

What is the ArcView 3D Analyst?

The 3D Analyst is an extension that adds support for 3D shapes, surface modeling, and real-time perspective viewing to ArcView. With it, you can create and visualize spatial data using a third dimension to provide insight, reveal trends, and solve problems.

3D Shapes

The 3D Analyst adds support for new shape types. These store z coordinates, in addition to x and y, for every point used to define a feature. The simple 3D geometry represented by these shapes has a number of uses that include:

- Storage of height information with feature geometry (in shapefiles).
- Input to surface creation process.
- Output from surface analysis.
- 3D visualization.

Surface Modeling

With the 3D Analyst installed, surface themes can be created and used for analysis. Two types of surface models are available: grids and triangulated irregular networks (TINs). This gives you the power and flexibility needed to solve a wide variety of surface modeling tasks.

- Create surfaces easily via ArcView's graphical interface.
- Modify existing TIN based surfaces.
- Perform a variety of tasks including contouring, profiling, color hillshade mapping, and more.

Real-time Perspective Viewing

The 3D Analyst adds a new document type to the ArcView interface; the 3D Scene Document. This document provides an interactive viewer that puts your data in a new perspective.

- View and validate 3D data in perspective.
- See your 2D features in 3D by draping and extruding.
- Navigate and move around in real-time.
- Gain new insights.