

# Digital Line Graph Conversion Instructions to the Spatial Database Standard using the ARC/INFO format

by

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Disclaimer: This instruction set was built using the Windows NT 4.0 Operating System, so some operating system commands may not comply with Unix.

## Step One Create Structure and File Folders

Initially, I would create a directory folder called "dlg2sds". Under this folder, I would include the optional-format digital line graphs. In this example, the dlgs in optional format from USGS are named \*.cdo. The \*.cdo extension that follows the dlg files should be changed to \*.dlg, which in my example I have already completed (figure 1).

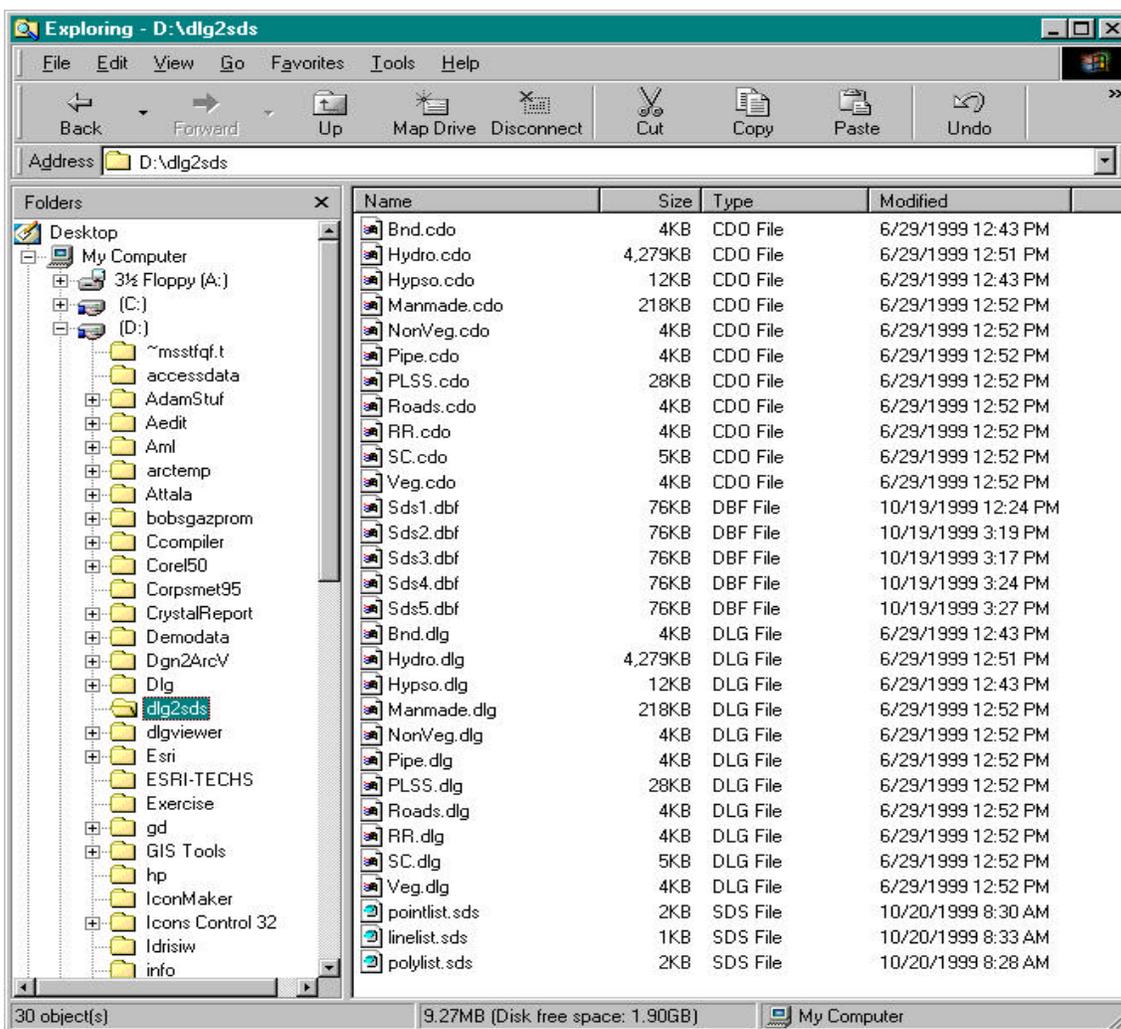


Figure 1

You will also notice the database files named sds\*.dbf, which contains the correlations between DLG major and minor codes and predefined spatial database standards. You'll also notice \*.sds files, which were created as a list of all possible names the new "coverages" could be in ARC/INFO. These dBase and sds files will be given to you and are in accordance with SDS 1.8 standards. They must be included in every group of dlgs for the same geographic area. When you have this structure complete, you're ready for Step 2. These files must exist or the conversion will be incomplete

