

VIESORE

Visual Impact Evaluation System for Offshore Renewable Energy



Chad Cooper, Snow Winters, Malcolm Williamson, Jackson Cothren

Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Robert Sullivan
Argonne National Laboratory
Argonne, Illinois



Credits/disclaimer

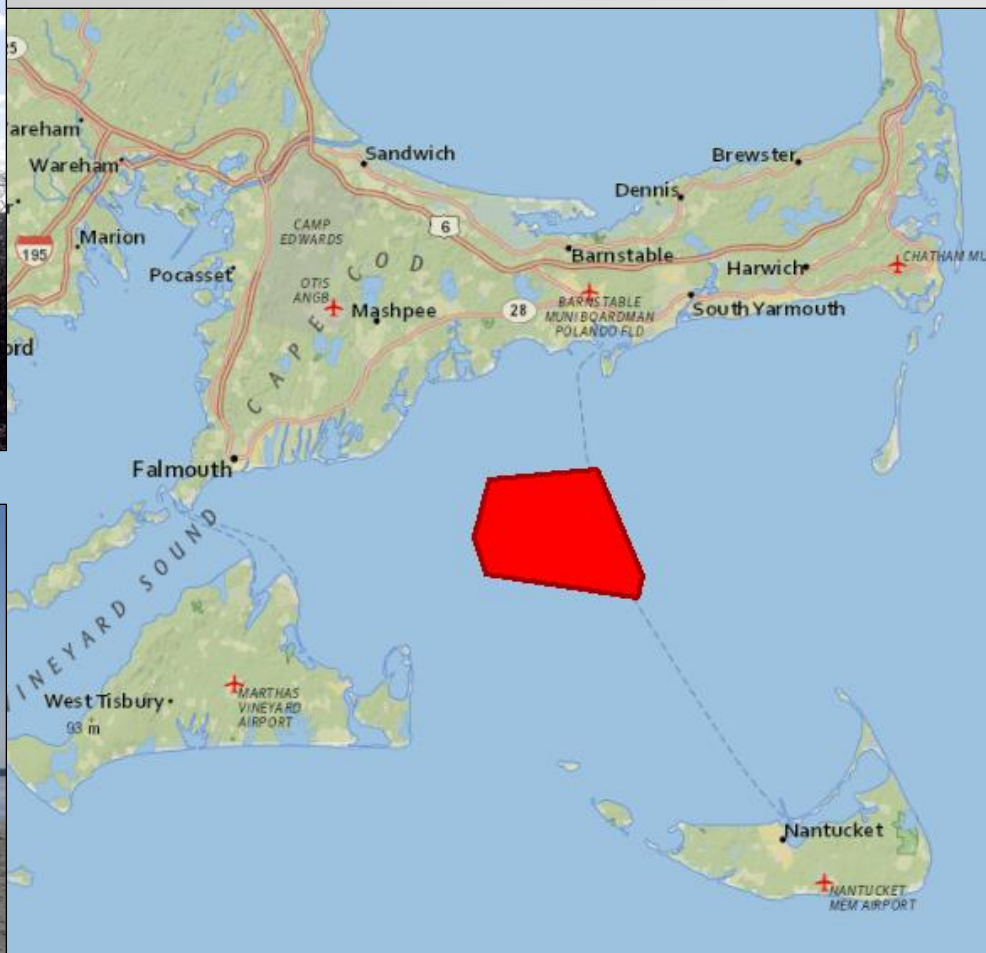
- funded by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
- on-going study
- not meant to represent BOEM policy

Offshore wind 101

- First offshore wind farm – Denmark 1991
- 2010 – 39 offshore farms off coasts of UK, Europe, and Scandinavia
- Largest turbines now over *500 feet* tall
- Power carried to land via transmission cable
- Wind energy contractors submit site proposals to governing bodies
 - Contractors provide photomontages

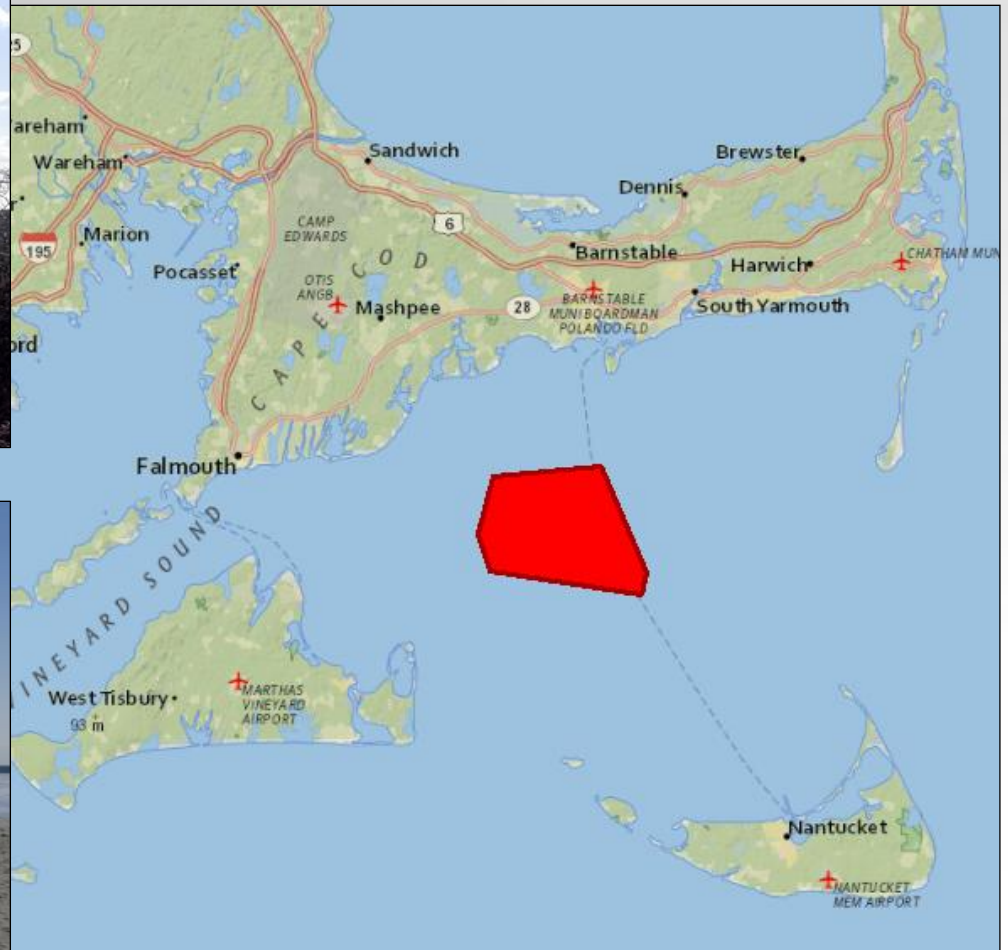
Offshore windfarms coming to the U.S.

Cape Wind



Offshore windfarms coming to the U.S.

Cape Wind



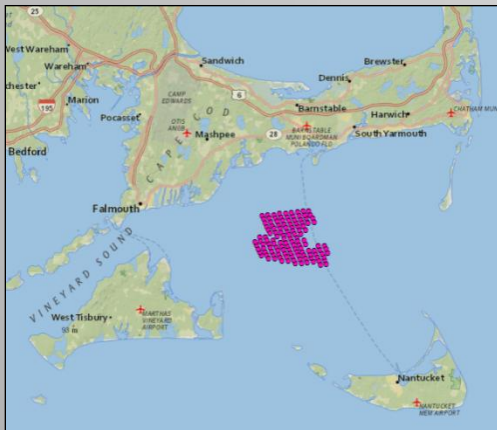
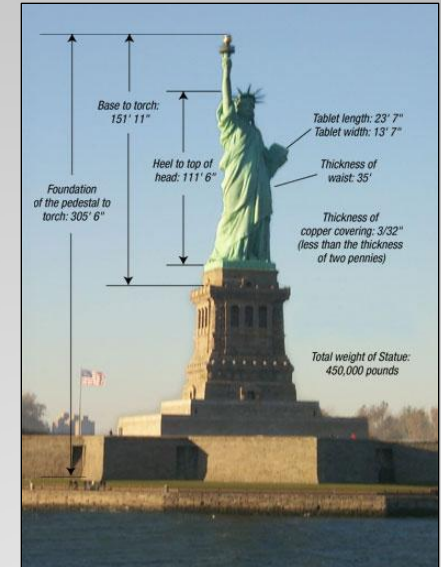
...and in come the proposals

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) reviews all project proposals within federal waters

- offshore oil and gas exploration
- offshore wind
- wave
- tidal flow
- ocean current
- environmental laws and regulations

Offshore wind 101 – Cape Wind

- Siemens SWT 3.6-107
 - rotor diameter – 107m (351ft)
 - total turbine height – 132m (433ft)
- 130 turbines arranged in a grid
- 12.5 miles of transmission cable
- partial generation planned for 2015





BOEM system requirements

The system must:

- enable spatial design of offshore facility
- import geospatial data
- allow user control of atmospheric, lighting, wave conditions
- generate spatially accurate and realistic visualizations
- output reports and images
- provide a user-friendly interface

It shall enable users to:

- evaluate photomontages in environmental impact statements (EISs)
- independently assess proposed facilities

Approach

Photomontages

Pros:

- realistic
- accepted
- accurate*

*dependent upon lens used

Cons:

- need photos from every potential point of interest
 - oops, we didn't take a photo from *there*!
- difficult to show different lighting/weather conditions
- human error



