# FAQ: Exporting GIS Files from MobileMapper Office

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## Into which GIS formats can MobileMapper Office export job files?

MobileMapper Office supports exporting job files in Autodesk's DXF, ESRI's SHP, MapInfo's MIF and Comma Separated Value (CSV) formats.

## Exactly which file types does MobileMapper Office export?

1. When you select the DXF export option, the program creates a single DXF file.
2. When you select the MIF export option, both MIF and MID files are created for each MMJ file exported.
3. When you select the "SHP" option, MobileMapper Office converts the information recorded in a MobileMapper job file (MMJ) into the following files that comprise a shapefile: SHP, SHX, DBF and PRJ files.

## What are the basic steps I should follow to export jobs in GIS format?

### 1. Open a job in MobileMapper Office

To open a job, click on **File > Open** and use the browsing window to find the file you wish to display. You may also open a MobileMapper job clicking on **File** and selecting one of the jobs listed at the bottom on the window that you have recently opened.

### 2. Select the desired coordinate system

MobileMapper Office will export the job in the coordinate system that was last used to display the job file. To make sure that this is the coordinate system you want, click on **Options > Coordinate System** in the tool bar. If you imported a GIS file to MobileMapper Office, updated it in the field and exported it back to your GIS, you do not have to reset the coordinate system.

### 3. Click on File > Export

This will bring up a browsing window that will allow you to do 3 things:

- Select the "files of type"(select the GIS format you want to export the job into)
- Select the directory in which you wish to store the MobileMapper job file after it is reformatted
- Select the name of the file you want to use for the file after it is exported. The default is to use the same name but with the export file extension

### 4. After you select the destination and a new name (if any) of the file you want to export, click on "Export" in the lower right of the browsing window.

This action reformats the MobileMapper job into the selected GIS format and writes the new file into the selected directory.

## Are there any limitations when exporting attribute information to DXF files?

The DXF format was designed and developed to support CAD applications, not GIS software. For this reason, DXF files do not support feature descriptions as fully as file formats specifically designed for GIS work. When exporting to DXF, MobileMapper Office exports all attributes as INSERT (ATTRIB) ENTITIES so that other GIS software can import feature attributes.

Most GIS products can now import and export ESRI shapefiles. So you might consider exporting your MobileMapper job files into shapefile format. When your GIS applications open these shapefiles, you will be more successful at preserving all the feature and attribute information.

## I recorded a new job in the field and exported it to my GIS, but file is not in the same coordinate system as the rest of my GIS files. What should I do?

By default, MobileMapper records files in WGS 84 lat/lon. If you recorded a job without setting the receiver to a coordinate system and datum other than WGS84 lat/lon, you may reset it to any other system after you download it to MobileMapper Office. To set the coordinate system, click on Options>Select Coordinate System, scroll down to "New" on the Select Coordinate System dialog box. On the Coordinate System Wizard's Welcome screen, select "Select a Pre-Defined System" and click Next. Then browse for the system you wish to use. If you do not see it, you should return to the Welcome screen, and select one of the options for creating a coordinate system. Once you select or create a system, it is listed on the Select Coordinate System dialog box.

## I imported a GIS file to update it in the field. When I later exported it back to the same GIS format and viewed it in my GIS, I found that it was in a different coordinate system. What should I do?

MobileMapper Office maintains the coordinate system of imported files unless the system is reset while the file is displayed. If you think this has happened, go back to MobileMapper office, open up the MobileMapper job file, make sure the coordinate system is the correct one and re-export the job to the desired GIS format.

## The .prj files in my GIS list the projection as "Lambert_Conformal_Conic." But when I exported a job file in a US state plane coordinate system to shapefile format, I noticed that the resulting .prj file lists the projection as "Lambert_Conformal_Conic_2SP." What is the difference?

MobileMapper Office supports three types of Lambert Conformal Conic projections: "Lambert_Conformal_Conic_1SP," "Lambert_Conformal_Conic_2SP" and "Lambert_Conformal_Conic_27." When you export a MobileMapper job in an NAD83 state plane coordinate system into shapefile format, the "Lambert_Conformal_Conic_2SP" is automatically selected. Although the

"Lambert_Conformal_Conic_2SP" projection is the only one used for NAD83 state plane systems, some ESRI products, e.g., ArcMap 8.0, generate .prj files that list the projection for NAD83 state plane coordinate systems as "Lambert_Conformal_Conic." If you find that your GIS cannot read the exported shapefile correctly, you can use Notepad to open the .prj file and delete the "_2SP" from the projection description.

### The exported file does not have the same map symbols for point features and drawing attributes for line and area features used by similar files in my GIS. What should I do?

Many GISs use proprietary may symbols to display features. Because Magellan cannot use these same symbols with MobileMapper, we created a number of our own symbols. Once you export a job to your GIS, you will have to reapply the symbols used by your GIS. Once GIS manufacturers adopt an open set of symbols, this will no longer be a problem.