



IMAGINE Essentials® PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

IMAGINE Essentials

Product Description

More than 30 years of geospatial research and software development has culminated in the ERDAS IMAGINE® suite of software. IMAGINE Essentials® is the entry-level tier of ERDAS IMAGINE. Other than IMAGINE Advantage® and IMAGINE Professional®, there is no more powerful and carefully designed product for creating, visualizing, geocorrecting, reprojecting and compressing geospatial data in single or batch modes than IMAGINE Essentials.

IMAGINE Essentials offers the basic tools for geospatial mapping, visualization, enhancement and geocorrection, including enterprise-enabled access to OGC Services and relational databases such as ArcSDE and Oracle Spatial. At the heart of IMAGINE Essentials is the viewer, which provides multi-threaded, high performance interactive display and processing. The viewer displays, combines, geographically links, analyzes and presents imagery and feature data from files or OGC web services in multiple geographic views and maps to facilitate understanding of geographic phenomena.

Key Features

Data Types and Integration - There are two types of file data format access: direct access to data formats for the use of files in their native format without conversion, and import and export routines for data exchange to a broader spectrum of data. ERDAS IMAGINE also supports the import and export of numerous satellite, GIS and image file formats. See chart later in document.

Easy to Learn and Use

- Intuitive ribbon user interface
- Common interface used throughout the ERDAS IMAGINE suite
- Context-sensitive, hypertext-linked help
- Bubble help
- Extensive PDF help, including *ERDAS Field Guide*, and various user and tour guides

Data Visualization - The ERDAS IMAGINE viewer efficiently displays, combines, analyzes and presents geographic data:

- Drag-and-drop data loading to the viewer
- International 2-byte fonts supported
- Overlay multiple feature and image data types
- Treat multiple image layers as
 - Discrete, independent files
 - Virtual mosaic
 - Virtual layer stack
- Arrange layers index
- Multi-view linking by
 - Geographical
 - Spectral
 - Real-time roam and rotation locking
- User-definable projection system for data display
- Dynamic roam
- Fractional zoom, rectangle zoom, pyramid level zoom and continuous zoom and continuous rotate
- Zoom to a specific scale
- Zoom to layer extent
- Font-to-symbol utility
- User-selectable resampling techniques
 - Nearest Neighbor

- Bilinear Interpolation
- Cubic Convolution
- Bicubic Spline
- Rotation of data to user-defined angles
- Interactive north arrow and scale bar
- On-the-fly reprojection of image and feature data
- Print using Map Composer templates
- Area of Interest (AOI) definition
- Use AOI layers for masking
- Image histogram modification
 - Automatic statistics calculation option
 - Simple brightness/contrast tools
 - Piecewise linear adjustments
 - Standard, statistically-based automatic lookup tables (LUTs)
 - Full graphical histogram contrast adjustment tool
 - Save and reload multiple LUTs
- Window extent statistics
 - Avoids poor utilization of available screen contrast
 - Quickly calculate statistics for current viewer
- Pseudo color table editing for thematic layers
 - Define new attribute fields
 - Apply color patches
 - Statistical report generation
 - Attribute-based criteria selection and display
 - Point-and-click attribute selection
- Recode class values
- Filtering for thematic images (Neighborhood Analysis)
- Filtering for continuous images
 - Standard smoothing, edge enhancement and edge detection filters
 - Custom filter editor and librarian
- Interpolation methods for editing image regions
- General raster editing tools
- Visual change detection between any data types
 - Swipe
 - Blend
 - Flicker
- Inquire cursor and inquire box
- Measurement tool
 - Point locations
 - Lengths, bearings and angles
 - Polygonal areas and perimeters
 - Cylinder lying on ground
 - Ellipse
 - Height from layover
 - Control of units and coordinate systems for reporting
- MGRS coordinate display and drive to
- Profile tools
 - Spectral profile for hyperspectral analysis
 - Spectral reference libraries
 - Spatial profile for cross-section, surface distance and line-of-sight analysis
 - Surface profile for rapid isometric surface views
- Image Drape tool for creating perspective views on platforms supporting OpenGL
 - Rendering of DEM or any surface information as a 2.5D view
 - Control vertical exaggeration
 - Specify observer position and viewing geometry
 - Customizable backgrounds
 - Atmospheric effects

