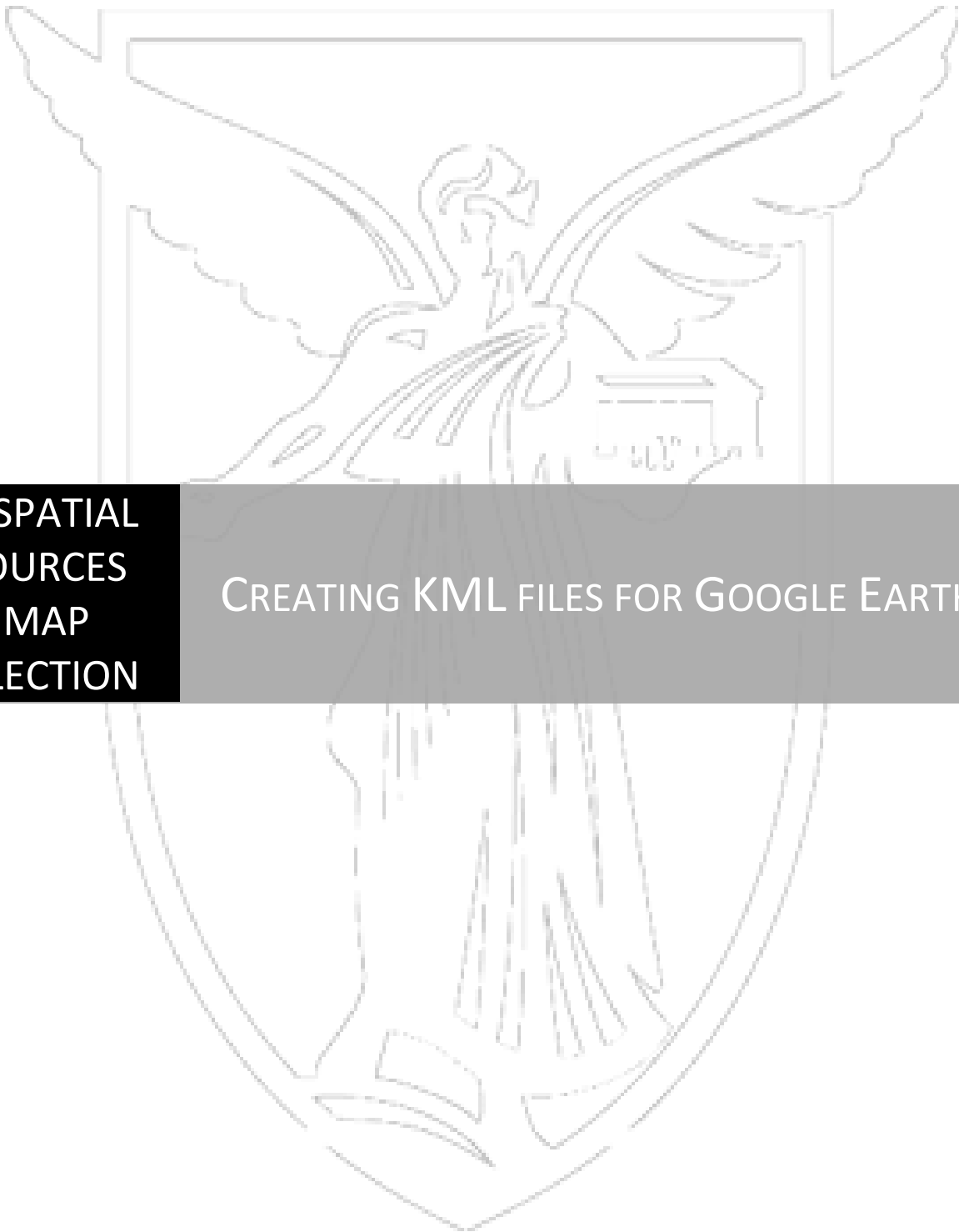


4/22/2008



**GEOSPATIAL  
RESOURCES  
AND MAP  
COLLECTION**

**CREATING KML FILES FOR GOOGLE EARTH**

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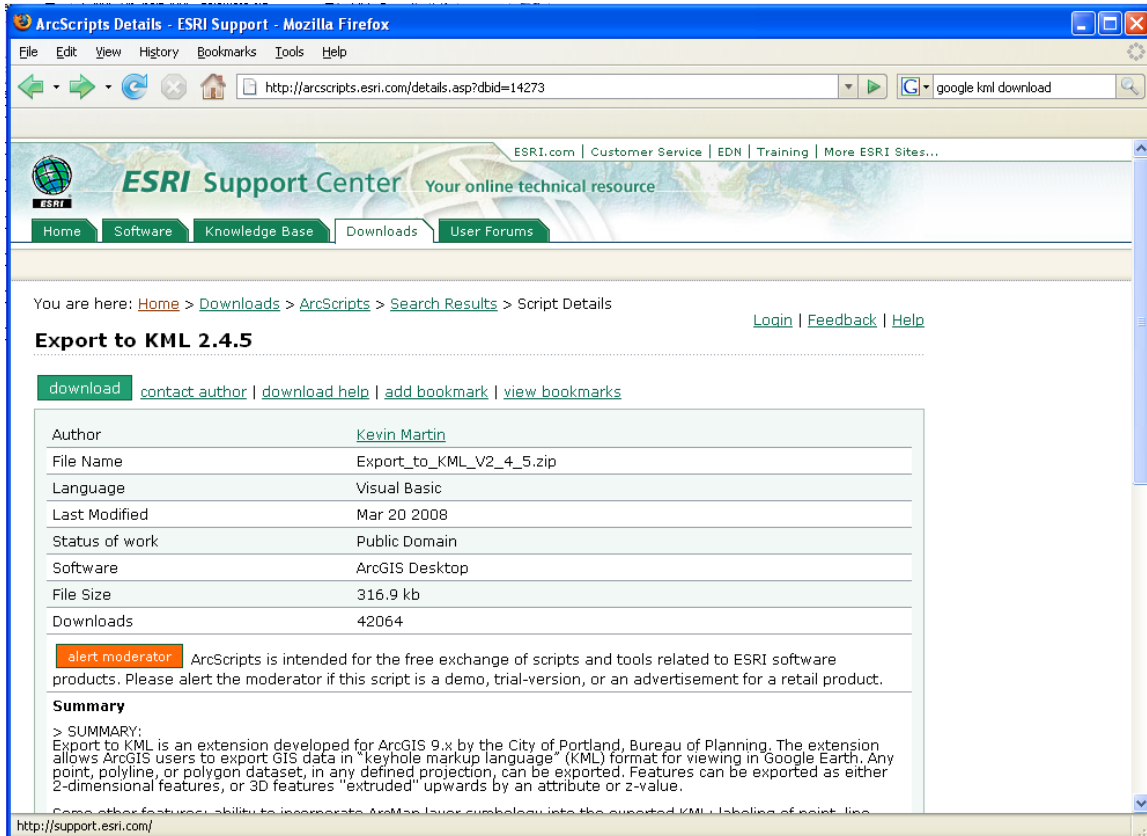
## Creating KML files for Google Earth using ArcMap

KML files can be created in ESRI's ArcMap software and imported directly into Google Earth using a simple extension available through the ESRI Support Center. In this tutorial the user will download the extension and use it to create and open a KML file in Google Earth.

- ❖ This tutorial is for users who are familiar with and have access to ESRI's ArcMap software.
- ❖ This tutorial requires access to Google Earth. You can download Google Earth for free at this website: <http://earth.google.com/>
- ❖ This tutorial will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

