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September 16, 2014
October 14, 2014
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Sign up for [GovDelivery](#) emails to learn more about Hazus User Groups

Hazus Modernization

On May 28th, 2014, the Hazus Modernization effort began in earnest. With input from the Hazus Community, FEMA is investing in Hazus-MH to make it a more modern and effective tool for estimating hazard damages.

Over the next year and a half, the Modernization will consist of four releases.

Release one, currently targeted for Fall 2014, entails bringing Hazus up to compatibility with ArcGIS 10.2 and Windows 7 and 8. This will allow users of current platforms to operate Hazus, increasing access and ease of training.

The second release will include enhancements to the depth damage functions and implementation of more accurate building stock distribution data within the 2010 census blocks. This will allow for an improved estimation of loss and a greater understanding of potential risks.

Re-architecting the codebase behind Hazus is the third planned release and is a critical component of Modernization moving into the future. Outdated code and underlying databases will be replaced with a modern technical architecture.



A refactored source code will enable improved Hazus programming, allowing for easier upgrading to future updates of the requisite ArcGIS software. This phase of the project is targeted for implementation in Summer 2015.

The final component of the project is a pair of proof of concept trials to be carried out in Winter 2015 and the following Spring. The first will determine the feasibility of incorporating the National Flood Hazard Layer to improve hazard estimation based on preexisting Risk MAP data. The second trial will build on the first by evaluating the use of multiple methods to project annualized losses in areas where return period data is not fully available.

Hazus users can learn more about the Hazus Modernization process at the 7th annual Hazus Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana (see below).

Hazus Conference 2014 – Register Now!

The Central Hazus User Group will host the 7th Annual Hazus Conference from August 4 – 6, 2014 at the Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis.

This exciting event brings together Hazus users from around the world to share best practices, discuss recent research, network, and explore potential avenues of collaboration.

This year the Hazus Conference will be one of the first opportunities for users to learn more about what to expect with the new modernization effort in the coming months. Sessions will cover the plan for modernization and what to expect from the coming enhancements to Hazus.

The event is just around the corner, but registration is still open and is free!

To register and learn more, please visit www.hazusconference.com.





Upcoming Training

E0313: Basic Hazus-MH

August 4-7, 2014

E0317: Comprehensive Data Management for Hazus-MH

August 11-14, 2014

E0170: Hazus-MH for Hurricanes

October 6-9, 2014

To download the course schedule and enroll, visit <http://training.fema.gov/EMI/Courses/>. For updated training information visit <http://www.fema.gov/hazus-training>

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Brandon Chiazza, Hazus Excellence Award Winner

Brandon Chiazza joined the Hazus outreach team in April of 2013 and has been selected as the Hazus Excellence Award Winner for July 2014.

Chiazza holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Economics and Management and a Master's in Public Administration from Cornell, and he previously worked at the EPA doing benefit-cost analysis. A background in statistics and environmental economics made him a natural fit with Hazus. He recalls, "it incorporated this risk analysis with an economic component which I really found interesting – trying to put value on these different types of damages." He remarks on the impact Hazus can have, saying, "tools like Hazus lead to more effective, more efficient decision making based on numbers".

He joined the Hazus team at a time he considers an interesting point in the life of the program, "I came at a time when the program hadn't had a lot of updates in a number of years, so as a result - at the Hazus Symposium - we were able to have a two way conversation with the user community and FEMA... which was crucial to the future direction of the program and beginning of modernization".



Brandon Chiazza is this month's Hazus Excellence Award Winner

Reflecting on what he most enjoyed about working on the Hazus team it's clear that the Hazus community stood out as impactful. "It was humbling and gratifying to be in a world where you are connecting one very intelligent person to another very intelligent person and seeing some collaborative project come out of it".

Moving forward Chiazza sees the tool continuing to be used by an increasingly global community to help leaders and everyday people better understand their risks from natural disasters and what they can do to prepare for them.

Hazus Conference 2014 - Engage with Leaders in the Field!

Agenda Highlights:

- Hazus Data Inventory Update
- Hazus Modernization
 - Functional and Architectural Enhancements
 - Proofs of Concept
- Innovative Hazus Uses:
 - Climate Change
 - Public Health
 - Transit
 - International Applications

Featured Speakers:

- Eric Berman
 - Hazus Program Manager
- Doug Bausch
 - Hazus Modernization Lead
- Nicky Hastings
- James Mawby
- Kevin Mickey
- Shane Parson
- And Many Other Subject Matter Experts!