Approach

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Approach

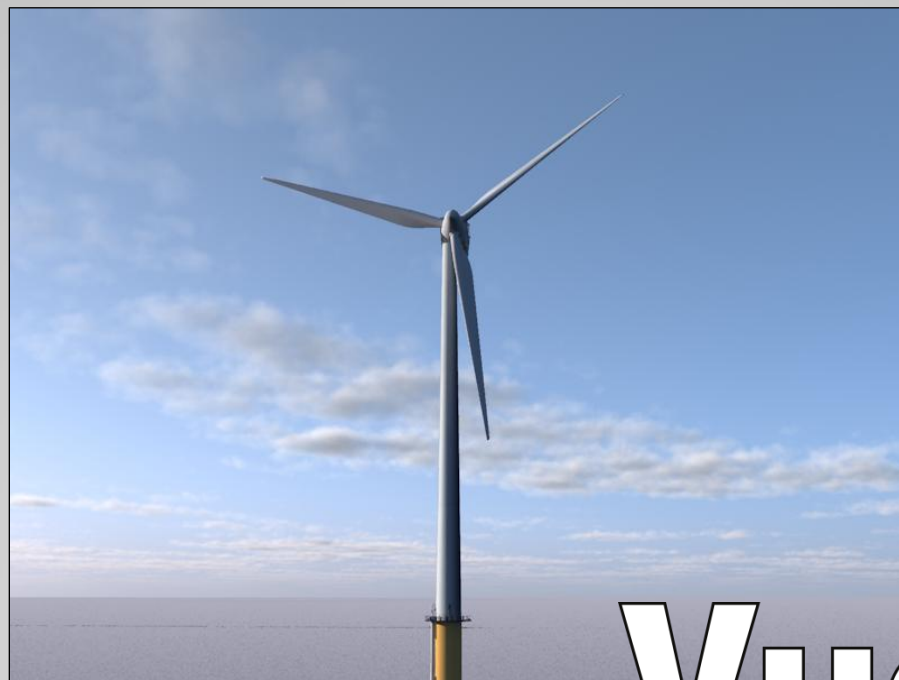
3D visualizations

Pros:

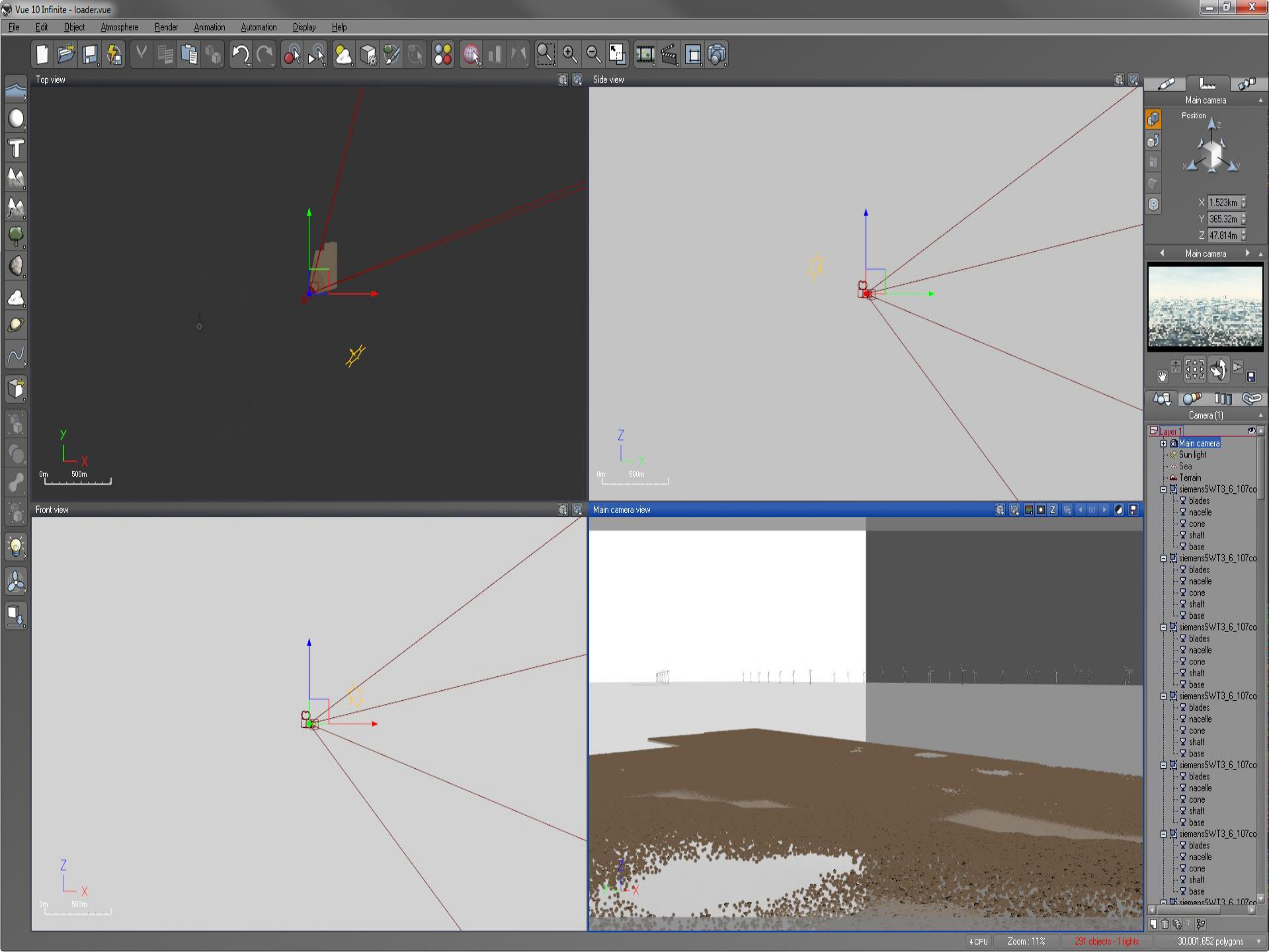
- CAST does 3D
- photorealistic
- Vue Python API

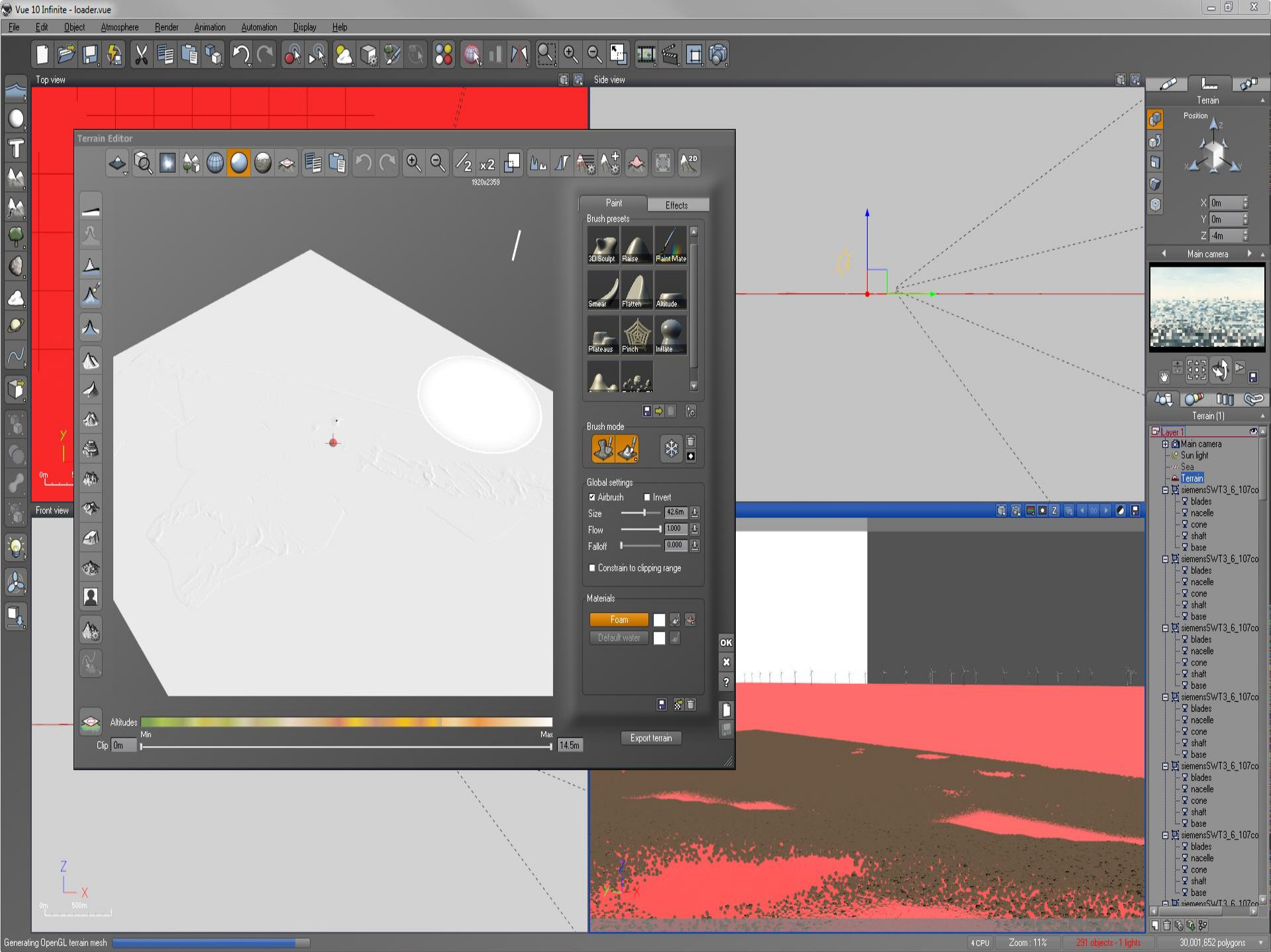
Cons:

