

ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud

A Turnkey Data Management
and Delivery Solution

White Paper



A Turnkey Data Management and Delivery Solution

Most organizations in the geospatial data industry have a basic need to manage their data and distribute it effectively. But these organizations can have very different hardware and software infrastructures, financial resources, and IT personnel. The nature of their work can also vary. Different organizations can be diverse as far as the particular tasks they perform with their data, the amount of data they have and the frequency of acquisition, and how often they need to share it. For these reasons, organizations have further requirements that need to be considered as they seek solutions for the basic need.

As a comprehensive data management and distribution solution to manage and rapidly serve massive volumes of data to a large number of users, ERDAS APOLLO meets the basic need to inventory and share geospatial data. On top of handling extensive volumes of dynamic and static images, it also easily delivers feature data, terrain and virtually any digital object, all while maintaining a consistently high level of performance.

ERDAS APOLLO also addresses additional requirements by providing a range of product offerings that are tailored to different use cases. The current range of products includes ERDAS APOLLO Essentials SDI, Advantage and Professional. To implement them, the organization chooses the ERDAS APOLLO product tier with the necessary features and creates the hardware, software, and IT staffing infrastructure to support the system. The on-site solutions require some up-front effort and capital expenditure, but remain excellent choices for organizations that require a long-term solution, frequently acquire new data, or must follow specific government security protocols.

Some organizations are free of those particular requirements, but are concerned by the prospect of creating and maintaining the required infrastructure. To address those concerns and provide the rich features of classic ERDAS APOLLO products in a format that reduces the up-front effort and cost, ERDAS is introducing ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud.

ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud is a turnkey data management and delivery solution, providing the features of existing offerings as an affordable monthly subscription service. Subscribers pay a monthly fee for full access to an on-demand installation of ERDAS APOLLO Professional running on a computer with a Microsoft Windows 2003 R2, 64-bit Data Center edition operating system. This fully-loaded package includes everything you need to run the solution on the cloud, including a software license, computing infrastructure, storage and bandwidth. It is an ideal choice for organizations with a limited IT budget (such as newer or smaller organizations), as well as organizations that are seeking to contain their IT expenditures, only require the solution intermittently or for a one-time project, or need a solution relatively quickly.

Easily Work Within a Limited IT Budget

Some well-established organizations may already possess the infrastructure required for ERDAS APOLLO, or may have ample resources to acquire it. Others operate with a limited IT budget and may have a difficult time obtaining additional hardware or IT staff if their existing resources cannot support ERDAS APOLLO.

ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud enables such organizations to maintain their entire GIS operation in a highly secure, off-site, scalable environment and vastly reduces the need for in-house hardware, IT head count and expertise. Skygone Cloud, an official ERDAS cloud services provider, sets up an installation of ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud for the customer on computers that it owns and maintains. The customers use their own computers to gain remote access to the Skygone servers to use ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud. There is also no need to hire additional IT staff, because the experienced GIS professionals at Skygone manage the solution and are available for support and assistance.

Predict & Contain Expenses

For optimal cost containment, an organization needs to be aware of the timing and amount of the potential cost. Implementation of an enterprise-class system carries the inherent potential of incidental costs and a variable maintenance cost.

The organization may be subject to some unexpected costs early in the system's life cycle. Ideally, infrastructure requirements can be determined while hardware and project requirements are being defined, but occasionally, the installation and configuration process might be underway before they are discovered.

Hardware must be constantly powered and cooled during its active lifetime and may require repair from time to time. Also, all hardware has a finite life span and will only be viable for so long. As systems and applications software advance, processing and memory requirements must advance accordingly. Therefore, existing hardware becomes outdated. Also all hardware ages and can eventually fail over time. This means that infrastructure eventually must be upgraded or completely replaced.

ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud makes it easy for organizations to control their IT expenditures by keeping the up-front costs predictable and affordable. Since the hardware and maintenance costs are built into the price of the subscription, the organization only needs to budget for a low subscription price, rather than contingencies.

The basic package is generously sized and designed to meet most organizations' needs, and includes everything you need for the solution: the software license, infrastructure and maintenance, storage, and bandwidth. Beyond that, upgrades are available using predefined options with clear prices. The total cost of the cloud-based solution is known and low.

Pay for the Solution Only While You Need It

Some organizations require a data management and delivery solution on an intermittent basis or for a one-time project. Those organizations face the prospect of ramping up infrastructure for the solution and maintaining it even while it isn't used. When you incur expense every day to support something that only generates revenue occasionally, it takes a long time to realize a return on that investment.

ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud removes the obstacles for organizations in this situation. Organizations are not obligated to subscribe for any minimum length of time and can simply pay by the month when the solution is required and cancel the subscription at the conclusion of the project. Lower cost and a convenient pay-as-you-go monthly subscription allow organizations to realize a more immediate return on their solution investment.

Launch Your Solution ASAP

The Earth can change dramatically without notice. Organizations may suddenly find themselves with the need to connect and share their geospatial data to coordinate an effective response to situations resulting from these changes.

Existing in-house solutions may not be capable of scaling to meet the requirement of supporting rapid increases in numbers of users and data transfer volume. Quickly ramping up with new in-house hardware is not feasible, as it takes time to properly assess infrastructure requirements, purchase, install, configure and get IT staff up to speed on any new in-house hardware, and after the solution is in place, users need to be trained and become acclimated to it to use it efficiently.

ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud offers the flexibility to meet sudden demands because it can go live very quickly and also scale to meet variable demand. Rapid implementation is possible because the Skygone Cloud staff is familiar with ERDAS APOLLO and can get your installation on the cloud in a short period of time. Skygone also offers a convenient Jumpstart package that can help organizational personnel reach maximum proficiency in less time. The Jumpstart provides personalized, hands-on training and assistance with initial setup of your solution.

Cost-Effective and Powerful Turnkey Solution

By leveraging the new concept of cloud computing, ERDAS continues its proven record of listening to customer needs and responding with practical and affordable products. ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud is a turnkey solution that frees customers from constructing and maintaining in-house infrastructure and makes it easier than ever to predict and contain IT expenses. Every organization, regardless of size or resources, can now experience powerful geospatial data management and delivery with ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud.

For more information on ERDAS APOLLO on the Cloud, please visit www.erdas.com/apollocloud