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“Yellow Flag” on Information Sharing

DIA Director Burgess hails the benefits of GEOINT, but warns of the potential risks posed by the wide dissemination of intelligence information.

While disseminating GEOINT and other intelligence information to all operational levels is providing unprecedented benefits to warfighters in Southwest Asia and elsewhere, recent events have highlighted the potential risks of wide information sharing, Lieutenant General Ronald L. Burgess Jr., director of the Defense Intelligence Agency warned Thursday at the GEOINT 2010 Symposium.

The WikiLeaks episode, in which thousands of documents related to U.S. activities in Iraq and Afghanistan were released over the Internet, “represents what I would consider a big ‘yellow flag,’” Burgess said. “I think it’s going to have a very chilling effect on the need to share.

“If one alleged individual with a thumb drive or CD burner can vacuum up thousands of documents from a shared drive and dump them onto the Internet for anyone to pick through, and with no hope of getting that toothpaste back in the tube, we as a community face some troubling implications,” Burgess said, adding



that DIA is currently leading the Pentagon’s information review task force on WikiLeaks.

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Cartwright Gores Some Oxen

With startling frankness, vice chairman looks at the future of military technology in an era of massive deficits.

In informal but frank comments near the close of GEOINT 2010, Marine Corps General James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addressed the fundamental issues confronting the nation’s defense in an era of massive budget deficits.

The nation’s second-ranking military officer spoke directly and forcefully about the need to leverage platforms, sensors and data in new ways that provide competitive advantages, even if, as he said, “I gore everyone’s ox.”

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Improving Standards and Interoperability

NGA Tech Talk focuses on optimizing the potential of full motion video.

BY LAURA DAVIS

Full motion video (FMV) is revolutionary technology and the demand for it in-theater has skyrocketed, with no signs of slowing down. While praising the role full motion video has played, Don Self, chief of NGA’s

Sensor Assimilation Division, also posed one major question to Tech Talk attendees: “Is this the best we can do?”

Putting an emphasis on improving interoperability and standards, Self outlined

NGA’s vision for enhancing full motion video and its value to the warfighter. After showing a short clip of typical FMV, Self described it as “a sort of grainy, blurry, silent movie,”

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Burgess posed the issue to GEOINT and other intelligence providers starkly: "Many of you who have supported our troops in the field with GEOINT have seen the tremendous operational upside that comes from information sharing. Now we have the downside, perhaps one that was inevitable. It also raises the question of what a determined adversary can do with access to our systems. We have to build safeguards into our intelligence systems to prevent this from happening again.

"But how do we do that, without rolling back the progress we have made in information sharing," Burgess asked. "How do we properly react without over-reacting? Where do we draw the line? How do we keep pushing the incredible power of GEOINT and other intelligence to our customers, especially to the lowest levels, where it makes a real difference, without opening ourselves up to Wikileaks 2, 3 or 4? We're asking ourselves those questions right now, and they are tough questions."

Burgess expressed confidence that security specialists would be able to mobilize the technology needed to protect information, building into systems tripwires and red flags for massive downloads or when people are poking around in shared drives where they don't belong.

"The technical piece isn't hard," he said. "It is easy compared to making sure we understand the second and third order effects that will come when we tighten up our system—not so much the effects on our own people, serious as they are, but rather the effects on the troops, commanders and policymakers depending on

the GEOINT, HUMINT, counterintelligence and analytical products that we provide. This is a tough issue for us, and it will require some tough calls.

"There won't be any easy answers, and not all stakeholders will be pleased at the end of the day. Some of you are going to have to strike the right balance between information sharing and information security, and to implement those changes. All of us will have to live with the consequences," Burgess continued.

Along with those somber thoughts, however, the DIA director also voiced a very upbeat message about the value of GEOINT. "When you look at the many areas where GEOINT makes a difference, it is easy to appreciate the tremendous advantage that today's GEOINT provides."

The Army intelligence veteran recalled his early days as an imagery analyst, contrasting the limited technology capabilities and information distribution of that era with those of today.