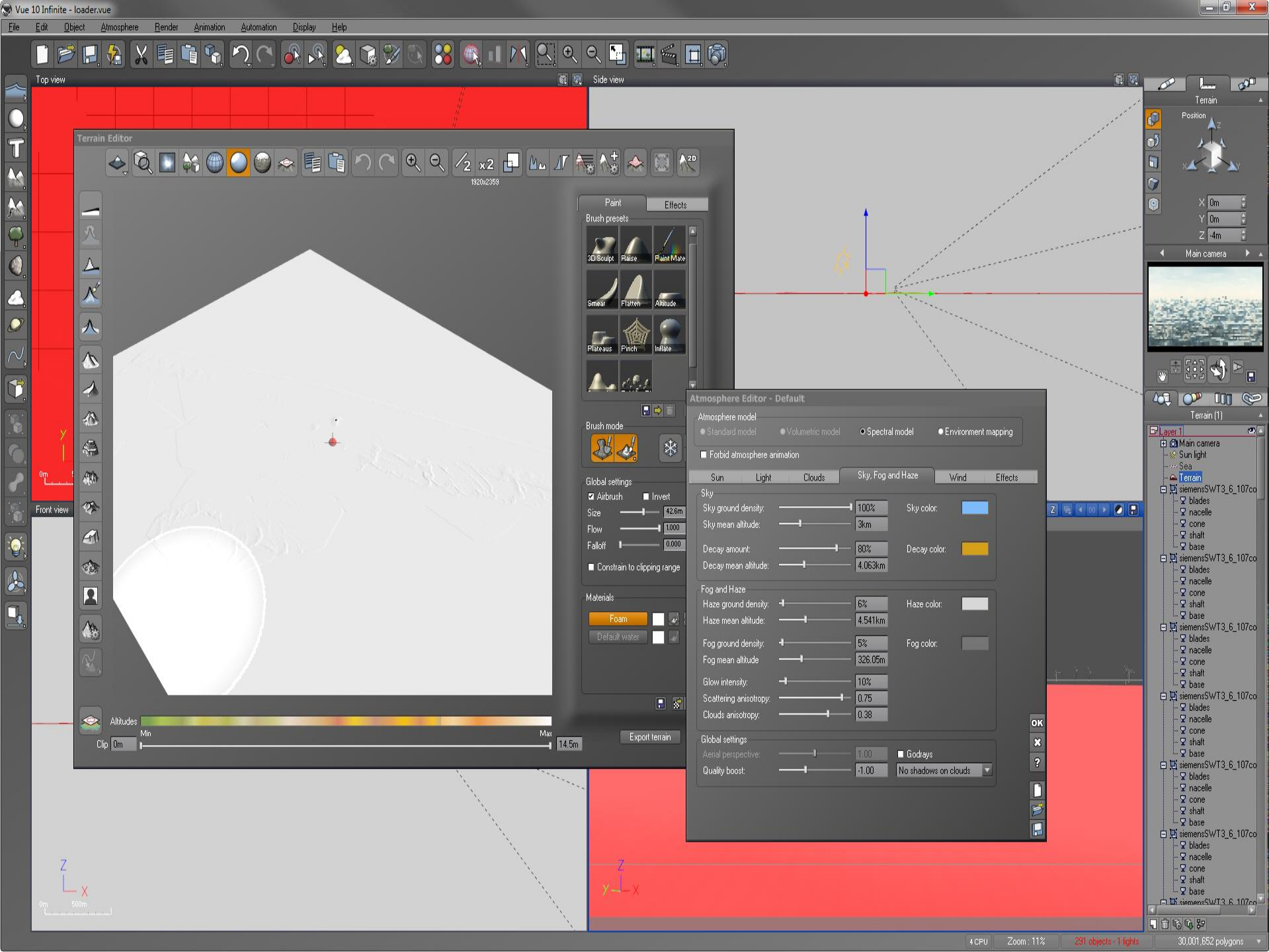
- learning curve
- you need horsepower
- user interface is scary – no likey GIS data

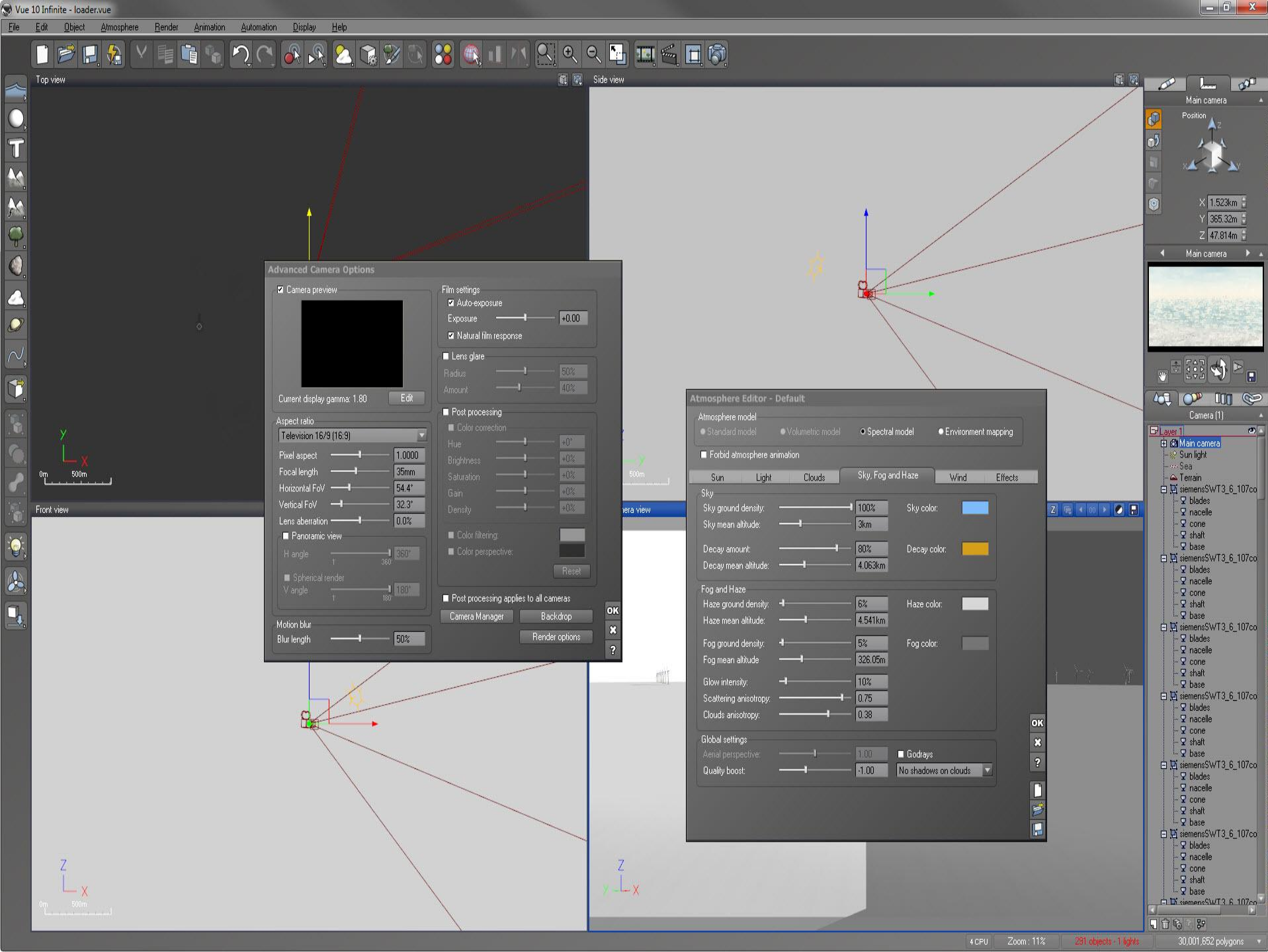


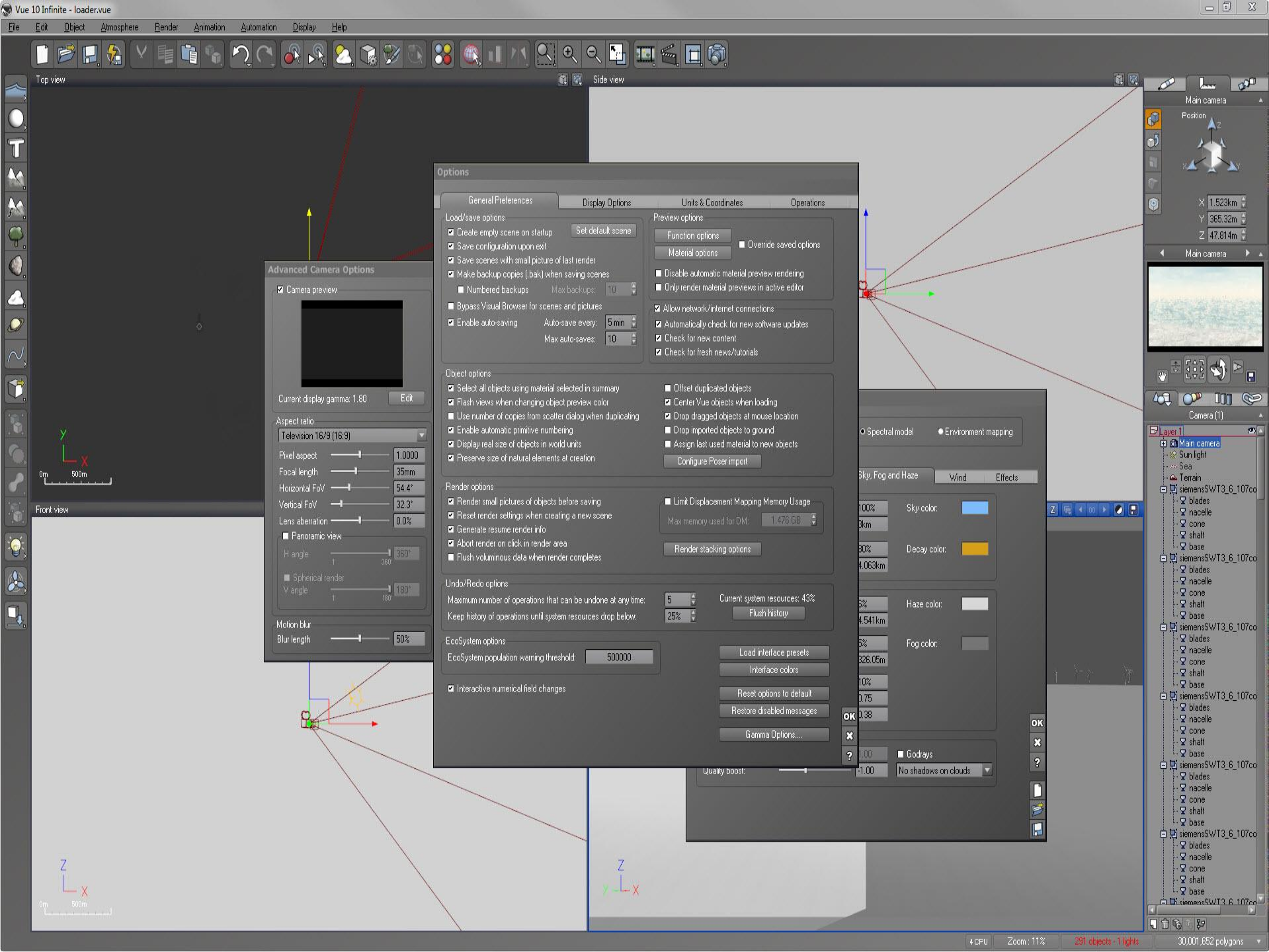
VueTM
Infinite R10





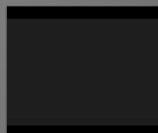






Top view

Advanced Camera Options

☒ Camera preview

Current display gamma: 1.80

Edit

Aspect ratio

Television 16/9 (16/9)

