

**How to Connect Using ArcGIS  
to 2002 Spring Color Aerial Photo with 1-Foot Resolution  
*Contributed by Jan Drennan***

How to connect to [gisdata.usgs.net](http://gisdata.usgs.net)

Go into ArcCatalog; in the left column click on the plus sign next to GIS Servers

Click on Add ArcIMS Server

Type [gisdata.usgs.net](http://gisdata.usgs.net) in the first line after http:

Click on "Get List"

There are many choices in this list. I haven't investigated any others yet.

Put a check next to USGS\_EDC\_Ortho\_133Urban

Click ok

Go into ArcMap

You'll need to already have a file in a Data Frame that is for the Chicago area. I think this sets the spatial reference for the aerial photo so it can be seen. I say this because I tried bringing in just the aerial photo into a new Data Frame and I couldn't get it to work.

Click on the big Plus sign at the top to bring in this file just like you bring in any shapefile to ArcMap. (You may need to do a connect in ArcCatalog, to have it get you to the Server so you can Add this to your Data Frame just like you'd add any shapefile.)

After it's brought into the Data Frame, then click on the plus sign next to it to open up the choices. Again there are many choices of other aeriels in the list that appears below the layer. Find Chicago 1 – 9 choices. Check all of them and you'll see the whole Metro Chicago area as a color aerial photo taken spring 2002 with 1 foot resolution I'm told. You'll probably want to find just the one or ones that cover the area you want and keep check marks next to them. This will help to speed processing time whenever you change you view on the screen. There is also an index file that will tell you where each Chicago file 1 through 9 is located.

I've been able to zoom into 1:1,000 with good detail in State Plane Coordinate System.

I'm pretty sure it goes as far west as all of Kane County but I'm not positive. I know it goes all the way past the WI state line and as far south as most if not all of Will County. I know it does not extend to Kendall County though.

Occasionally the server connection is not working at the gov site I believe. In those cases, you won't get the aerial photo to appear. Wait awhile and try it again and you'll probably get it. Sometimes the connection is broken. In those cases a small red "x" will appear. You can go back into Catalog to reconnect with one "connect" command. In other cases, when I cannot get it to load, I've found it works to redo the entire process again from the beginning and delete the original file I brought into the Data Frame and bring another one in.