Chapter 1

Introduction

The Esri Technical Certification Program recognizes qualified individuals who are proficient in best practices for using Esri software. Achieving a technical certification involves preparing for and passing an exam. Esri is committed to supporting you throughout your certification journey. We encourage you to carefully explore all exam qualifications, including skills measured and software information, to identify any knowledge gaps so you can focus on what you need to study.

This book will help you review the skills and knowledge needed to pass the ArcGIS® Desktop Associate exam. Each chapter covers one section of the exam. Used in conjunction with the additional resources referenced throughout, this book is a comprehensive exam-preparation guide—though it is by no means an all-inclusive, in-depth compendium of fundamental GIS topics. Use this book to build upon your existing knowledge of ArcGIS concepts and workflows and refresh and reinforce your knowledge of the subjects covered by the exam.

Free trial ArcGIS software
You can access a 180-day trial version of ArcGIS Desktop from the book resource page, esri.com/CertGuide-2. The trial software is only available with the printed book. You will need the authorization code found on the inside back cover of this book to download the software trial.
The ArcGIS Desktop Associate exam

The ArcGIS Desktop Associate exam tests a candidate’s experience applying ArcGIS concepts and processes to workflows. Candidates should demonstrate proficiency when using ArcGIS to visualize, manage, and analyze geospatial data.

This book prepares you for the ArcGIS Desktop Associate 10.5 exam, which expects you to be familiar with ArcGIS Pro® 1.4 and ArcMap® 10.5.

This two-hour exam consists of multiple-choice questions. Candidates achieve certification after earning a passing score. While you may receive a section-level score report after an initial exam attempt, it is important to know that all Esri technical certification exams are scored at the exam level.

Candidate qualifications

To qualify for the exam, you should have at least two years’ experience using the ArcGIS platform. You can review the full list of candidate qualifications, skills measured, and software that a qualified candidate should be familiar with on the Esri Technical Certification website: http://go.esri.com/l/82202/2017-12-08/k1dlnr.

Using this book

We encourage you to use this book as one step on your path to achieving certification. The best opportunity for success lies in the combination of study and hands-on practical experience. Although it is advisable to study all chapters for a comprehensive review, you may choose to focus on particular chapters to close any gaps in your knowledge.

Organization

Each subsequent chapter of this book covers one of the five exam sections: data management, data manipulation, visualization, sharing, and analysis and geoprocessing. Each exam section measures several skills, and each chapter covers the skills measured for that exam section.

Within each chapter, you will see the following components:

- Prepare: Topics in the ArcGIS documentation that you need to know for the exam.
- Practice: Tasks to perform or links to resources, including Esri Training web courses, to get hands-on software practice. You can search for the web courses on the Esri Training Catalog website: https://www.esri.com/training/catalog/
- Skills check-in: A list of tasks that you should be able to perform.
Navigating the documentation
Throughout this book, there are ArcGIS Pro, ArcMap, and ArcGISOnline documentation topics you should review. You can navigate to the topics using the online documentation located at the links in the following table, or the help documentation installed with the software.

Online documentation

|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|

The ArcGIS Pro online documentation reflects the most current release of the software. At each release, the ArcGIS Pro online documentation help topics may be reorganized or renamed. Remember, this version of the ArcGIS Desktop Associate exam tests your knowledge of ArcGIS Pro 1.4. To see what has changed from ArcGIS Pro 1.4 to the current release, go to http://pro.arcgis.com/en/pro-app/get-started/whats-new-in-arcgis-pro.htm. For example, the Project pane and Project view in ArcGIS Pro 1.4 were renamed the Catalog pane and Catalog view in ArcGIS Pro 2.0. As you read the ArcGIS Pro online documentation, keep in mind any changes to the software.

The ArcMap online documentation is organized by version from ArcMap 10.3 forward. On each page of the online documentation, you can choose the version from the Other Versions drop-down list below the title.

You can also navigate the documentation using the installed help programs—ArcGIS Pro Installed Help and ArcGIS Desktop 10.5 Help. There are places where the name of a documentation topic differs between the online documentation and the ArcGIS Pro 1.4 Installed Help. In these instances, the book lists the names of the topic in both locations.

Additional resources

In addition to this book, you may find the following resources helpful for your exam preparation.

Exam preparation resources

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<td>Esri Technical Certification: Sample Questions for ArcGIS Desktop Associate Web Course</td>
<td><a href="http://go.esri.com/l/82202/2017-12-08/k1dl5">http://go.esri.com/l/82202/2017-12-08/k1dl5</a></td>
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