Pixel aspect 1.0000

Focal length 35mm

Horizontal FoV 54.4°

Vertical FoV 32.3°

Lens aberration 0.0%

☐ Panoramic view

H angle 360°

☐ Spherical render

V angle 180°

Motion blur

Blur length 50%

Front view

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

0m 500m

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Options

General Preferences

Load/save options

☒ Create empty scene on startup

Set default scene

☒ Save configuration upon exit☒ Save scenes with small picture of last render☒ Make backup copies (.bak) when saving scenes

Numbered backups

Max backups: 10

☐ Bypass Visual Browser for scenes and pictures☒ Enable auto-saving

Auto-save every: 5 min

Max auto-saves: 10

Max auto-saves: 10

Object options

☒ Select all objects using material selected in summary☒ Flash views when changing object preview color☐ Use number of copies from scatter dialog when duplicating☒ Enable automatic primitive numbering☒ Display real size of objects in world units☒ Preserve size of natural elements at creation

Render options

☒ Render small pictures of objects before saving☒ Reset render settings when creating a new scene☒ Generate resume render info☒ Abort render on click in render area☐ Flush voluminous data when render completes

Undo/Redo options

Maximum number of operations that can be undone at any time: 5

Keep history of operations until system resources drop below: 25%

EcoSystem options

EcoSystem population warning threshold: 500000

☒ Interactive numerical field changes

Display Options

Preview options

Function options

Material options

☐ Override saved options☐ Disable automatic material preview rendering☐ Only render material previews in active editor☒ Allow network/internet connections☒ Automatically check for new software updates☒ Check for new content☒ Check for fresh news/tutorials☐ Offset duplicated objects☒ Center Vue objects when loading☒ Drop dragged objects at mouse location☐ Drop imported objects to ground☐ Assign last used material to new objects

Configure Poser import

☐ Limit Displacement Mapping Memory Usage

Max memory used for DM: 1.476 GB

Render stacking options

EcoSystem options

EcoSystem population warning threshold: 500000

EcoSystem options

EcoSystem population warning threshold: 500000

☒ Interactive numerical field changes

Current system resources: 43%

Flush history

Load interface presets

Interface colors

Reset options to default

Restore disabled messages

Gamma Options...

Quality boost: 1.00

Godrays

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

No shadows on clouds

Spectral model

Environment mapping

Sky, Fog and Haze

Wind

Effects

100%

3km

30%

4.063km

5%

4.541km

5%

326.05m

10%

0.75

0.38

1.00

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Main camera

Position

X 1.523km

Y 365.32m

Z 47.814m

Main camera

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Approach

3D visualizations *via GIS interface*

Pros:

- CAST does 3D
- photorealistic
- Vue Python API

Cons:

