

What is a grid data set?

The Spatial and 3D Analysts have the ability to create grid data sets and work with them. A grid data set is stored in a directory called a workspace. Each grid data set is stored as a separate directory with associated tables and files that contain specific information about the grid. Each grid data set also stores some files in an INFO directory found in the workspace. All output grid data sets are created in the project's working directory. By default this is the user's home directory and can be set using the Project Properties dialog or by choosing Set Working Directory from the view windows File menu.

Do not use your computer's file system commands with grid data sets

Because each grid data set stores files in the INFO directory, you cannot rename, copy, or delete them with the computer's file system. Rename, copy, or delete grid data sets with the Data Source Manager supplied with Spatial and 3D Analysts. You can access the Manager Data Sources dialog from the File menu when a view is active. However, you can move entire workspaces with the computer's file system with no problems.

Temporary vs. permanent grid data sets

Grids created as a result of performing analysis are stored as temporary data sets. They are deleted when the corresponding grid theme is deleted from the view, or if you exit ArcView without saving the project. All grid data sets become permanent when you save the project, or if the theme is active and you use Save Data Set from the Theme menu. Once a grid data set is made permanent, it will not be deleted when the grid theme or project is deleted.