"The differences we find are amazing. Pushed down to the lowest levels where it can make a decisive and immediate impact on the battlefield in real time, GEOINT provides unprecedented advantages on the battlefield in Afghanistan and Iraq and other locations. Your efforts have won over a generation of military officers," he said.

Burgess noted that there are some 750 National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency analysts either directly supporting or working side by side with DIA personnel in the US and overseas. "In DIA, we know how important GEOINT is in everything we do, whether it's providing

finished intelligence at the highest levels or enabling clandestine HUMINT operations in combat environments. We simply could not execute our mission today without GEOINT. It is integral to everything we do in our operational mission areas," he said.

"As director of one of the three all-source analytical agencies in the community, I have to tell you that just as I'm advocating for HUMINT, I'm also advocating for GEOINT," Burgess said. "Our analysts need GEOINT to understand our adversaries' underground facilities, to detect denial and deception, verify arms control compliance, counterproliferation and counterterrorism. GEOINT is critical to our ability to maintain awareness of all these developments, to ensure that our nation is not surprised by another nation's decision or technological breakthrough."

But Burgess also acknowledged that difficult choices lie ahead, particularly in the anticipated environment of budgetary limits. "The reality is that we have finite human and financial resources. That means choices must be made. For intelligence professionals, it comes down to where we put our analysts or resources, or what technologies we invest in. How many analysts need to be mapping the cultural geography of Afghan provinces, versus monitoring Russian strategic forces, Iran's nuclear program or China's deployment of a new class of missiles?

"Making these tough choices is a challenge for the intel community, as well as the geoint community," Burgess concluded. "But based on what GEOINT has achieved in recent decades, I believe GEOINT's greatest contributions still remain ahead of us"

Touch Screen Visualization

Intelligent Software Solutions delivers innovation.

Intelligent Software Solutions (ISS), a global leader in geo-temporal application development, demonstrated a number of innovative touch screen visualization and mobile, Android-based geospatial technologies from their booth. The demonstrations showcased how ISS is using Adobe technologies such as Adobe Flash and Adobe AIR to put real time

geo-temporal analysis into the hands of its U.S. government and military customers.

The company displayed its Tactus touch screen product that uses TouchFiltering to create multi-dimensional, personalized views of data, white boarding and distance measurements for a unique yet practical geo-temporal analysis solution that leverages

Adobe Flash 10.1.

The company also demonstrated its Motus mobile intelligence visualization product for visualizing rich, geospatial data on Android handheld devices. Using Adobe Flash and Adobe Air technologies, Motus enables bi-directional, contextually rich data views, even in the harshest environments.

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continuing with, “I don’t mean to be pejorative about it, because I just told you it’s a fantastic thing, it’s revolutionizing warfare and we can’t get enough of it. But is that really the best we can do?”

Currently, full motion video is tagged in three ways—date, time and geolocation. This is the only way that archives can be searched, which is daunting when the sheer amount of video is realized: “At NGA we currently have stored, since mid-2004, all the Predator video that the Air Force has collected. We have about 20 million minutes archived.” Self expressing the need for enhanced metadata tagging to improve this process, noting, “If you wanted to do a study how snipers operate in Fallujah, there’s probably hundreds or thousands of hours of video of Fallujah... We’d like

people to be able to search ‘sniper’ or ‘pickup truck’ or ‘men digging.’”

One way to do this, Self asserted, is to leverage commercial standards. Citing examples of sports games and news broadcasts, he continued, “It’s the context—when Drew Brees throws a touchdown pass, tv networks will immediately bring up clips of the last time he threw a touchdown pass in that type of situation, or against that defender...they’ve got so much metadata tagged, they can just immediately bring up that data for you.”

To bring this contextual awareness to the warfighter would be invaluable, and it’s one area where the commercial broadcast industry could provide some answers. According to Self, NGA has partnered with

the industry to create “the NSG [National System of Geospatial Intelligence] objective video architecture, NOVA. It leverages a lot of what’s being done in the commercial broadcast world, and adapts it to the DoD.” NOVA is helping guide efforts to improve FMV by making it—among other things—scalable, collaborative and searchable. NGA is also partnering with cell phone providers to bring video capabilities down to the individual soldier.