- user interface is scary
- learning curve
- you need horsepower, but affordable





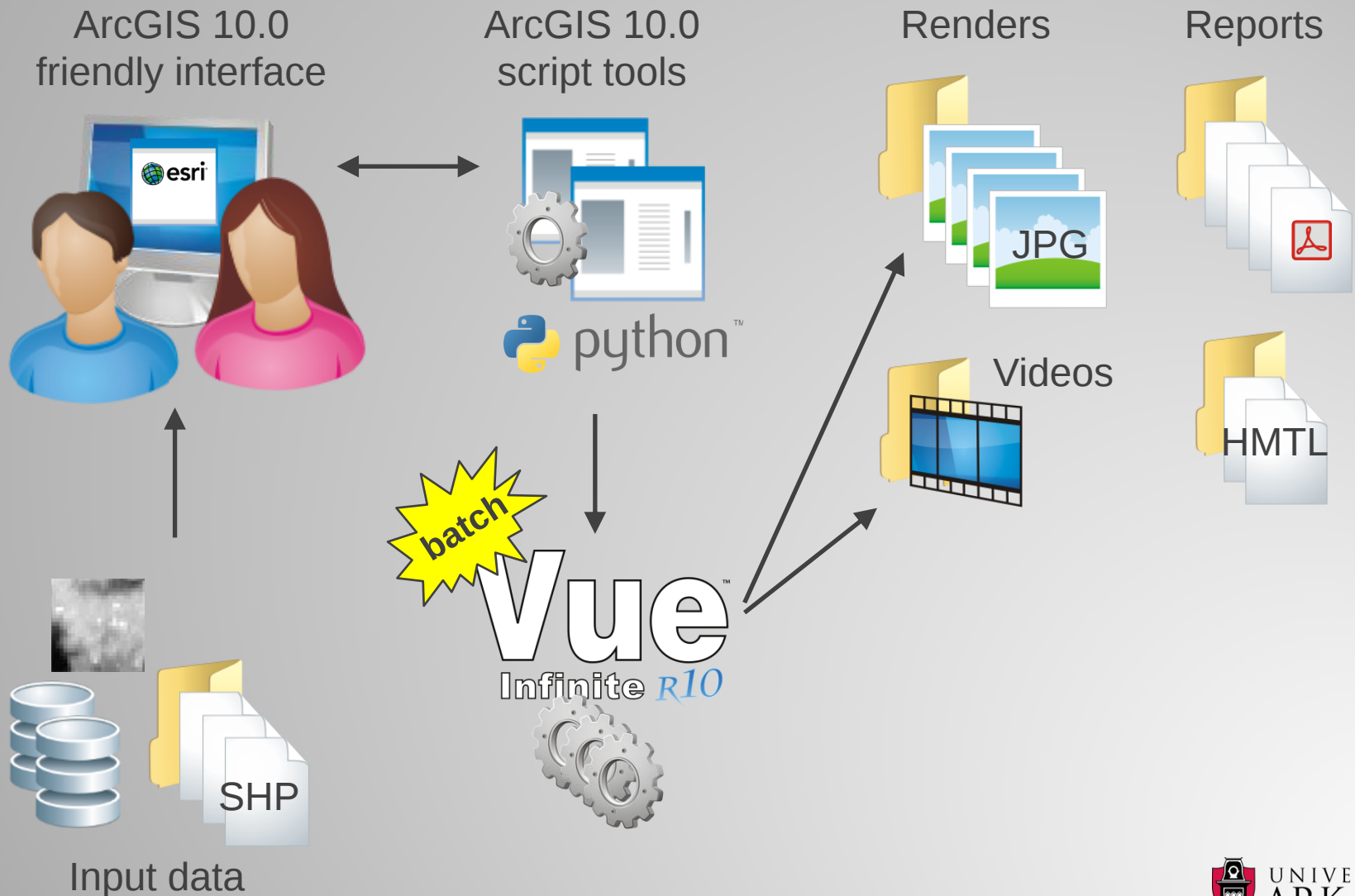


2012

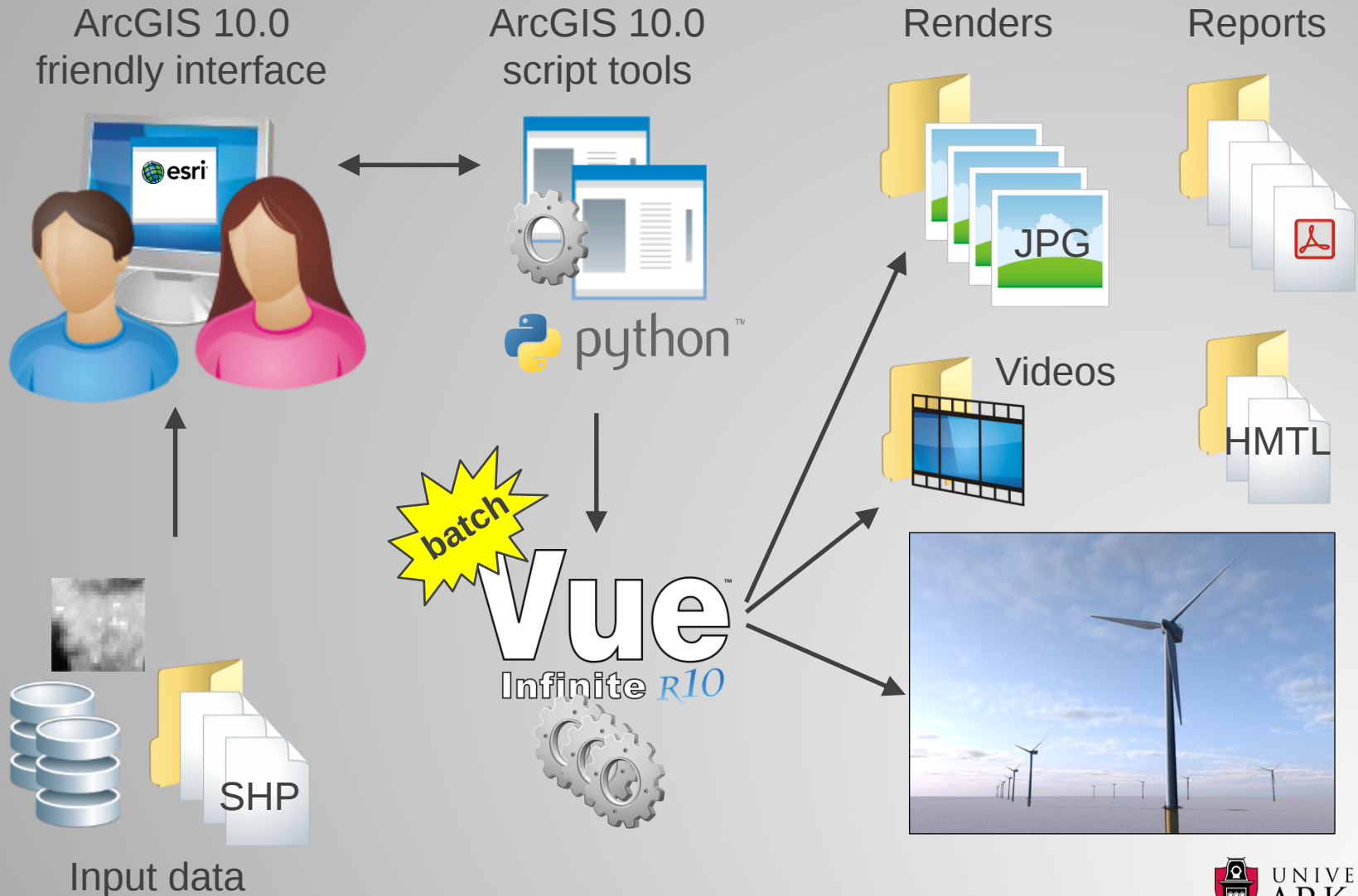




System design



System design



System design

ArcGIS 10.0
friendly interface

ArcGIS 10.0
script tools

Renders

Reports

Log

JPG

PDF

Videos

HMTL

Log

xml

template

project

batch

Vue™
Infinite R10

xml

Log

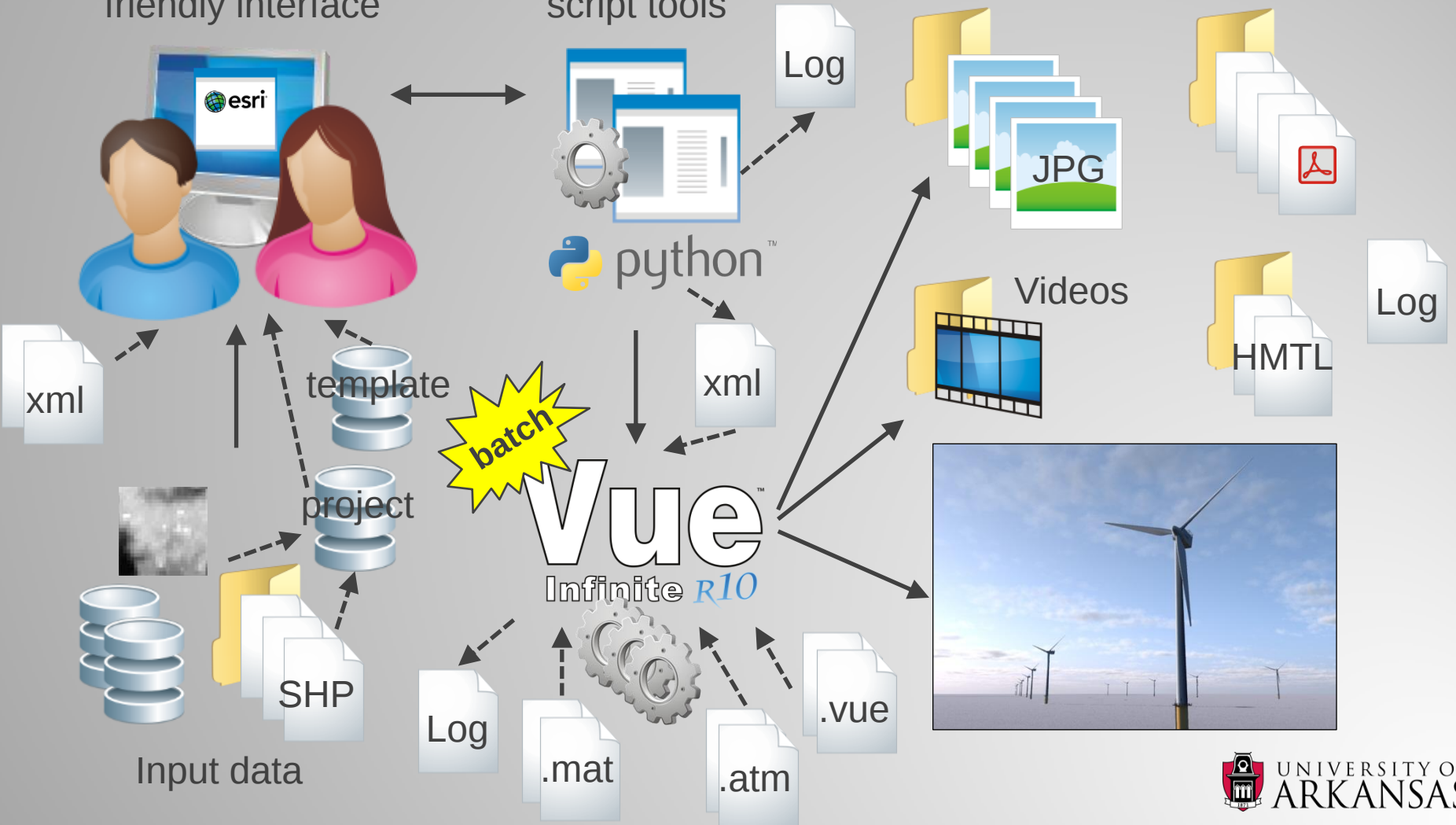
.mat

.atm

.vue

Input data

SHP



Development to date

- translate data for import into Vue
 - digital elevation
 - wind turbine generator (WTG) point locations
 - key observation points (KOPs)
- import above data into Vue
- move objects around as needed, adjust size
- import 3D WTG model
- set camera and sun position
- render to jpeg

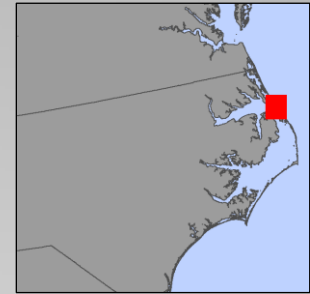
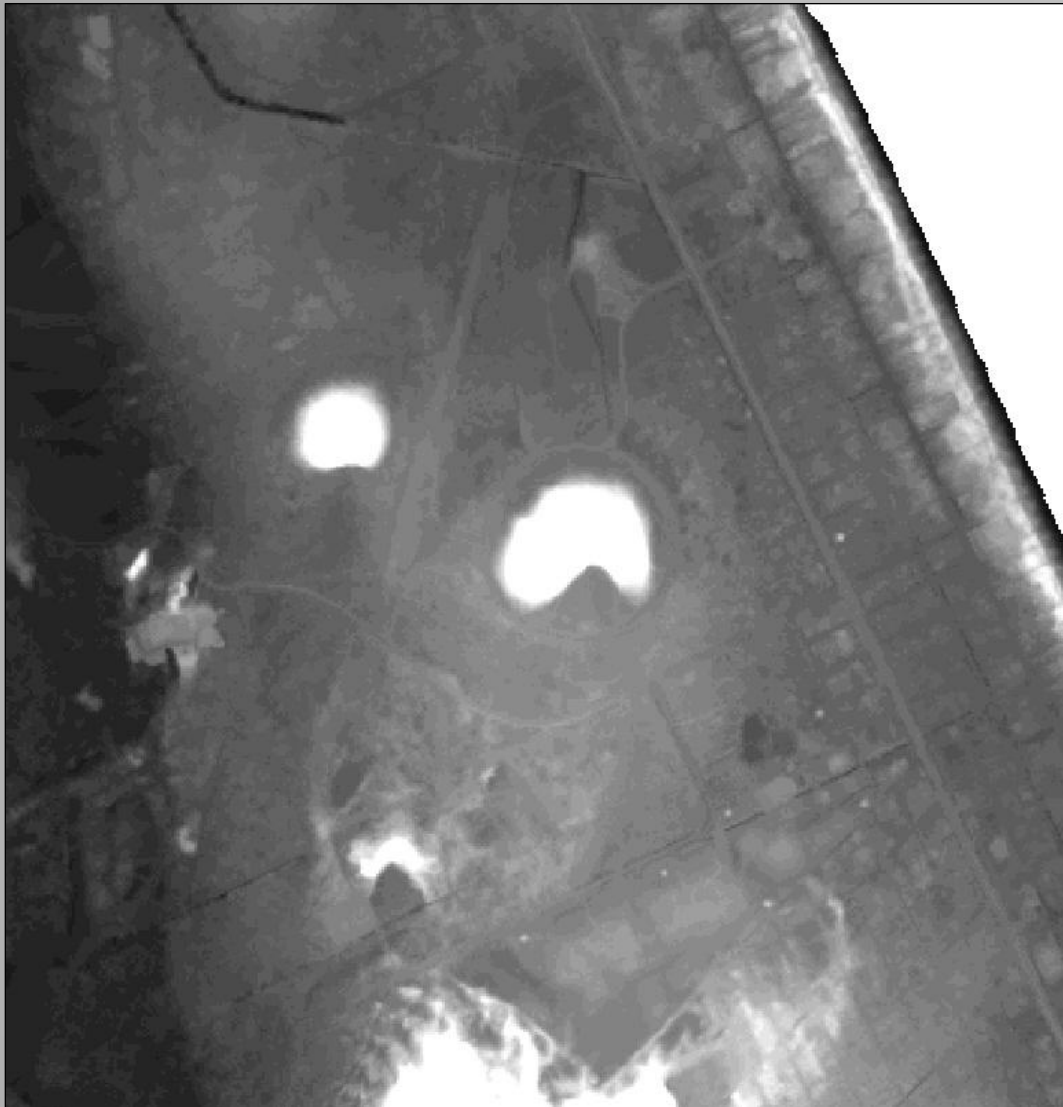
Development to date