- Draping of multiple data layers
- Retention of geographic coordinates
- Annotation layers
 - Manually digitize objects
 - Objects include text, polylines, rectangles, ellipses, polygons, symbols, arcs and points
 - Style editor
 - Freehand (streaming) polyline editor
 - Lock annotation rotation angle
- Vector layers
 - Built-in ArcInfo coverage, geodatabase, shapefile and ArcSDE vector data models
 - Display and present as points, polygons, polylines, tics or in combination
 - Select features by point-and-click, regional selection or attribute-based criteria
 - Style editor, including attribute-based symbolization
 - Display and print all or selected features only
 - Zoom to selected feature(s)
- TerraModel layers
 - Define color palettes
- GPS live-link
 - Display location in viewer based on NMEA-0183 communication
 - Drive view in real time based on GPS coordinates

Image analyst capabilities are found in the ERDAS IMAGINE ribbon interface. The features include:

- Multiple viewers embedded into a single dialog for easy screen management
- Dedicated “overview” linked window, ideal for dual monitor configurations
- DirectX hardware acceleration and multi-threaded for multi-CPU support
- Thumbwheels for brightness, contrast, zoom and rotation control
- Percentage lookup table (ideal for 16-bit data such as IKONOS and QuickBird)
- Dynamic Range Adjustment (DRA) with user definable clipping parameters
- Snail trails
- Flicker-free raster and vector auto-roaming with regular or user-defined search paths
- Contextual magnifier (lens magnifier)
- Auto-rotate images
 - Grid north
 - True north
 - Sensor look angle (up is up)
 - Common rotation angles (45°, 90°, etc.)
- Lock rotation angles of GLT with overviews
- Image chipping
- Snapshot view content to standard image format
- Copy view content to Microsoft Windows clipboard
- Feature Counting Tool with user-customizable categories and icons
- Ruler integration (Ruler 14 and 16.x)
- Intelligent (sensor-specific) band combination selectors
- Session saving and loading
- Jump roam to a user-selected location from overview
- Research and negation tools for multi-image change detection
- Automatic application of MTFC kernels
- Spectral Mixer tool for predefined weighted-band combinations
- Inset view
- Metadata insertion tool for map reports (NITF)
- Improved text layout including text wrapping and in-place editing
- Option to keep text horizontal to screen
- Support for recent items in the gallery
- Use Microsoft Windows fonts
- Manipulate all map template elements
- New and improved templates

- Automatically insert country map
- Multiple views in a map report template
- Automatically update scale bars, north arrow, etc.
- Improved GeoPoint tool
- Send view or map report to Microsoft PowerPoint/Word or JPEG

Raster Data Handling

- Write everywhere using raster DLLs for IMG, ECW, JPEG2000, TIFF (including GeoTIFF and TIFF World) and ESRI GRID Stack formats
- Create an unlimited number of ECW and JPEG2000 compressed images from input images up to 250 Gpixel with either export or direct-write.
- Create an unlimited number of MrSID images up to 50 MB with export; increase MrSID compression capabilities with the IMAGINE MrSID Encoders
- Enhanced TIFF, BigTIFF and JPEG file reading and creation
- I/O support for terabyte-sized images
- DLL extendible
- Default format filtering including “All Rasters” option
- Multi-threaded pyramid layer and statistics generation for rapid and visually accurate image zooming

Vector Data Handling - IMAGINE Essentials enables shapefile and coverage data to be rapidly viewed, created and/or edited and provides extensive tools for this purpose through the viewer

- ArcSDE and Enterprise Geodatabase vector clients
- ESRI shapefile, Arc coverage and simple personal geodatabase read/write/create
- Create points, arcs, polygons and tics
- Digitize and split existing polygons with shared boundaries
- Reshape an existing shape
- Create and enter attribute data
- Cut, copy, paste and delete
- Unlimited undo levels
- User-defined symbolization
- Node and arc snapping
- Split and unsplit arcs
- Specify weed and grain tolerance
- Splining, densifying and generalization
- Node and polygon error detection
- Arc reshaping
- Drag and drop individual arc vertices or arc segments
- Continuous, “hands-free” roam while editing
- Automatic feature extraction
- Heads-up digitizing in viewer, digitizing tablet input or keyboard data entry
- Rename, copy, delete and external coverages
- Reproject to another projection
- Add hyperlinks to Microsoft Windows applications or web pages from vector features
- Subset shapefile