## Downloading the 'Export to KML' Script:

1. Go to <http://arcscripts.esri.com/details.asp?dbid=14273> and click on **download**. (see illustration below)

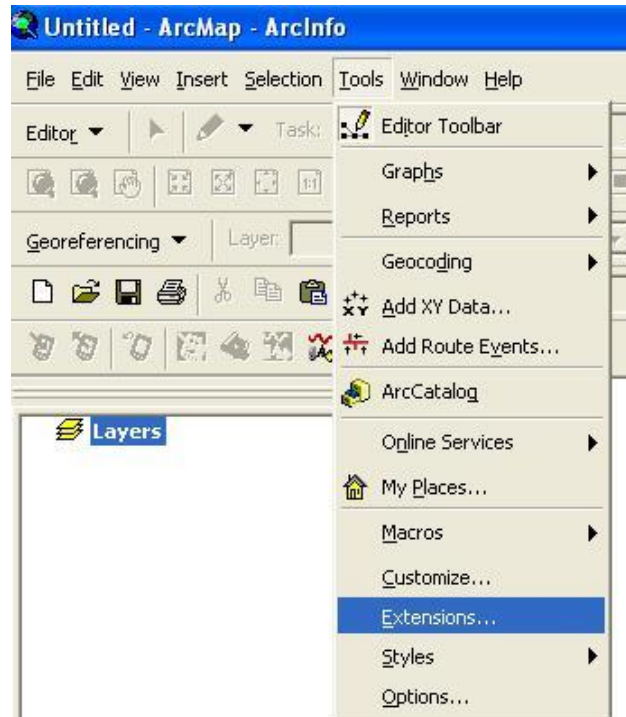


2. Once you have finished the download process you are ready to install the **ExporttoKML\_INSTALL.bat**
3. Open the **Export\_to\_KML** folder that you downloaded. Note: It is a good idea to read the **Export\_to\_KML\_Documentation** PDF file before actually downloading the extension.
4. Double click on **ExporttoKML\_INSTALL.bat** and choose "Extract all Files". (see illustration below)

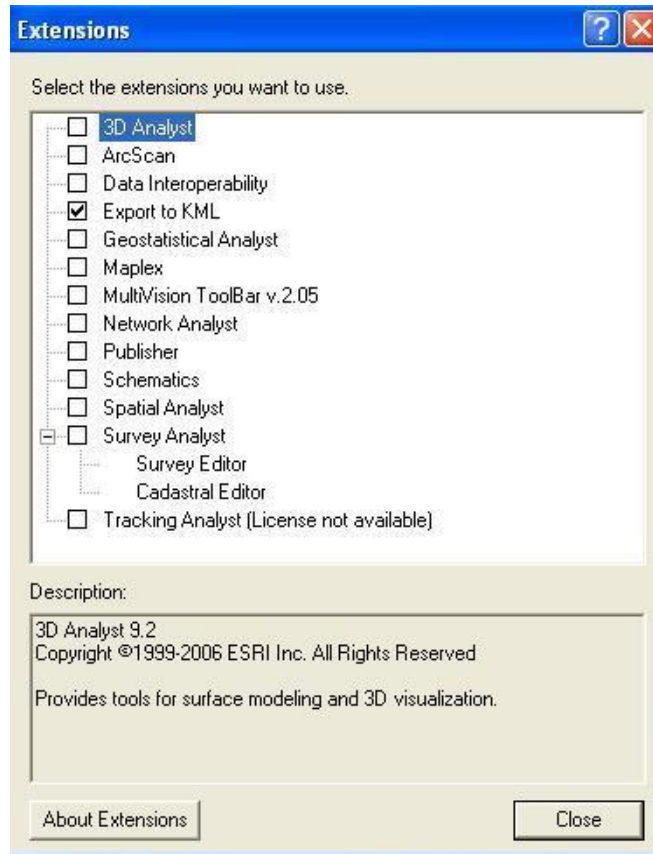



## Installing the Extension in ArcMap:

5. Open **ArcMap**
6. Once you are in ArcMap navigate to **Tools → Extensions**.  
(See illustration below)



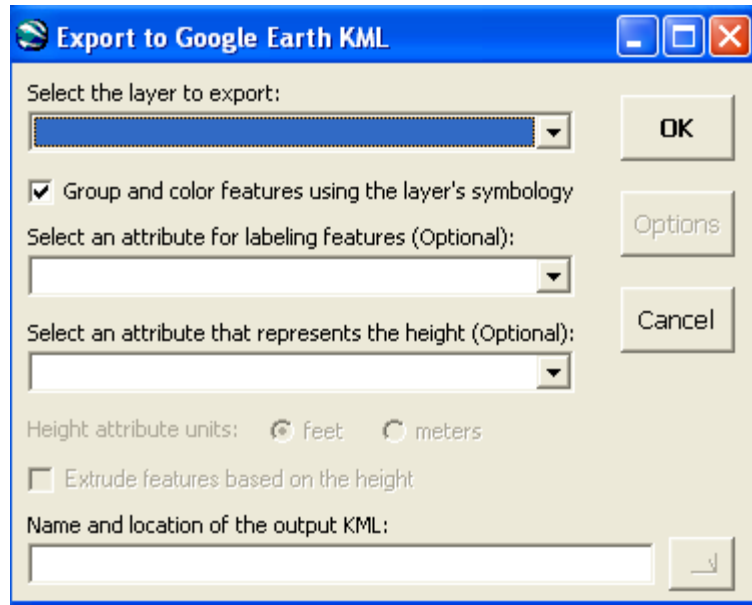
7. When in the Extensions window, select **Export to KML**. Then click the **Close** button. (see illustration below)