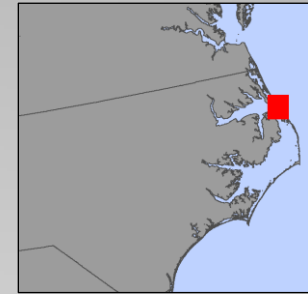
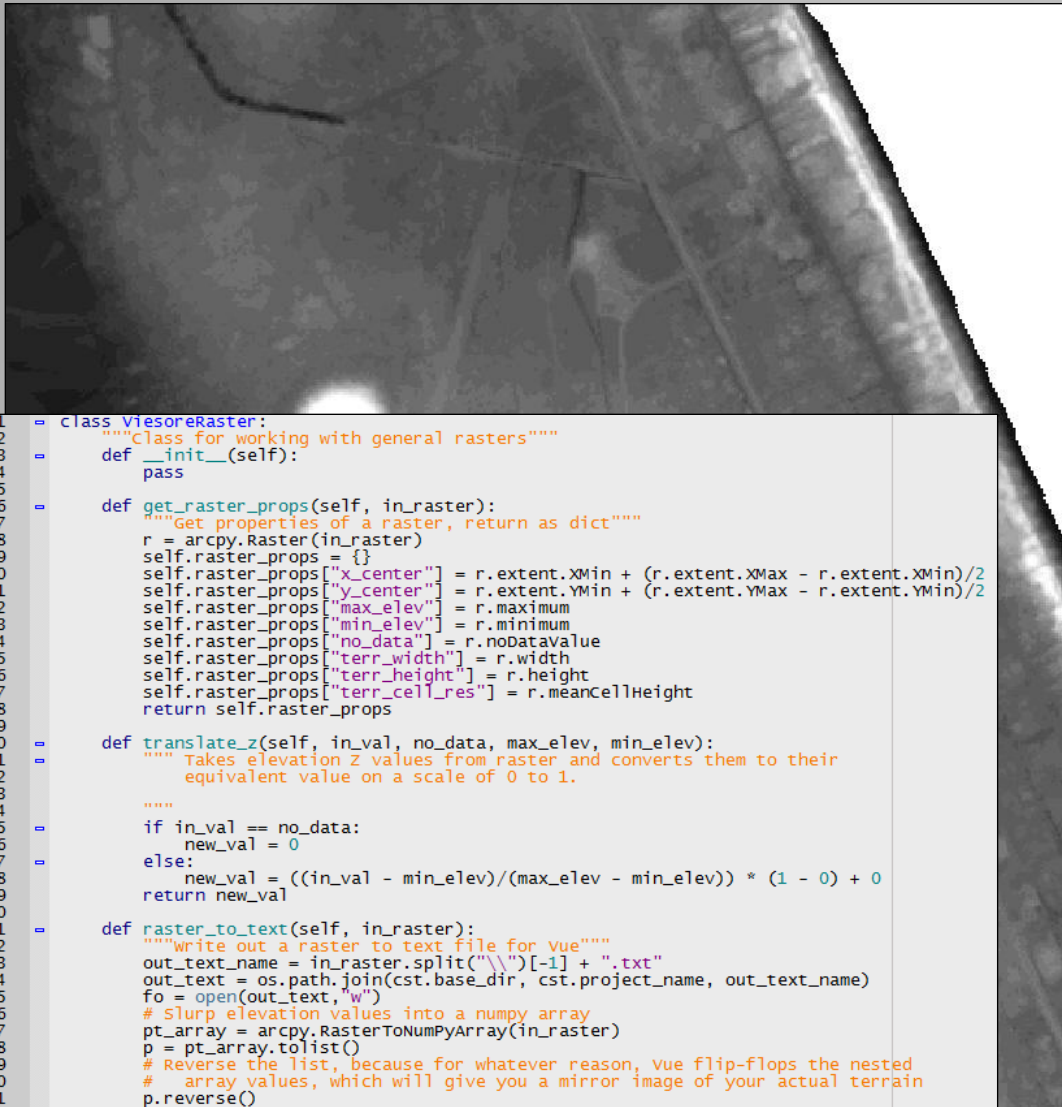
- translate data for import into Vue
 - digital elevation
 - wind turbine (WTG) point locations
 - key observation points (KOPs)
- import above data into python
- create objects around data needed, adjust size
- use data to WTG model
- create camera and sun position
- render to jpeg



Data translations







```

1  = class ViesoreRaster:
2      """Class for working with general rasters"""
3      def __init__(self):
4          pass
5
6      def get_raster_props(self, in_raster):
7          """Get properties of a raster, return as dict"""
8          r = arcpy.Raster(in_raster)
9          self.raster_props = {}
10         self.raster_props["x_center"] = r.extent.XMin + (r.extent.XMax - r.extent.XMin)/2
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12         self.raster_props["max_elev"] = r.maximum
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14         self.raster_props["no_data"] = r.nodatavalue
15         self.raster_props["terr_width"] = r.width
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20     def translate_z(self, in_val, no_data, max_elev, min_elev):
21         """ Takes elevation Z values from raster and converts them to their
22             equivalent value on a scale of 0 to 1.
23
24             """
25         if in_val == no_data:
26             new_val = 0
27         else:
28             new_val = ((in_val - min_elev)/(max_elev - min_elev)) * (1 - 0) + 0
29         return new_val
30
31     def raster_to_text(self, in_raster):
32         """Write out a raster to text file for vue"""
33         out_text_name = in_raster.split("\\")[-1] + ".txt"
34         out_text = os.path.join(cst.base_dir, cst.project_name, out_text_name)
35         fo = open(out_text, "w")
36         # Slurp elevation values into a numpy array
37         pt_array = arcpy.RasterToNumPyArray(in_raster)
38         p = pt_array.tolist()
39         # Reverse the list, because for whatever reason, Vue flip-flops the nested
40         # array values, which will give you a mirror image of your actual terrain
41         p.reverse()
42         # Get properties of the raster to use below
43         rp = self.get_raster_props(in_raster)
44         new_list = []
45         for each in p:
46             new_inner_list = []
47             for every in each:
48                 new_inner_list.append(self.translate_z(every, rp["no_data"],
49                                                         rp["max_elev"],
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51         fo.write(str(new_inner_list).strip('[') + "]\n")
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```

NclidarGCS_HavCurvedPCS.txt - Notepad2 (Administrator)

File Edit View Settings ?

```

50 0.17626473697193856, 0.17626941489362349, 0.17623338380240974,
50 0.17409059583006709, 0.16863049866327687, 0.16750434164258635,
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50 0.16706031902558893, 0.16704876949532538, 0.16849119739895432,

```

Ln1:2,360 Col1 Sel0 36.9 MB ANSI CR+LF INS Default Text


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```