Another initiative that NGA has underway is the NGA Interoperability Action Team (NIAT), which supports the defense community with components such as technical requirements, architecture structures and metadata tagging. “If a program office thinks they need some help with standards and interoperability, par-

ticularly in the context of video, persistent surveillance, that type of thing, they can contact the NIAT...they will pull together the brightest subject matter experts to come and talk to your program office about standards, metadata and so forth, specifically for your system,” said Self.

As use of FMV continues to expand even further, standards and interoperability are key to enriching the technology and the user’s experience. Much as it has already revolutionized warfare, there is more unrealized potential that could take the technology to the next level. Self noted this in the closing of his presentation, emphasizing, “NGA is committed to work with the community and with industry on making full motion video more valuable than it even is today.”

Aerial Digital Sensor System

Visual Intelligence works to deliver lighter, faster and smarter sensors.

As a user centric system, **Visual Intelligence’s** Iris One architecture will continue to evolve to be smarter and faster, easier to operate and maintain, wired and wireless internet enabled, and rapidly deployable for commercial, homeland security and military applications.

According to the company, the breakthroughs of Iris One are founded on VI’s ARCA, a suite of awarded patents and patents pending. The ARCA is a Lego-like component based imaging system that is functionally more powerful; this with a smaller, lighter, modular and scalable sensor architecture. The ARCA can accommodate color and near infrared camera modules, and also integrate (co-geo-register and fuse) other remote sensing modules (e.g. hyper-spectral, thermal) that can be

configured via plug-and-play hardware and software modules.

The reconfiguration ability of Iris One is an integrated software-driven information centric workflow paradigm. The software is continually being improved to integrate diverse remote sensing camera modules and optimized for on board processing of imaging applications, including but not limited to Ortho mapping, stereo DEM generation, change/anomaly detection and sensor data fusion. The latter is a patented VI developed module known as CoCo a configuration that allows Iris One to be co-mounted and co-registered with a second sensor such as LiDAR, obtaining georegistration of the LiDAR and the imagery onboard ready for use upon landing or, optionally, to be down streamed via wireless protocols.

Isis Sky is the Iris One onboard (in-flight) ortho-processing capability. As Iris collects imagery, for example at 9,500 AGL a two mile swath (along the flight path) and pixels of 25 cms GSD, the imagery is assembled as a large frame and turned into an ortho image mosaic with a known positional error, the latter based on direct positioning (IMU/GPS) and USGS DEMs. Visual Intelligence is continuously improving Isis Sky with the objective to approach as close as possible in-flight real-time ortho-processing.

Isis Earth is the post processing ortho software used to generate even more accurate ortho images. Improved accuracy from Isis Sky can be obtained by refined GPS (xyz) positioning in post process mode and/or by using traditional aerial triangulation procedures.

Meeting the Pace of War

Ball Aerospace puts the sensor and processing together.

Ball Aerospace has developed Total Sight as a real-time, full-motion 3D imaging system. “Total sight is a tactical application of LiDAR to meet real-time warfighter needs,” said Fred Doyle, Ball’s vice president and corporate executive, defense and intelligence community. “What this does to differentiate ourselves is Total Sight performs the processing in real-time, eliminating the data latency that is often experienced by having to process the data on the ground separate from the user application.”

The baseline LiDAR sensor has two, 30 Hz sensing channels—a 3D LiDAR sensor and a co-boresighted context camera. With its area coverage, the LiDAR sensor array does not re-

quire mechanical scanning to cover the field of view. Data from the sensor arrays are formatted, fused and/or overlaid and orthorectified, in real-time, via an integrated field-programmable gate array. Data processing occurs in real time during the collection and is locally stored and/or transmitted. Processing of the payload integrated GPS/IMU sensor allows real-time geolocation of any point within the image. Real-time mosaic stitching algorithms are used to generate broad area coverage scenes.

“This gives us the ability to display the LiDAR data with a reference image in real time either in the cockpit to the user as the data is being collected for real time application,” said Doyle.

