IMF Retirement, IMF2 Launch Frequently Asked Questions

Many clients have been asking questions about the IMF Retirement project and rollout of the IMF2. Below, please find a compiled list of questions and answers to many common questions.

1. *Why is the IMF being retired?*

The Internet Mapping Framework has been in place as a very successful platform offering since 2001 and has served multiple ministries and hundreds of thousands of users. The IMF is built on ArcIMS technology that has been deprecated by its vendor. With the evolution of technology, user expectations have changed. The technology is at end of life and needs to be upgraded.

2. *When is the planned retirement date for the IMF?*

The IMF planned retirement date is summer of 2013. Based on the progress of the IMF2 replacement platform and business areas ability to migrate existing applications, this date will be revisited and updated as required.

3. *Will it cost to migrate my IMF application?*

There may be costs. DataBC is planning on transitioning the majority of low complexity applications onto the IMF2 with no direct costs to business areas. Where there are costs, DataBC is open to discussing options to resolve.

4. *Is there a hard retirement date for the IMF? Do I need to make this a priority for my business?*

Yes. The Victoria data centre is targeted for shut down in March 2014 and the servers that host the Internet Mapping Framework are not being migrated to the new data centres in Calgary and Kamloops. ESRI is no longer releasing updates to ArcIMS and browser updates are likely to cause problems for the technology. Use of the IMF beyond summer, 2013 may create a business risk for organizations.

5. *What if I still have IMF applications and the Data centre closes?*

DataBC will work diligently with all IMF application owners to help on board their applications onto new technology platforms. If your application cannot be migrated to a new platform or retired before the hard retirement date, please engage with DataBC immediately to assist with possible scenarios.

6. What is IMF2, and how is it different from IMF?

The basic concept of the IMF2 is the same – an advanced web mapping platform that can be used to host web mapping applications. It's based on ESRI's ArcGIS Server technology and Latitude's Geocortex Essentials software. This software was developed with a replacement for the IMF in mind. There is an active beta test underway for the IMF2. Contact DataBC to get involved.

7. Will IMF2 have all the security and data available to IMF applications?

Yes. DataBC has developed a layer catalogue service that will allow all IMF2 applications access to data hosted in the BCGW. This service will still work off of foundational .LYR files that you provide to DataBC as part of standard data loading processes. However, IMF2 will represent your data exactly as it appears in ArcMap and other ESRI based GIS tools.

8. How do I decide what framework (or platform) my app should migrate to?

You should contact your IMB/ISB Business Analyst or Business Portfolio Manager for advice in conjunction with DataBC. We can help you decide if the IMF2 platform is a good fit for your business, or an alternative platform would be a better fit. (e.g. DataBC Mash-up Framework, Google Earth based application, etc).

9. Who can help me (who do I contact)?

You can contact the project lead, project manager or business analyst via the following e-mails:

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