

Jim Berry

Jim is one of the original City of Austin GIS staff with over 30 years of service.

Originally he started out in 1977 as a field surveyor and after 6 years of learn about surveying an acquiring a good tan he then moved into Computer Graphics in 1983. He worked as a graphic Technician and analyst up to 1988.

Then in 1989 a after a sip of the GIS Kool-Aid he was hooked on ESRI ArcInfo coverages using the open VMS system and Synercom system.

We are talking old school GIS!

He is one of the few people left that used the Synercom System, which was the first GIS at the city and the legacy of ho the City of Austin go to where they are today.

Eventually the in 1997 city moved on to ArcInfo software running on Sun UNIX Workstations and the tiled Librarian database.

Jim was one of the most proficient people you would ever meet when it came to AML programming. He wrote programs that streamlined routine functions to standardize maps and editing. In 1998 he was promoted to Senior GIS analyst.

As the city moved on to new version of ESRI ArcGIS in 2001 software and formats, Jim kept up with the times and became one of the leaders when it came to working in the ArcSDE Database Environment and Python scripting.

He never hesitates to ask questions and explore new ways of doing GIS tasks. Because of his willingness to change with the times he has always been a valuable asset to the city and the GIS User Community.

And for that we would like to present him with this GIS User Spotlight (GUS) Award.