File Management - IMAGINE Essentials provides several tools to manage imagery and feature data

- IMAGINE Image Catalog for raster data, a database that serves as an image library, softcopy search and information management system
 - Attribute-based querying of records (images)
 - View image footprints on reference maps
 - Customize reference maps
 - Display selected images
- ShoeBox provides quick drag and drop access to data in project
 - XML based, easy to create and modify
 - Can open quickly with a saved session, or close quickly to open more viewing space

- Retriever
 - Access ERDAS APOLLO Catalog and other OGC-compliant web services
 - Add images to the ERDAS APOLLO Catalog from ERDAS IMAGINE

Batch Wizard Processing

- Serial process many thousands of files (parallel processing available in IMAGINE Advantage)
- Record and repeat common functions
- Automation to provide multi-file input/output support
- Wildcard selection of files
- Drag-and-drop data loading
- Image Command tool for changing projection and map information and other image metadata

Geometric Correction - IMAGINE Essentials provides an intuitive set of tools to georeference raw image data.

- Automatic geometric correction from valid ephemeris information
- Manual georeferencing can be applied to any raster data
 - Affine
 - Polynomial (first to tenth order)
 - Rubber sheeting
 - Reprojection
- Edit Ground Control Points (GCPs)
 - Intuitive graphical user interface
 - GCP selection from map, image, vector or keyboard
 - Automatic coordinate conversion
 - Automatic error reporting
 - Independent verification of accuracy with check points
 - Chip extraction (magnifier) viewers
 - Automatic drive-to-point
 - Automatic point prediction
 - Automatically position a predicted GCP
- Drop-point geocoding for fast and simple shift correction
- Image resampling to coordinate system
 - Nearest Neighbor, Bilinear, Cubic Convolution or Bicubic Spline resampling
 - User-defined pixel sizes and geographic subsets
 - DLL extendible
- Over 1000 projected coordinate systems included
- Over 65 spheroids and 500 datums included
- User may add more spheroids and datums
- Vertical datums, including vertical datum transformations
- Support for both standard and user-defined projection libraries, allowing thousands of projection systems to be defined
- ArcInfo vector transformations: affine or projective
- Viewer geographic link by reproject
- Viewer reproject images on-the-fly
- Mapmaker reproject images on-the-fly
- Reproject command interface
- Read/create ESRI world files and projection files (.prj)

Simple Classification - Easy-to-use unsupervised classification routine (ISODATA) with only file names and the number of classes needed for input

User control of:

- Number of iterations
- Number of classes
- Skip factors
- Initial class means on diagonal or principal axis
- Scaling of class ranges

- Color scheme initialization options
- Convergence threshold

Map Composer - Create or access individual custom maps of user-defined size.

Add any of the following:

- Copy and paste into any product using Microsoft clipboard (PowerPoint, Word, etc.)
- Multiple data frames containing one or more data layers each
- Automatically generated grid ticks, lines and graticules
- Titles
- Lines, bounding boxes and symbols
- Annotation
- Logos
- North arrows
- Scale bars
- Automatically generated legends
- User-definable styles
 - Build customized map templates
 - Automatically generate USGS maps at standard scales
 - Automatically generate international map series at any scale
 - Industry-standard printer languages and devices

Google Earth Integration -- ERDAS IMAGINE displays a Google Earth tab on the ribbon if Google Earth is detected on the computer. Users can match the Google Earth view to the ERDAS IMAGINE viewer and even synchronize the views. Users can also export image footprints and annotation layers from ERDAS IMAGINE to KML files.

General Tools and Utilities

- File chooser mechanism
 - File system and network navigation
 - Connection mechanism for database access
 - Recent list of files accessed
 - “Go to” list of directories accessed
 - Select multiple files at once
 - Preview thumbnail
 - Rename/delete/set permissions on files
 - “All Rasters” and “All Vectors” filters
- Enterprise database spatial selection tool, including:
 - User-customizable backdrop maps
 - MBR footprint display
 - Thumbnail image display
 - Image selection by attribute query, spatial and/or point and click criteria
- Quickly customize ERDAS IMAGINE to the production environment through the Preference Editor
- Access to peripherals and networks
- Text editor
- Layer information tools
- View binary data
- Coordinate calculator
- Subset tool
- Movie player and sequence editor
- Spreadsheet functionality via the CellArray™
- Convert fonts to symbol libraries