```

7 <Terrain>
8 <TerrainFile>NclidarGCSShoreClipMinus200_HavCurvedPCS.txt</TerrainFile>
9 <Terrainwidth>1920</Terrainwidth>
10 <TerrainHeight>2359</TerrainHeight>
11 <TerrainXCenter>439242.825415</TerrainXCenter>
12 <TerrainYCenter>3985323.55767</TerrainYCenter>
13 <TerrainMinElevation>-206.856430054</TerrainMinElevation>
14 <TerrainMaxElevation>28.2428207397</TerrainMaxElevation>
15 <TerrainCellResolution>6.1822205595</TerrainCellResolution>
16 <TerrainNoDataValue>-3.40282346639e+38</TerrainNoDataValue>
17 </Terrain>

```

Ln1:2,360 Col1 Sel0 36.9 MB ANSI CR+LF INS Default Text



Kitty Hawk, NC
1/9 arc-second NED
vertical accuracy +/- 1 meter

12/2011



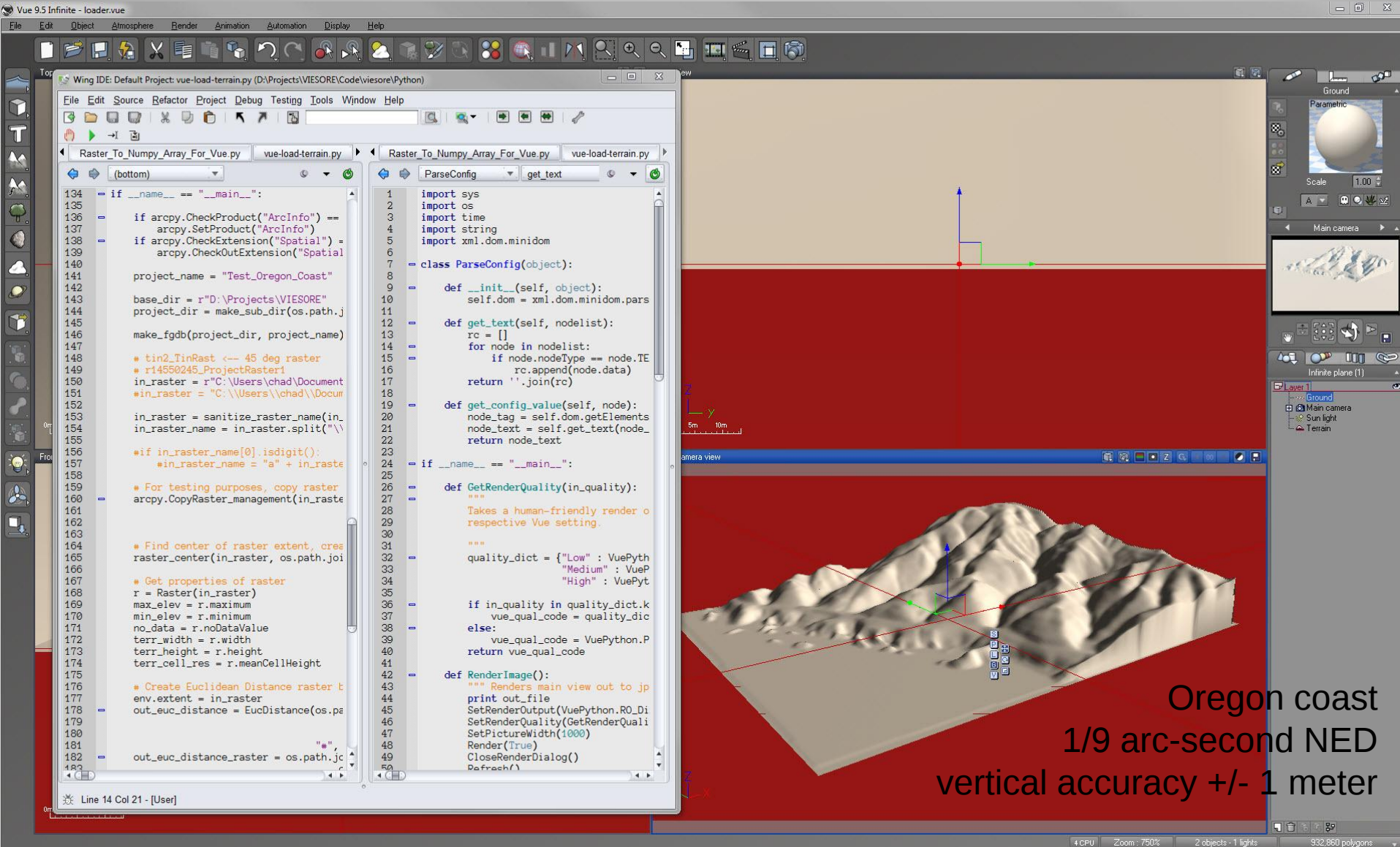
Image © 2012 GeoEye
Image © 2012 TerraMetrics
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image U.S. Geological Survey

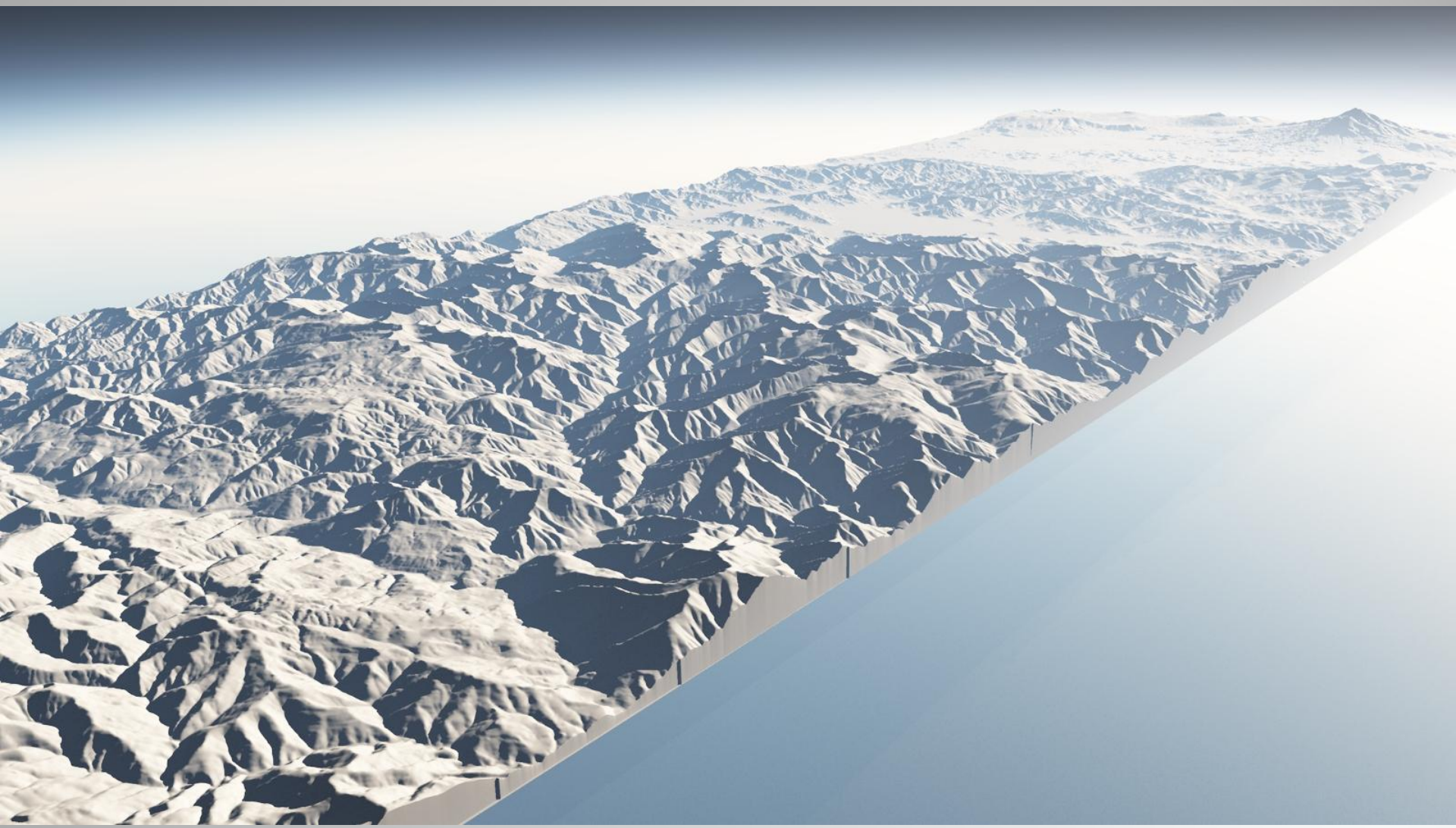
Google earth

Imagery Date: 8/1/2011  1993

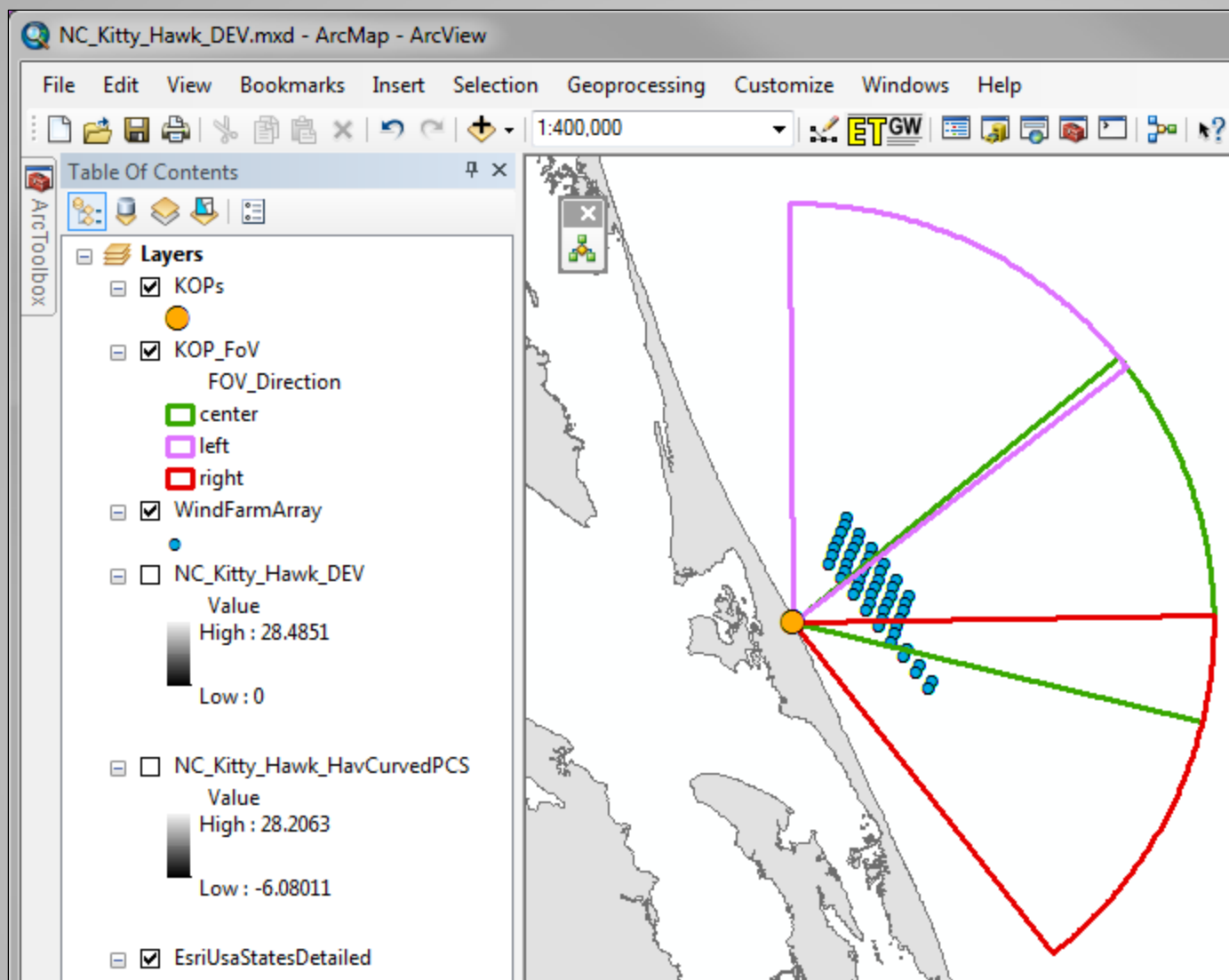
lat 36.009661° lon -75.708996° elev 12 ft

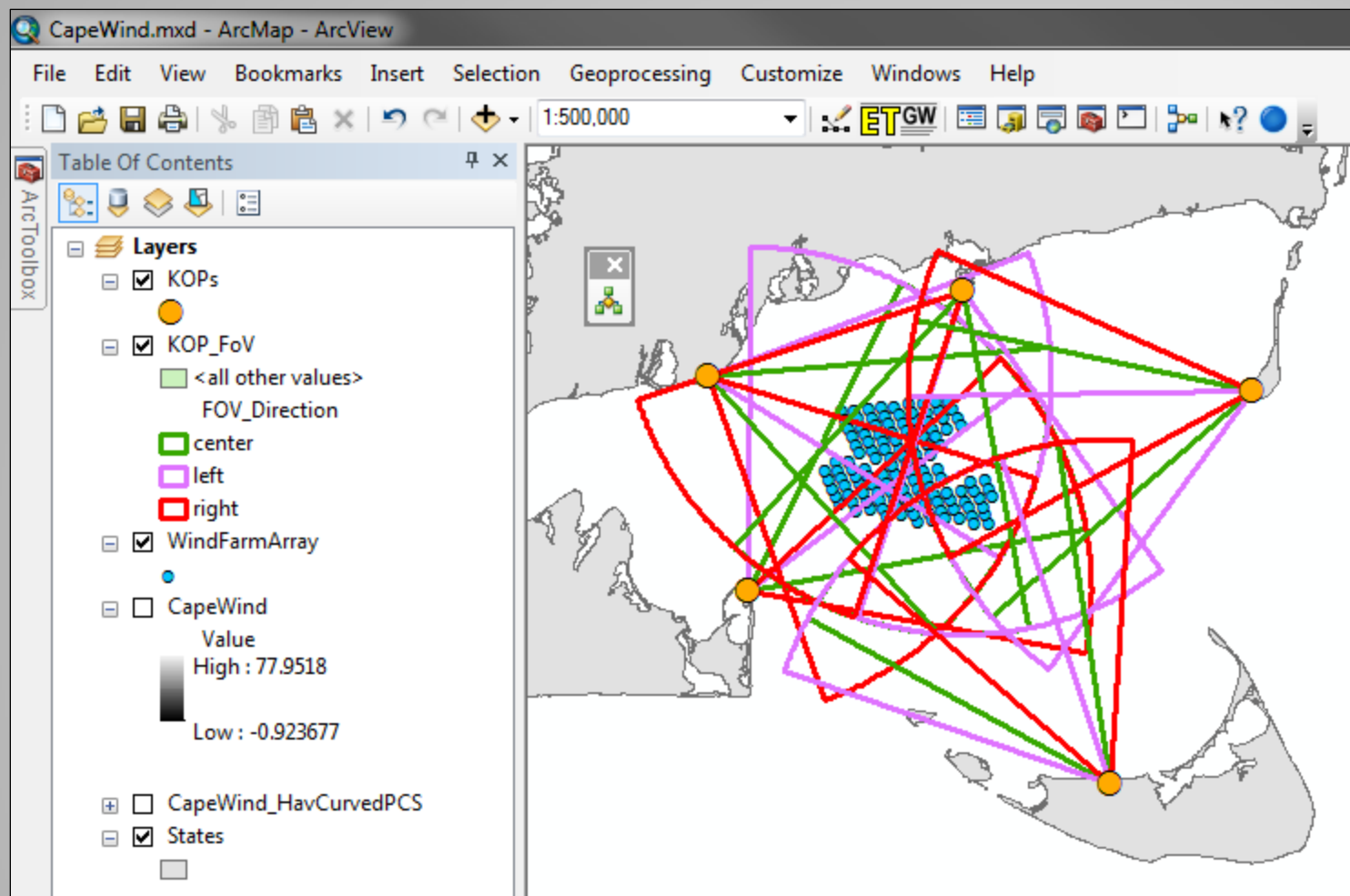
Eye alt 7056 ft 

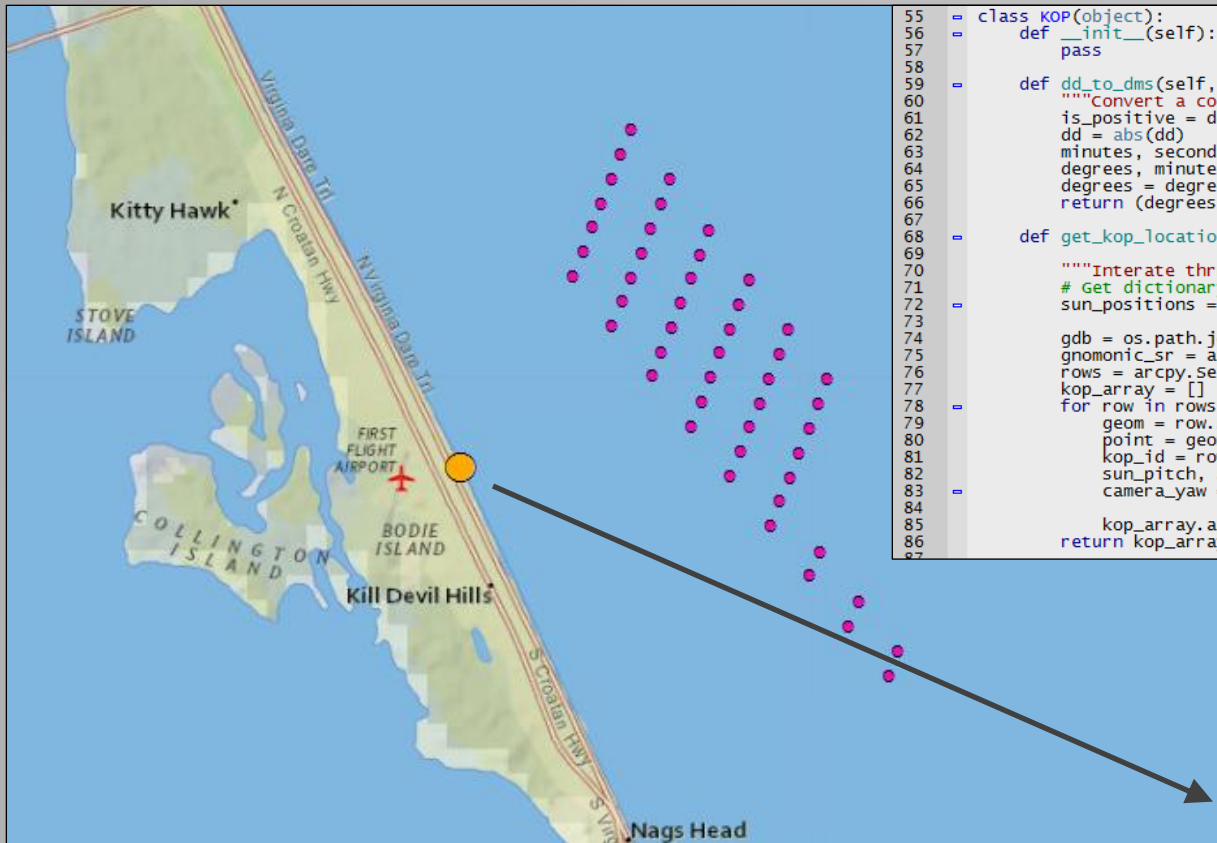




Key observation points A.K.A., the camera







