Build a Bulletproof GIS - Three Users of Your GIS

To increase the value of your geographic information system you need to take into consideration who is going to use your data. There are three primary users of your GIS, each with their own concerns, needs and desires when it comes to how they view and harness you data.

These users are:
- *Creators*
- *Viewers*
- *Field Workers*

Go through the questions below to start to understand your users needs.

Creators

Creators are GIS professionals who can speak the language of GIS. They understand data types, can create their own features and tables, and create their own GIS. A Creator can be colleagues, subordinates, or even future employees.

1. Describe a Creator and what they want out of your GIS. (Colleague, New Hire, etc)
2. What do you need to improve on to address a Creators needs?

Viewers

Viewers are people who want a subset of your GIS data fast and to the point. They desire a "Click-Here-Get-Information" button, to inform them, and do not care about how you get it done. A Viewer can be a client, your boss, or the general public.

1. Describe a Viewer and what they want out of your GIS. (Client, Boss, General public, etc)
2. What do you need to improve on to address a Viewers needs?

Field Workers

Field Workers are people who have jobs to do with your GIS data. They are focused on a task and want to have ease of use and safety while using your GIS. A Field Worker can be a volunteer canvaser, pipeline surveyor, or geologist mapping formations (etc).

1. Describe a Field Worker and what they want out of your GIS.
2. What do you need to improve on to address a Field Workers needs?

Three Users of Your GIS - Example

No geographic information system is an island. If you want to be 10 times more effective in your career, you need to take into consideration people using your data.

Creator

The creator is a new hire that has come on to be my assistant in a land use tracking company.

1. The creator wants to come in and see a folder structure that makes sense. The creator wants to know there are procedures in place that allow for work to get done properly.
2. I need to prepare documents showing a step by step plan for how shapefiles from field positioning are checked, brought into our system, and named for future use.

Viewer

The Viewer is a land owner who has hired us to map his land for multi-spectral analysis.

1. The Viewer wants to know that we have surveyed his land properly with all boundaries positioned properly.
2. Create a web dashboard or document proving precision coordinates and pictures showing where data was acquired.

Field Worker

The Field Worker is our surveyor

3. The Field Workers wants to know what tasks he has to do and what devices he will be using.
4. Supply Field Worker with a robust field device with base maps and survey features loaded to survey application. Provide a list of instructions and tasks for each survey point.