE™ project to someone else.

A "less clean" approach would be to use waterRIDE™'s initial "layer check" routine to identify layers that cannot be found.

Firstly, copy all datasets from their network locations to a portable hard drive, open the waterRIDE™ project, and when prompted that a file cannot be found, simply select the new location of the layers used in the project.

The "File->Re-Locate Files" tool can also be used in a similar fashion to specify the new locaiton of any files. This is often used when network locations have been changed for existing projects.

Naturally, before handing over datsets you should verify any licensing agreements. Increasingly, aerial photography and LiDAR have restrictive licensing arrangements.

Upcoming Release

The team is hard at work finalising the next release of waterRIDE™ FLOOD Manager and Viewer.

These will be major releases with both new and expanded functionality, such as:

- Flood forecasting: new approaches for flash flooding, upstream controls (dams), real-time hydrology (RAFTS and URBS), rainfall lookup tables and support for the Bureau's new national forecast rainfall surfaces and Enviromon data.
- GIS datasets: greatly expanded support for file, database and web-based GIS datasets
- Global projection support
- New model support: MIKE-SHE, DELFT-3D, Environment Agency uFMfSW
- Major existing feature enhancements