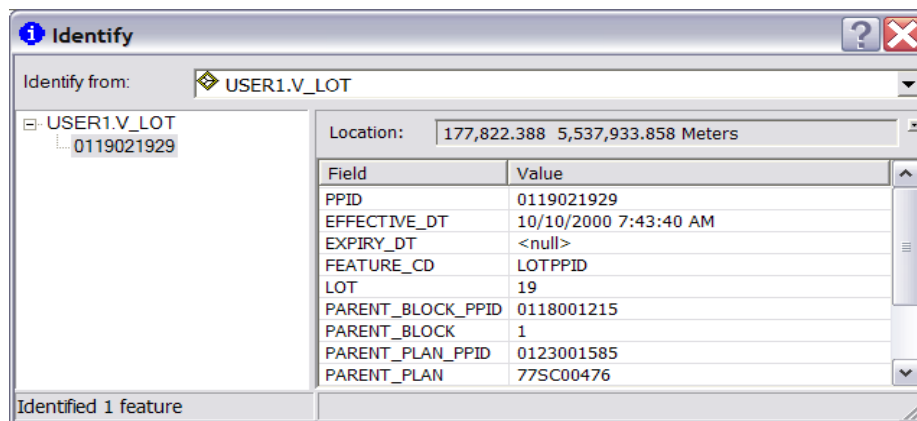


Autodesk Extended Entity Data (EED) vs. ESRI Shapefiles

Prior to 2003, ISC maintained cartographic text, which many AutoDesk software users found useful. In 2003, ISC began capturing cartographic text as attributes to polygons and lines, and stopped maintaining the cartographic text. Maintaining cartographic text was very labour intensive and with over 12 million features in our Cadastral data layers it was not feasible to continue.

ISC distributes data in two standard formats; AutoDesk DXF and ESRI SHP. Each format stores attributes that are attached to a specific feature, which help identify the feature (i.e.: lot number, quarter section, plan number, etc). AutoDesk stores attribution as Extended Entity Data (EED) and ESRI stores attributes in a database file. See screenshot below for Cadastral LOT attributes.



Methods to extract and display attributes may differ depending on the software and version you use. Generally ESRI software users are well equipped to handle the attributes. The extraction of attribute data can be challenging for AutoDesk software users, depending on the software. AutoDesk and 3rd party software providers have products that can handle both DXF EED and ESRI files. Please consult your AutoDesk dealer or the internet for details.

ISC also offers a solution – a cartographically generated DXF file. The file is generated via software named Maplex, which determines the “best fit” placement of cartographic labels based on defined placement rules. See screenshot below for sample. ISC can generate this file for an additional cost.



Please contact the Geomatics Distribution Centre at 1-866-420-6577 or saskmaps@isc.ca for more information or to purchase Maplex generated cartographic files.