Total Sight is the sensor and the processing in one. The analysis is user dependent. “We could develop specific applications identical to what NGA Director Tish Long described in her keynote where there are user apps developed for specific operational needs for that data set,” said Doyle. “We can develop those apps but we will also be able to put this into open source data systems where the users can actually have access to the data build the applications themselves.”

“We believe the pace of war demands systems to operate in real time and not with the latency,” concluded Doyle. “That’s why we are excited about Total Sight—because it can meet that demand.”

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“The reality is that we’re in our ninth year of war,” Cartwright said. “We also as a nation are at really unprecedented levels of debt. Grand strategy is all about your ability to match resource to need. At some point, we’re dangerously close to not having the resource for the need. Also, it is going to be very difficult, given the amount of debt that we have, to climb out of that in any reasonable period of time.

“The third thing is that, as a nation, we are still basically, in our incentive structures and governance, locked in an industrial construct, but are in an IT world. We haven’t quite figured out how to square that. Business understands that the IT side is where their leverage is. But for me, it’s easy to advocate for a \$50 billion program to build airplanes or ships, but next to impossible to get \$1 billion for an IT system. Yet that’s where our leverage is,” he continued.

In an observation that, as he said, may have “sucked all the air from the room,” Cartwright took on the basic nature of traditional national technical means of surveillance. “The utility of a still image today is not terribly useful on the battlefield. Seeing the pattern of life from full motion video, if you’re wondering what’s over the hill, that’s what you’re looking for. You’re looking



to understand what’s going on and who’s doing what. Frankly, full motion video is what we want to see. That’s tough to get from anything but an elevated, ground-based or tethered platform. In other words, it’s difficult from a spacecraft. The incremental benefit on the platform side that we get out of the most exquisite spacecraft for GEOINT is at diminishing returns. I’d rather pay a firm fixed price for a commercial capability and get it in quantity, than to have the most exquisite thing in the world and have only one.

Turning to sensors, Cartwright noted the recent deployment of what he called very dense large data sensor capability.

“We’re starting to move to sensors that are substantially more capable rather than moving

to more platforms. The ability to watch scores of platforms off a single E/O ball makes the platform more of a truck and the sensor the measure of merit. When these dense data technologies come in, you need to transport, assess and pull information in.

“That’s why everything we do today has got to move to digital, so I can store it, manipulate it and get it to those who need it, and do it in a timely fashion,” he said.

But even that approach has problems, he acknowledged, noting that it currently takes 19 analysts to follow a single Predator sensor ball. “If we do scores of targets off a single ball, I now have a problem of generating analysts that I can’t solve,” he said. “The way we attack these problems today, we try to put more analysts against it—a lineal solution for an exponential problem. A single Predator is going to take us 2,000 analysts to process off these dense data systems. We can’t do that. We have to put the analyst in a different place and start to build competitive advantage through the algorithms that go through the data, find what we’re looking for and bring it to the analyst.”

Managing GEOINT Data Storage

Hie Electronics developing cost-effective back-up and storage capabilities.

Hie Electronics introduced the TeraStack Solution to the geospatial intelligence community at the GEOINT 2010 Symposium. The geospatial intelligence community requires a cost-effective way to securely and reliably back up and archive rapidly expanding data requirements; especially as unmanned aerial vehicles, satellite imagery and digital sensors continue to collect and generate increasingly larger amounts of full motion high resolution video and snapshots of the earth.

The extremely large amount of geospatial data generated via the various overhead collection assets must not only be backed up and archived reliably, but must also be easily accessible and readily available for near term and longer term fusion, modeling and analysis of GEOINT data.

Due to the growing criticality of GIS data, availability is of paramount concern for the storage of any long term critical information. Hard drives have an approximate 3-5

year useful life cycle and tape follows closely with a 5-7 year life cycle. Because of this short lifetime, magnetic tape and hard disk drive systems require frequent migration of data to new storage media or into a new system altogether in order to maintain the supportability and reliability of the data.

The TeraStack Solution TBYTE is an energy efficient hierarchical storage management system comprised of an enterprise application server integrated with 78TB of online and nearline storage, and unlimited offline data storage, in a compact 15U standalone unit consuming only 600 watts of power. At the heart of the TeraStack Solution, Blu-ray



optical media, with over 50 years of manufacturer rated data integrity, provides unmatched security, lifetime, and reliability for nearline and offline storage management. Java-based TeraStack Solution data management services help to automate the movement of data utilizing business rule-based processes for tier to tier data movement.

