

Spatial Science Lab Teaching and Open Computer Laboratory Information Sheet – Fall 2009

Overview – Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing courses offered by the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management require specialized software. Hence, these courses are taught in the facilities of the Spatial Sciences Lab (SSL)/ Department of Ecosystems Science and Management.

Lab Locations – 3 Labs are operated for your use in our courses. Room B212 and B214 [Centeq Research Plaza](#) and Room 124 in the [Horticulture Forest Science Building](#) (HFSB).

Schedules for Lab Access Times – Building access is obviously required firstly. In general, the buildings are open 8am to 5pm business days (non-holidays). The labs each have times where classes are being conducted and times when the labs are closed for meetings or training. Current schedules for the labs are posted on the respective doors. Note that each room has it's own schedule. These schedules are also listed on the SSL web site. Please see ssl.tamu.edu for this information.

Building Access – In order to use the teaching and open computing labs in the SSL, you must get into the building. Therefore, be aware that the Centeq Building (street address: 1500 Research Parkway) is open 8am to 5pm on business days. The building is locked on weekends and holidays. If you require access in the evening or on weekends, please contact your instructor or TA.

Lab Access – The labs all have keypad locks. Just because the door is closed doesn't mean you don't have access. Just use the key code provided in class or contact your instructor or TA.

Accounts – In order to use the computers in the open and teaching labs in the SSL, you must have an SSL account. These accounts are created based on the class roster and are normally ready the first day of class. An SSL account consists of a user name and a password. But, in addition, you must select the domain SSL from the "log on to" drop down list on the log on screen. If you can't login or have not received your account information, contact support as outlined below.

Storage- Your account on the SSL computer includes a "home directory". This is a folder that only you can read/write to that resides on a file server on the network. On any computer in any lab, you will be connected to this folder. It is recommended that you save all your work and course materials in this folder throughout the course. This way, your work is accessible no matter which computer you use in either lab. In addition, this folder can be accessed from any computer (Mac or PC) anywhere on the Internet. If you are on the TAMU campus, connect to the folder:

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\\sslteachingdcl.tamu.edu\homes\<your user id>
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either using a "drive mapping" or simply type the above into Start/run/. Use Google to find the examples and help if you have problems, or contact support.

If you are off campus, one step is needed before establishing the drive mapping. Establish a connection to TAMU using the TAMU VPN. The software and setup you need to do this are simple and free. [Click here](#) for instructions to download, configure, and use the TAMU VPN; call (979)845-8300 for help).

Printing – All computers in the labs have software that allows you to “print” to a pdf file rather than output to paper. Simple chose “doPDF” as your printer from the print dialogue box in any program. The resulting PDF files can then be opened on any computer. Check with your instructor to find out if electronic submission via PDF is acceptable. This saves paper.

Support – If you need assistance in using the computers in the labs, please determine who to contact as follows.

Contact SSL Computer/Network Support if:

You can't log in

You can't print

The computer hangs or is slow

Internet web sites or you home directory can't be accessed

Other computer problems

Contact Your Instructor if:

You need help with the steps of a lab

The GIS/RS software is not working as expected

You need help with concepts related to your GIS/RS assignment

Contact info:

SSL Computer/Network Support Contact Info

Gene McCallum gmccallum@tamu.edu (979)571-6618

Jeff Wythe wythe@tamu.edu (979)255-0098