### Step Two Create ARC/INFO library

Before starting ARC/INFO for conversion, I would make an "AML" library or a "bin" to store the source code for the conversion. In ARC/INFO, programs called AMLs, (which stands for Arc Macro Language) are used to automate redundant tasks. You've probably received some files with the extension \*.aml, which is how ARC/INFO recognizes that these are written codes for ARC/INFO. I have created my own AML library, a directory called "MyDlgAmlLibrary". You'll notice the needed \*.amls for converting the original Optional DLG data into SDS named convention compliance.

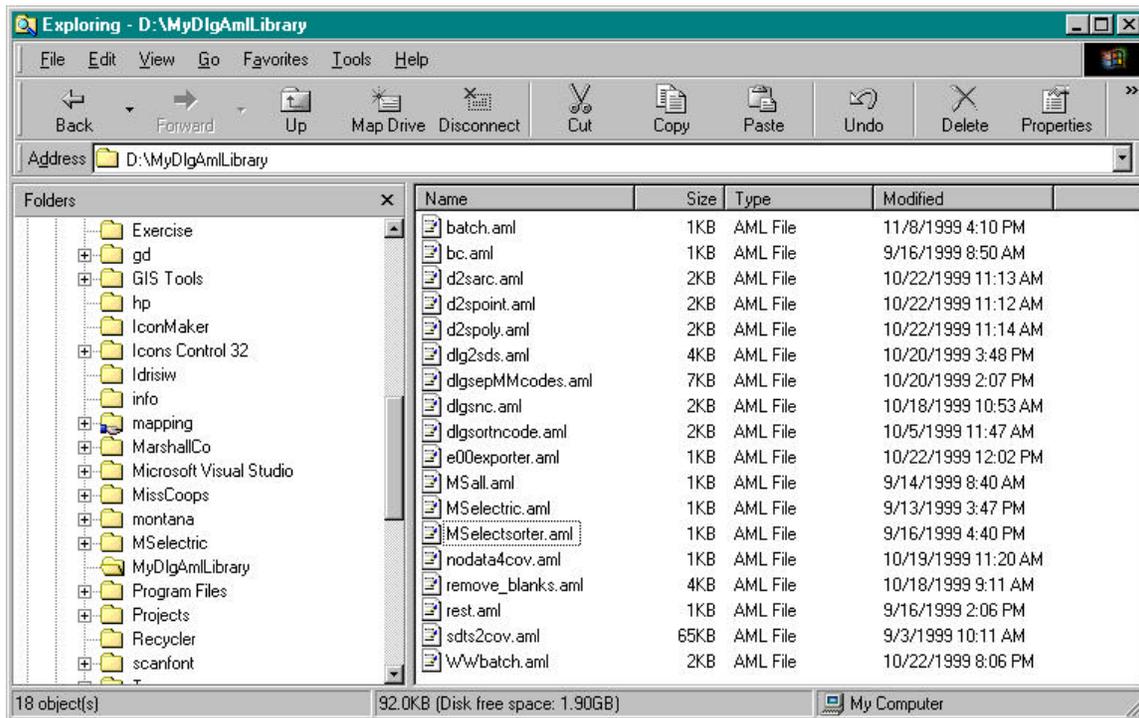


Figure 2

### Step Three Start ARC/INFO

I would go to the command line or "dos" prompt and type in "arc" and press the **Enter** key, which starts ARC/INFO. The next step would be to type "w D:\dlg2sds", **Enter** and watch ARC/INFO move into the correct directory and workspace. The next step is to type "&amlpath D:\MyDlgAmlLibrary" and **Enter**. The command line should look like Figure 3. The last step to start the conversion would be to type "&run batch". After typing "&run batch" and hitting the **Enter** key, the program calls several different batch

processes. Let the process completely run, which depending on RAM, CPU processor(s) and other components, will take some time to complete. My advice is to go get a cup of coffee and a candy bar, because the process on a 400 Mhz Pentium II with 128 megabytes of Ram takes around 15 minutes. You'll then be ready for step four.