Data is securely recorded onto Blu-ray media with bit-level data verification and stored in one of eight 6.25TB structured optical media volumes called TeraStacks. TeraStack units are removable, transportable and re-mountable in an entirely different TBYTE providing flexible, secure and reliable data transport of large volumes of data.

Green Thunder

Raytheon unveils new ISR cloud capability to support U.S. warfighters.

Raytheon Company has invested in and developed a warfighter-conceived, leap-ahead intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance cloud capability that enables soldiers and intelligence operators to more easily collect and disseminate information. The new Green Thunder intelligence system closes the gap between the needs of users on the tactical edge and the cloud computing environment the U.S. Army is moving toward.

A modular, deployable ISR capability, Green Thunder is targeted at brigade combat teams and below, but it is scalable for higher echelons. Green Thunder provides a significantly better col-

lection and dissemination capability in a smaller footprint than the Army's current capabilities. Affordable and compatible with the Army's current infrastructure, Green Thunder was created by Raytheon after interviews with warfighters and intelligence operators in Afghanistan.

"Threats from insurgents are changing faster than acquisition systems can adapt," said Galen Jackman, vice president for Army programs at Raytheon. "We have responded to Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Ashton Carter's call for capabilities that are deployment-ready and can have an immediate effect in the war we are

fighting.

"With Green Thunder, no additional development cycle is necessary," Jackman continued. "We invested in a solution that fits and can be easily integrated into the current architecture. This mitigates risk to our customer. Green Thunder is ready to go to Afghanistan today."

Green Thunder provides ISR capabilities through the Distributed Common Ground system (DCGS) enterprise. It provides imagery and streaming video exploitation; human intelligence analysis; situational awareness; and reach-back from the brigade combat teams and below to feed intelligence to an entire DCGS

Integration Backbone federation.

Using Raytheon Advanced Tactical System phones and Tactical Handoff Using Nearest DCGS Resource, Green Thunder closes the last tactical mile with forward-deployed edge users, operating in low-bandwidth environments and delivers current information to operational units during missions.

"We invested and developed Green Thunder based on end-user feedback to ensure war fighters get what they need to win the counter-insurgency war in Afghanistan," said Mark Biggam, a vice president for defense and civil mission solutions in Raytheon Intelligence and Information Systems.

Rugged Blade System

Tracewell Systems' perform well at Empire Challenge

Tracewell Systems believes its Rugged Blade System is the first solution answering the need for commercial-off-the-shelf hardware for DoD applications. The Rugged Blade System meets a wide range of stringent MIL-SPEC requirements set forth by the DoD, providing improved performance for forward deployment of COTS servers used in critical military applications.

"The collection, storage and analysis of a wide range of data have become mission critical for Department of Defense agencies," said Matt Tracewell, executive vice president of Tracewell Systems. "The Rugged Blade System is the first product available on the market that combines performance, cost and flexibility of commercial off-the-shelf high-performance blade server technology in a form factor specifically designed to meet MIL-SPEC standards

for forward deployment. As a result, for the first time, it is now possible to forward deploy the same flexible IBM based blade server technology as found in today's most technologically advanced data centers."

The RBS recently performed well at Empire Challenge 10, a multinational ISR demonstration designed to showcase the role of technology in improving military strategy, interagency coordination and military decision making. According to an after-action report, "Throughout the exercise, the RBS performed to specification, even when subjected to high temperatures due to a lack of air conditioning (A/C)." The report concluded, "The

Tracewell RBS chassis and IBM blades, despite high temperatures and less than optimal work conditions, provided a high level of service."

Based on IBM's COTS blade server technology in a form-factor engineered package designed for MIL-SPEC requirements, Tracewell's Rugged Blade System addresses the DoD's core technology challenges—namely: consistent performance, flexibility, and consolidation.