8. A tool bar will appear in the ArcMap GUI that looks like this: . This is the tool that exports layers into KML files.

### Exporting Your Data to Google Earth:

9. In ArcMap either load or create a data layer that you want to export to Google Earth into your map document. This layer can be point, line or polygon.
10. Once your data is loaded or created, **Click** on the **KML Tool** to open the **Export to Google Earth KML** window. (see illustration below)



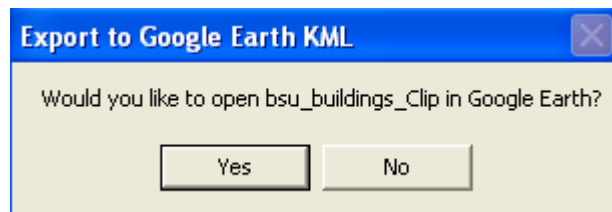
11. **Select** which layer you want to export.

12. If you want the features to have label in Google Earth then **Select** which attributes to use for labeling features

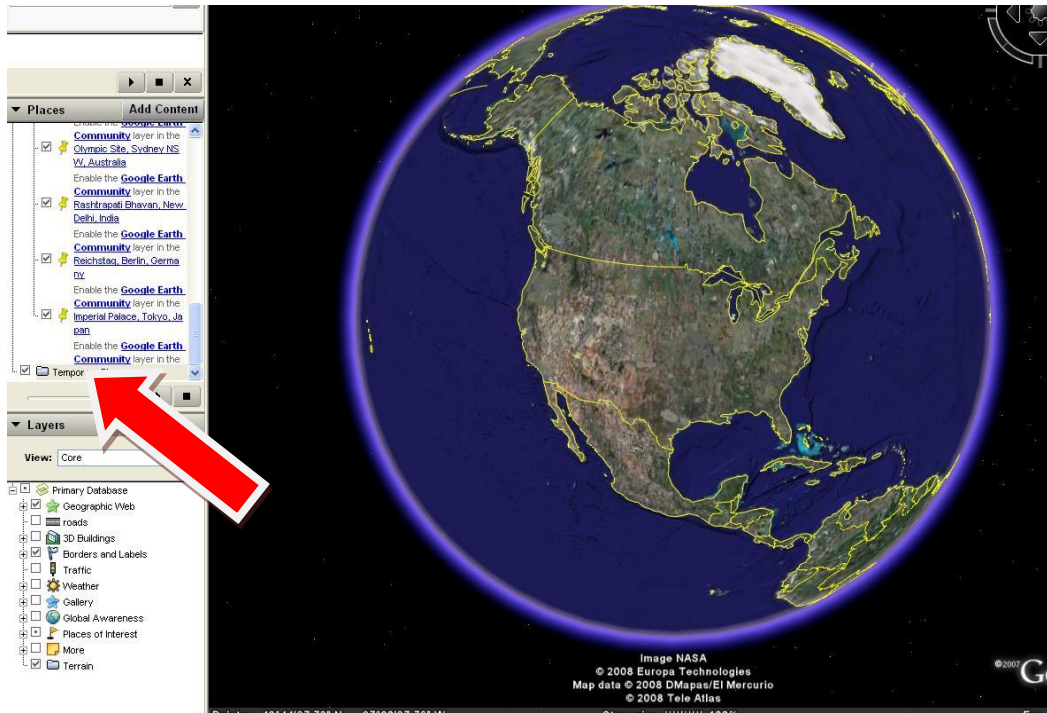
13. If you want your map to appear 3d in Google Earth then **select** the attribute in your layer that represents height. Then **Select** either feet or meters.


14. Click **OK**.

15. This step may take a few seconds. ArcMap will open a window that asks you if you would like to open your layer in Google Earth. Click **yes**. (See illustration below)



16. Google Earth will open and zoom to the layer you created automatically. Your layer will appear in **Temporary Places** in the table of contents on the left hand side of the screen. (See illustration below)



16. You will also have a file saved that looks like this  that ends with a .kml extension. To open this file within Google Earth, go to **File → Open** and map to the KML file.

Please complete this tutorial by filling out the user feedback form found at:

<http://www.bsu.edu/libraries/forms/gismaptutorialfeedback.php>