Field Calculations: Changing Text Case

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Field Calculations: Changing Text Case

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series. The task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing mapping tasks.

Attribute data is often not in the format that is needed or desired for map labeling or table joining. For example, text may be in all uppercase or lowercase letters. With the built-in title case command within the field calculator in ArcMap you are able to change text from an existing field or quickly rewrite the field to a different case. This task sheet will go through the process of changing the text case using the field calculator and Python functions.

1. Download the Data

   a. To download the data used in this task sheet, navigate to www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/gis/quicktasksheets/data in a web browser. Click on the publication number: PM2082-16j.
   
   b. When the download is complete, you will need to unzip the folder in order to access the files in ArcGIS. The folder contains a shapefile of the counties in Iowa.

2. Changing Text to Title Case

   a. Open the attribute table for the county shapefile. You will notice that all the county names in the COUNTY field are all in uppercase letters.
   
   b. Click on the Table Options icon in the top left corner of the attribute table, and select Add Field. In the Name text box, type in county_pro. In the Type drop-down select Text. Leave the Length at 50 and click OK. Note: the county_pro field name contains too many characters and will be shortened to county_pro.
   
   c. Select the county_pro field so it becomes highlighted, right-click, then select Field Calculator. If you get a warning message about calculating outside of an edit session, select Yes to continue.
   
   d. In the Field Calculator select Python as the Parser. Double-click on COUNTY from the list of Fields, select String as the Type and double-click on .title() from the list of Functions. The following code should appear in the county_pro = text box: !COUNTY!.title(). Click OK.
   
   e. All the county names in the county_pro field should now be in title case.
3. Changing Text to all Lowercase Characters

a. Repeat steps 2b-2c to add a new field or run the field calculator on county_pro. Note: this will overwrite the text case that is currently set.

b. In the Field Calculator select Python as the Parser. Double-click on COUNTY from the list of Fields, select String as the Type and double-click on .lower() from the list of Functions. The following code should appear in the county_pro = text box: !COUNTY!.lower(). Click OK.

c. The county names should now be in lowercase.

4. Changing Text to all Uppercase Characters

a. Repeat steps 2b-2c to add a new field or run the field calculator on county_pro. Note: this will overwrite the text case that is currently set.

b. In the Field Calculator select Python as the Parser. Double-click on COUNTY from the list of Fields, select String as the Type and double-click on .upper() from the list of Functions. The following code should appear in the county_pro = text box: !COUNTY!.upper(). Click OK.

c. The county names should now be in uppercase.

5. Changing Text to Capitalize

a. Repeat steps 2b-2c to add a new field or run the field calculator on county_pro. Note: this will overwrite the text case that is currently set.

b. In the Field Calculator select Python as the Parser. Double-click on COUNTY from the list of Fields, select String as the Type and double-click on .capitalize() from the list of Functions. The following code should appear in the county_pro = text box: !COUNTY!.capitalize(). Click OK.

c. The first letter of the first word of each county name should now be capitalized.

Contact:

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