

Incorporating 3-D into Transportation Solutions: The Role of Spatial Databases

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The use of three-dimensional geospatial content is becoming widely adopted within enterprise solutions in engineering, utilities, oil exploration, urban planning, and transportation. Three key advances are driving this adoption of 3D: ubiquitous deployment of 3D sensor technologies; increasing availability of commercial off the shelf 3D content; and the growing maturity software tools to handle this new data type. This paper highlights recent advances in handling 3D data models in an RDBMS, thereby providing application developers with an affordable, scalable, and high performance storage and analysis platform for managing 3D surface models, point clouds, and city models. It highlights the value proposition of using RDBMS to handle large 3D databases, while overcoming the scalability limitations of previous file-based approaches. My paper illustrates use cases of how solutions developers are benefiting from this new 3D data management infrastructure to make the management of 3D content within transportation organizations a reality.