Extensibility

- ERDAS Macro Language (EML)
- Font manager

ERDAS IMAGINE Supported Data Formats (by Product Tier)

Data Format	Direct Read	Direct Write	Import	Export
ADRG Image (.img)	•		•	•
ADRG Legend (.lgg)	•		•	
ADRG Overview (.ovr)	•		•	
ADRI			•	
Alaska SAR Facility (.L)	•		•	
ALOS AVNIR-2 JAXA CEOS	•		•	
ALOS PALSAR ERSDAC CEOS	•		•	
ALOS PALSAR ERSDAC VEXCEL	•		•	
ALOS PALSAR JAXA CEOS	•		•	
ALOS PRISM JAXA CEOS	•		•	
ALOS PRISM JAXA CEOS IMG	•		•	
ASCII			•	•
ASRP (.img)	•		•	•
ASTER EOS-HDF			•	
AVHRR (NOAA KLM, Sharp & Dundee)			•	
AVIRIS	•		•	
Binary (Generic BIL, BIP, BSQ & Tiled)			•	•
Bitmap (.bmp)	•		•	
CADRG	•		•	•
CIB	•		•	•
COSMO-SkyMed	•		•	
Daedalus (AMS and ABS sensors)			•	
DEM (SDTS)			•	•
DEM (USGS)			•	•
DFAD			•	
Digital Orthophoto Quad (USGS DOQ)			•	•
Digital Orthophoto Quad Keyword Header (USGS DOQ)			•	•
Digital Point Positioning Database (DPPDB)			•	
DTED	•		•	•
ECRG TOC	•			
EDC Landsat 7 HDF			•	
ENVI (.hdr)	•		•	
ENVISAT	•		•	
EOS HDF	•		•	
ERDAS Annotation (*.ant)			•	
ERDAS Digitize (.dig)			•	
ERDAS ER Mapper (.ecw)	•	•	•	•
ERDAS ER Mapper (.ers)	•		•	
ERDAS GIS (.gis)	•		•	•
ERDAS Image Web Server ECWP (.url)	•			
ERDAS IMAGINE (.img)	•	•		
ERDAS LAN (.lan)	•		•	•
EROS-A1 Level 1A (ImageSat)	•		•	
ERS (CEOS)			•	
ERS (Conae-PAF CEOS)				
ERS (CRISP-PAF CEOS)				
ERS (D-PAF CEOS)				
ERS (H-PAF CEOS)				
ERS (I-PAF CEOS)				
ERS (TelAviv-PAF CEOS)				

Data Format	Direct Read	Direct Write	Import	Export
ERS (TROMSO-PAF CEOS)				
ESRI Arc Interchange to/from GRID (.e00)			•	•
ESRI ArcSDE Raster (.sdi)	•		•	•
ESRI BIL, BIP and BSQ (Space Imaging)	•			
ESRI Geodatabase Raster	•		•	
ESRI GRID and GRID Stack	•	•	•	•
FIT	•		•	
FORMOSAT-2 DIMAP (.dim)	•		•	
Generic Binary (Raw Raster BIL, BIP, BSQ)	•		•	•
GeoPDF (TerraGo Technologies)				•
GeoSPOT (4-band data)			•	
GIF	•		•	
GRASS			•	•
HDF EOS			•	
HDF Raster	•		•	
HDF4 Raster & Scientific	•		•	
HYDICE (.cub)	•		•	
Hyperion	•		•	
Intergraph CCITT Group 4 (*.cit)	•		•	
Intergraph COT	•		•	
Intergraph ISAT			•	•
IRS-1C/1D (Super Structured Format)			•	
IRS-1C/1D/P6 (EOSAT & Euromap)			•	
IRS-P4 OCM (Superstructure format)			•	
JFIF (JPEG)	•		•	•
JPEG2000 (including GeoJP2)	•	•	•	•
Landsat 7 CEOS (Eurimage)			•	
Landsat 7 Fast-L7A (ACRES, EROS, Eurimage)			•	
Landsat 7 HDF			•	
Landsat MSS			•	
Landsat TM Fast Format (ACRES, EROSAT, ESA, IRS, Radarsat)			•	
Landsat TM Standard Format (ACRES, EROSAT, ESA, IRS, Radarsat)			•	
MODIS (EOS-HDF)			•	
MODIS (IMAPP format)			•	
MrSID (Generation 2)	•	•	•	•
MrSID (Generation 3 – Geo Express)	•	•	•	•
NASDA (CEOS)			•	
NDF (NLAPS Data Format)			•	
NITF 1.1 and 2.x	•	•	•	•
NSIF			•	•
Oracle GeoRaster	•		•	•
PCIDISK (*.pix)	•		•	
PCX	•		•	•
PNG	•		•	
Radarsat-1/2	•		•	
RPF (CIB & CADRG)	•		•	•
SDTS Raster	•		•	
SeaWiFS HDF			•	
SeaWiFS level 1B & 2A data (OrbView CEOS format)			•	
SOCET SET GRID	•		•	•
SOCET SET GRID Figures of Merit	•			
SOCET SET Project			•	
SOCET SET Support (.sup)	•			
SPOT 5 GeoTIFF			•	

