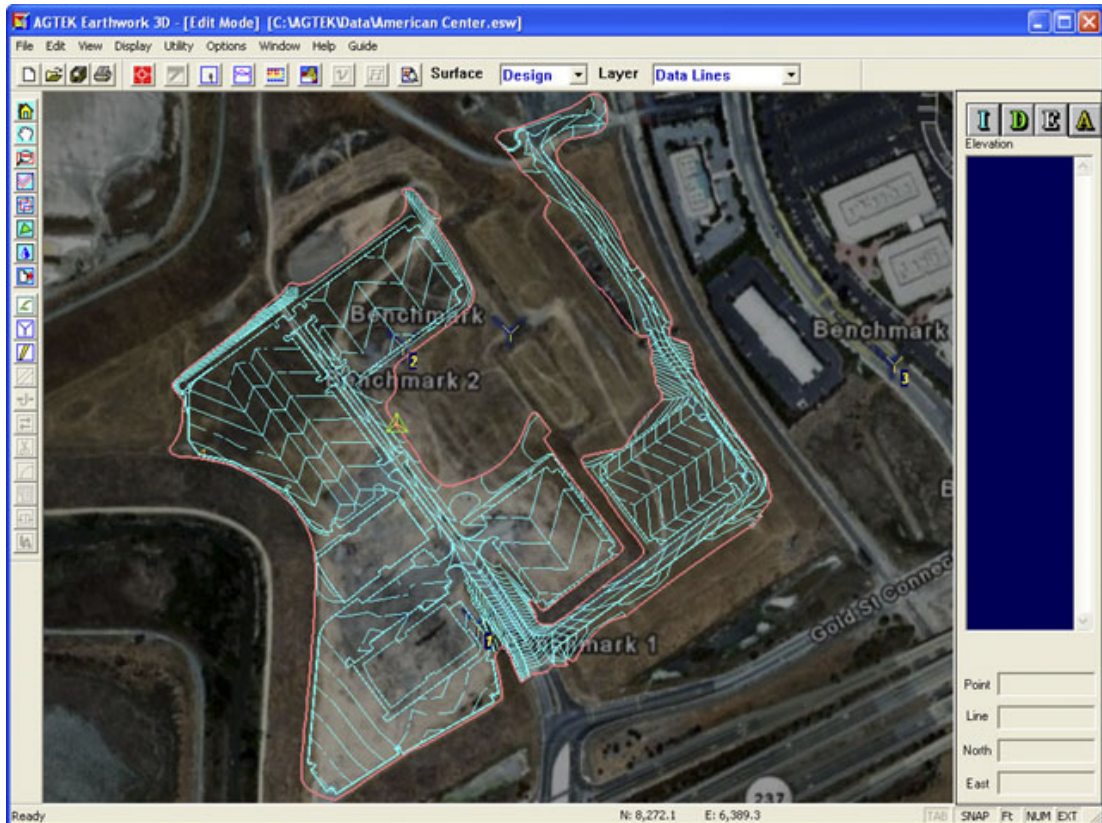


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## The Dirt.Simple Express - March 2009

### Want to bring your takeoffs down to earth?

The PDF Utility is used most often to digitize from TIFs or PDFs but almost any image can be added as a background to your takeoff. Our example here uses a Google Earth screen capture but you could also use aerial photos, or scanned, marked up plan sheets, etc.



To use an image as a background you must have purchased the AGTEK PDF Utility. Click [here](#) to read more about the PDF Utility. This example uses Google Earth to capture an aerial view. If you do not have Google Earth, you may download it at [here](#).

#### Capturing a Google Earth Screen

1. Launch Google Earth and locate your jobsite using the address of the jobsite.
2. Look for two points that you can also find on takeoff/plans.
3. Select **File>Save>Save Image** to save the Google Earth view in .jpg format.

#### Import the Image into AGTEK

1. Launch your AGTEK program and open your jobsite .esw file.
2. Select **File>Import**. The Import dialog box is displayed.
3. Display **All Files (\*.\*)** and browse to the .jpg file you saved in Google Earth and click **Open**.
4. The Google Earth image appears in black and white and probably looks ugly. Change to the Edit mode and it should look better.
5. Select **Utility>Transform Job>Align Matching Edges**. The Transformation Selection dialog box is displayed.
6. Select Image Only and click OK. The cursor changes to a crosshair cursor.
7. Zoom in to the first identifiable point on the image and click. The Alignment: Point 1 of 4 dialog box is displayed.
8. Click OK then zoom in to the same point in your job file and click. The Alignment: Point 2 of 4 dialog box is displayed.
9. Click OK then zoom in to the second identifiable point on the image and click. The Alignment: Point 3 of 4 dialog box is displayed.
10. Click OK then zoom in to the same point in your job file and click. The Alignment: Point 4 of 4 dialog box is displayed.
11. Click OK. The Aligning Site dialog box is displayed detailing which point is aligned and the scale factor.
12. Click OK. The Site is aligned with the image you imported.

Once you've aligned the image to your jobsite, you can view existing or design data overlaid on top of the image or print it directly to your printer.