

FIRST OFF: A VITAL FIX:

A production error has resulted in a corrupt file on the CD for the Wildcat Boat Database (*IGIS-Arc\Wildcat_Boat_Data\Wildcat_Boat.mdb*). It is reparable with two clicks of the mouse, but it is catastrophic to the database if not fixed.¹

In *IGIS-Arc\Wildcat_Boat_Data* there exists the personal geodatabase named *wildcat_boat.mdb*. This database works without error from the CD-ROM. If it is copied to a hard drive it works fine as well with both ArcMap and ArcCatalog – unless and until (as in Exercise 1-6) you explore it with the metadata. At this point ArcCatalog **re-writes the database to the hard drive, ruining it in the process**. After that you get the error

"Failed to connect to database."

"An underlying database error occurred."

The problem occurs regardless of the path to the database file. It can be in the root directory of a drive or buried deep in sub folders. Just why this is happening is currently the subject of intense investigation by ESRI tech support.

THE SOLUTION:

The solution is trivial. After the folder containing the database is copied from the CD-ROM to a hard drive, launch ArcCatalog. Navigate to *wildcat_boat.mdb* in the catalog tree. Right click. Choose *Compact Database*. A new database will be written to the hard drive and the problem is solved.

Any questions? Write to me at michael.kennedy@uky.edu or call me at 859-272-1400.

¹ This problem only exists if you are using the CD-ROM that has the number CD ID # MD02849A at the bottom.