New President and CEO at PCI Geomatics

PCI Geomatics, a developer of geo-imaging software and systems, has announced the appointment of Terry Moloney as its new president and CEO succeeding Dr. Robert Moses.

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Innovative Research

Los Alamos National Laboratory drives research critical for national security.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is known for the cutting edge research it provides focused primarily on scientific and engineering solutions. LANL is using GEOINT to highlight three of their geo-related programs.

Rapid Automated Decomposition of Images for Ubiquitous Sensing (RADIUS) is an effort to increase the ability of analysts to shift through images by using computer power to sort out images that do not contain items of interest. The lab describes the project as "Emulating human visual perception in efficient algorithms and software to extract meaningful features at multiple scales from imagery." Since sensing power has out-

stripped processing power, analysts are in a position of having more information than can be managed, sorted and reviewed. RADIUS uses thousands of polygons instead of millions of pixels to represent image features that allows for more efficient image analysis.

NeuralViz is a project that demonstrates full-scale, real-time models of visual cortex, the part of the brain responsible for vision. The goal of the research is to develop computer vision software with human-level speed, accuracy and robustness. Currently in the research and development phase, a prototype version exists with potential markets being the automated monitoring of video and still imagery for speci-

fied objects of interest. Current thinking is that the system could be market ready within one to two years.

The third project LANL is highlighting is DREAM—dynamic radiation environment assimilation model—which seeks to forecast and possibly mitigate effects from adverse space weather. DREAM will provide detailed assessment of satellite environments. Able to calculate more than 3 million times faster than current magnetic field models, DREAM is expected to improve radiation belt modeling and enhance forecast efficiencies. Adverse space weather could severely impact communications across the military and commercial spectrum.

Joint Cloud Computing Platform

NJVC and Invertix Corp. come together for the intelligence community.

NJVC, one of the largest providers of information technology (IT) solutions to the DoD, and Invertix Corporation, a proven technology company supporting the United States intelligence community, demonstrated a joint cloud computing platform at the NJVC booth. The portable cloud platform is also installed at NJVC Center for Technology Integration-West in O'Fallon, Ill., and an Invertix office in Northern Virginia.

The NJVC and Invertix team demonstrated both administrative

and mission-oriented capabilities enhanced by the power of cloud computing. The effort includes the configuration of an open source software-based distributed cloud platform on innovative green commodity hardware that improves enterprise capabilities while reducing cost. The demonstration also highlighted widget and mashup technologies configured for web-based enterprise search and GEOINT analysis by system end-users on a local cloud platform as well interacting with remote clouds including

an NJVC cloud in O'Fallon, the DIA developed Intelligence Community Data Layer and an Invertix cloud in Northern Virginia. "At GEOINT 2010, the on-site cloud platform, dashboard and widgets validate utility cloud platform capabilities in a compelling and tangible manner," said Dr. Dan Law, Invertix chief scientist.

"NJVC is thrilled to embark on this new relationship with Invertix to leverage the cloud computing expertise and successes of both companies to clients—current and future." said Jill Brun-

ing, NJVC chief operating officer. "This is the first of many future joint initiatives targeted at growing both companies' cloud computing practices."

"We are happy to engage with NJVC in exploring innovative ways to advance client missions by leveraging the power of emerging cloud technologies," said Craig Parisot, Invertix chief operating officer. "Our delivery approach effectively leverages the strengths of both organizations for the benefit of the GEOINT domain mission."

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Data Management Software

Quantum simplifies archiving from legacy platforms

Quantum Corp., a global specialist in backup, recovery and archive, today announced it has added a new archive conversion feature to its StorNext data management software to simplify migration from legacy archive platforms. This innovative capability provides greater control and significantly shortens time to access archived files on third-party archival platforms during migration to the StorNext system. The announcement is the latest enhancement to StorNext software following the addition of LTO-5 tape technology support earlier this year. These advancements reinforce the benefits of StorNext in enabling higher performance and cost effectiveness for tiered data storage and long-term data retention strategies in enterprise environments.

StorNext's new Archive Conversion Utility (ACU) is designed to minimize the burden associated with legacy storage platform migrations and significantly reduce the expense and time it takes to move files from existing legacy archives

to a StorNext solution. The first release of this conversion tool will support the conversion of data from Oracle/Sun's SAM-FS and QFS software platform.