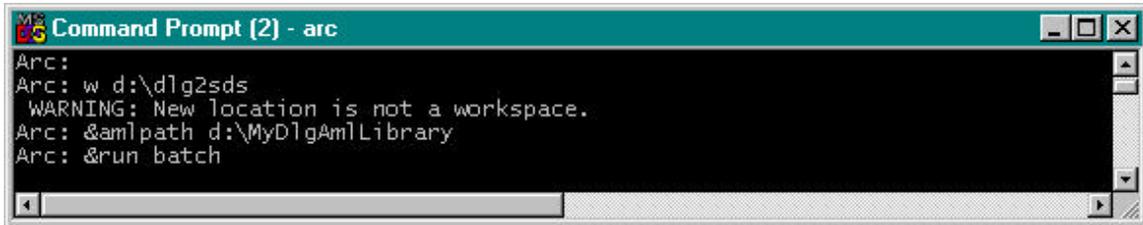


Figure 3

### Step Four Retrieving the Processed Data

Here is how the final data directory should look after the procedures have processed.

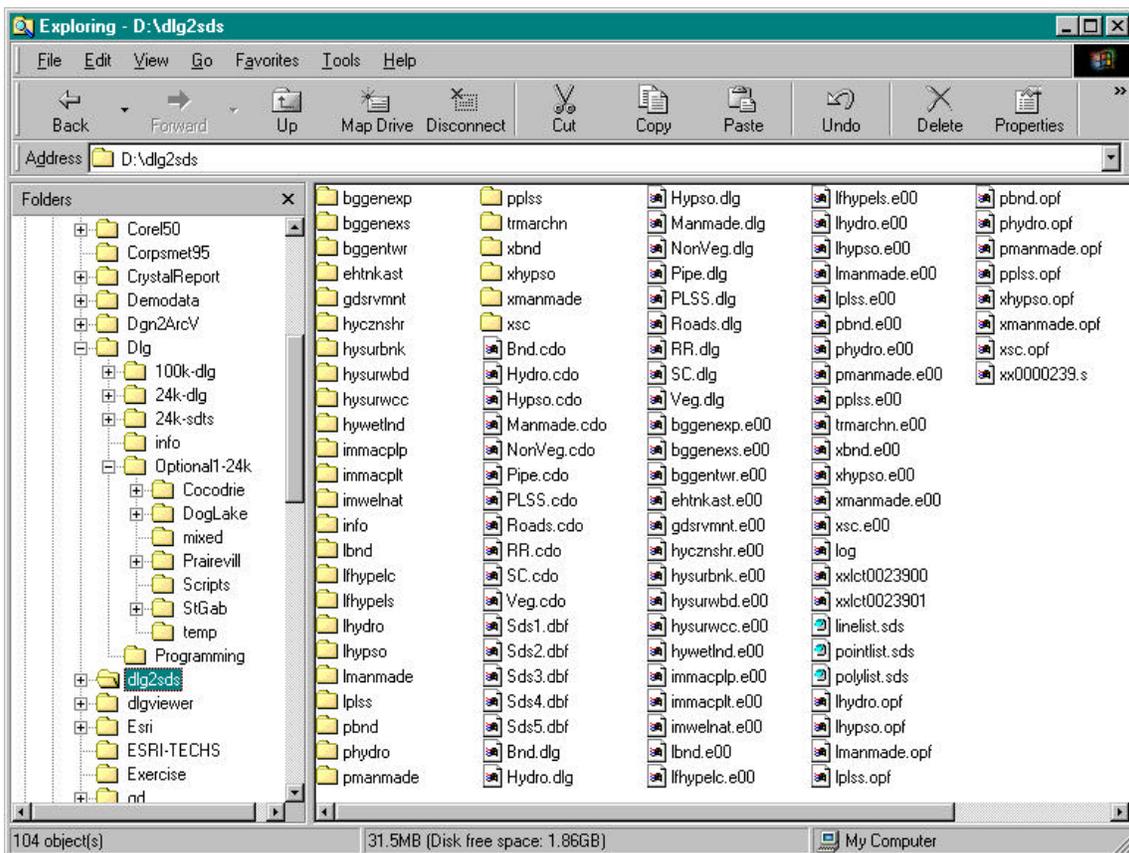


Figure 4

You'll notice the SDS compliant directory names containing the ARC/INFO coverage data. Also there are the ARC/INFO export files \*.e00's that are produced for those using

ArcView and want convertible data. Be aware, some of the directories and \*.e00 files are NOT SDS compliant. These are remnants of the original dlgs and can be distinguished by an \*.opf file that bears the same name. For example, file "lbnd.opf" is a marker for deletion of directory "lbnd". The program doesn't automatically delete these files because there may be conflicts and by keeping these files, we can ascertain if the data ever existed. A more complete explanation will be given in the project source document.