Data Format	Direct Read	Direct Write	Import	Export
SPOT CAP/SPIM			●	
SPOT CCRS			●	
SPOT DIMAP	●		●	
SPOT Fast Format			●	
SPOT GIS GeoSPOT, SPOTView, & METROView			●	
SPOT NASDA CAP			●	
SPOT SICORP MetroView			●	
SPOT XS, XI, Pan & P/XI (SPOT, ACRES, CCRS)			●	
Sun Raster			●	●
Surfer (Binary, ASCII, Surfer 7)			●	
Surfer Grid	●		●	●
Targa	●		●	
TerraSAR-X	●		●	
THEOS DIMAP	●		●	
TIFF (including GeoTIFF, TIFF World, Tiled TIFF, TIFF 6.0 & compression)	●	●	●	●
TIFF Chip	●			●
TIFF64 (Big TIFF)	●		●	●
Unrestricted Access Image (*.uai)	●			
USRP (.img)	●		●	●
VITEC (.vit)	●		●	
Web Coverage Service (.wcs)	●			
Web Mapping Service (.wms)	●			
Vector / TIN / Miscellaneous Formats				
ASCII to Annotation (.ovr)			●	
ASCII to ESRI ArcInfo Coverage (Point)			●	
DGN to ESRI ArcInfo Coverage	●		●	
DXF to ERDAS IMAGINE Annotation			●	●
DXF to ESRI ArcInfo Coverage	●		●	
ERDAS 7.x Annotation (.ant)	●			
ERDAS IMAGINE Annotation layers (.ovr)	●	●	●	
ERDAS IMAGINE Area of Interest layers (.aoi)	●	●	●	
ESRI 2D & 3D Shapefiles	●	●	●	●
ESRI Arc Interchange to ArcInfo Coverage (.e00)			●	●
ESRI ArcGen			●	●
ESRI ArcIMS	●		●	
ESRI ArcInfo Coverages (8.x, 7.x, 6.x, 3.5)	●	●	●	
ESRI ArcSDE Vectors	●	●	●	
ESRI Geodatabase Vector Features	●	●	●	
ETAK	●			
Geography Network	●		●	
LASer Standard (LAS 1.0, 1.1, 1.2)			●	
Leica Terrain Format (.lrf)	●	●	●	
MapInfo (*.mif & *.mid)			●	●
MultiGen OpenFlight FLT			●	
Oracle Spatial Feature	●		●	●
TerraModel Project files (.pro)	●		●	
TIGER	●			●
VPF	●		●	

- IMAGINE Essentials
- IMAGINE Advantage
- IMAGINE Professional
- IMAGINE Additional Modules

About ERDAS

ERDAS – The Earth to Business Company – helps organizations harness the information of the changing earth for greater advantage.

ERDAS creates geospatial business systems that transform our earth's data into business information, enabling individuals, businesses and public agencies to quickly access, manage, process and share that information from anywhere.

Using secure geospatial information, ERDAS solutions improve employee, customer and partner visibility to information, enabling them to respond faster and collaborate better. It also means better decision-making, increased productivity and new revenue streams.

ERDAS is a part of the Hexagon Group, Sweden. For more information about ERDAS or its products and services, please call +1 770 776 3400, toll free +1 866 534 2286, or visit www.erdas.com.