"Working closely with the Quantum StorNext team gave us the opportunity to test this exciting new archive utility in our environment," said Robert Plaster, CTO of RPI Consulting. "We are pleased to report that it has been easy to install and configure, and in fact, we've successfully converted and validated millions of QFS archived data files. The conversion process has been painless from our QFS archive system and we are now using our QFS archived files with our heterogeneous StorNext clients."

With the ACU, terabytes (TBs) or petabytes (PBs) of archived data located on tape media can be accessed within hours—instead of months—of initiating a data migration to StorNext. Quantum's innovative approach enables storage administrators to transfer only file system structure and metadata information

about the associated data files to the StorNext Storage Manager file server. Once the transfer completes, normally within a matter of hours, all non-StorNext files on original media can be accessed and modified from the StorNext File System. Administrators can control data movement over time from the legacy media to StorNext Storage Manager native media, without disruption to the organization's business workflow operations. This approach provides complete flexibility on how quickly physical data migrates to the StorNext supported system.

"Quantum continues to invest significant development resources behind the advancement of StorNext's unique capabilities," said Janae Lee, Quantum senior vice president, Disk and Software Products Group. "For enterprises that may feel locked into a limited file and archiving system, our new Archive Conversion Utility makes the migration process straightforward and fast, minimizing the impact on ongoing operations."

Image Compression Software

LizardTech Unveils GeoExpress 8

LizardTech, a division of Celartem Inc. and a leading provider of software solutions for managing and distributing geospatial content, announced the release of version 8 of GeoExpress image compression software at GEOINT 2010. GeoExpress 8, which enables geospatial professionals to compress and manipulate satellite and aerial imagery, introduces the MrSID Generation 4 (MG4) format for compression of raster data, adding support for multispectral data, alpha channels and improved mosaicking.

With MG4's support for compressing hyperspectral data, users can use GeoExpress to compress up to 255 bands of geospatial data to the MrSID format. Whether users need to compress 4-band color images containing an infrared channel, take advantage of the latest 8-band satellite imagery, or compress high-res-

olution RGB datasets, GeoExpress is the right solution.

With the MrSID format's support for alpha channels, users can add true transparency to their geospatial imagery. Now portions of imagery can be made transparent or opaque so there is greater control over how imagery looks even at high compression ratios. Images with alpha channels will seamlessly combine into artifact-free mosaics for accurate analysis and visualization in various GIS applications.

GeoExpress 8 also introduces improved mosaicking options. Previously, mosaics were either quick to create but slower for end users to open, or opened rapidly in viewing applications but took a long time to create. Now thousands of MrSID files can be combined without spending valuable time reprocessing them. MG4 mo-

saics open as quickly as a single image, saving time both creating images and viewing them.

"The launch of GeoExpress 8 is particularly exciting because of the many benefits MrSID Generation 4 brings to our customers," said Jon Skiffington, LizardTech's director of product management. "Support for multispectral data and alpha channels have been features commonly requested by our customers. The launch of MG4 meets the demands of current raster image collection needs, and also future proofs the MrSID format for further advances in geospatial raster imagery. As with previous versions of the MrSID format, geospatial professionals can use MG4 to losslessly compress their geospatial data, mosaic datasets together, color balance raster imagery, and manipulate data in many other ways."

Save the Date for GEOINT 2011



GEOINT returns to San Antonio for the eighth annual Symposium! USGIF invites you to join us at one of the GEOINT Symposia's favorite cities, San Antonio, for the GEOINT 2011 Symposium. As in previous years, the GEOINT Symposium will capture attendees with intriguing keynotes, morning panels and afternoon breakout tracks from the GEOINT Community's most prominent leaders. Attendees and exhibitors alike, will be able to learn about current trends and innovations in the exhibit hall, filled with technologies from organizations creating products and programs to better our nation's security. GEOINT 2011 also promises rare networking opportunities through multiple receptions and evening events. Mark your calendar for this must-attend event, you won't want to miss out!



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