

Mini-Lab – Using Mapserver

The objective of this exercise is to teach you how to access, and modify an existing MapServer map.

1. Learn to use SecureFX to connect to the web server (www.vcrlter.virginia.edu)
 - a. Set up connection
 - i. Protocol – SFTP
 - ii. Host is www.vcrlter.virginia.edu
 - iii. set directory to “public_html/200x” (where ‘x’ is the year)
 - iv. Use ASCII-style transfers for map files and html files, but BINARY transfers for shapefiles etc.
 - b. Login using instructions issued verbally in class
 - c. Move to the /home/evsc468/public_html/200x directory
 - d. Create a subdirectory with your ID for use with your maps
2. Copy the /home/evsc468/public_html/200x/jhp7e/demo directory to your subdirectory
3. Access the demo map at the URL:
http://www.vcrlter.virginia.edu/cgi-bin/mapserv?map=/home/evsc468/public_html/200x/yourID/demo/northampton.map
4. Download the “northampton.map” file to your local PC and edit it. You can try:
 - a. Change the colors for the map layers
 - b. Add new map layers (<http://www.vcrlter.virginia.edu/northampton> has details on what layers are available and the fields and their values in the attribute tables)
 - c. Use the Mapserver documentation to figure out how to add a scale bar to the map.
5. After altering the .map file, upload it your subdirectory on the server using SecureFX
 - a. Reload the web page and find out what mistakes you’ve made!
 - b. Edit fixes to fix the problem and then re-upload the page until things operate as they should