```

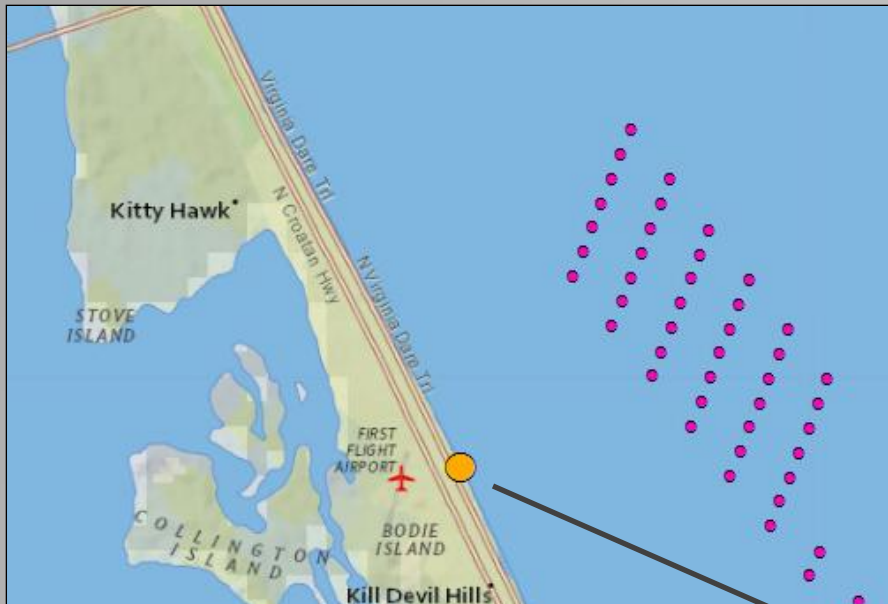
55 class KOP(object):
56     def __init__(self):
57         pass
58
59     def dd_to_dms(self, dd):
60         """Convert a coordinate in decimal degrees to a tuple of (
61         is_positive = dd >= 0
62         dd = abs(dd)
63         minutes, seconds = divmod(dd * 3600, 60)
64         degrees, minutes = divmod(minutes, 60)
65         degrees = degrees if is_positive else -degrees
66         return (degrees, minutes, seconds)
67
68     def get_kop_locations(self, project_path, project_name, render_
69         render_time, camera_position):
70         """Iterate thru KOP featureclass and gather KOP array info
71         # Get dictionary of sun positions for KOPs
72         sun_positions = self.get_sun_position(project_path, project_
73         render_date, render_t
74         gdb = os.path.join(project_path, project_name + ".gdb")
75         gnomonic_sr = arcpy.Describe(os.path.join(gdb, project_name
76         rows = arcpy.Searchcursor(os.path.join(gdb, "KOPS"), "", ge
77         kop_array = []
78         for row in rows:
79             geom = row.shape
80             point = geom.getPart()
81             kop_id = row.getValue("OBJECTID")
82             sun_pitch, sun_yaw, utc_time = sun_positions.get(kop_id
83             camera_yaw = self.get_camera_yaw_angle(project_path, pr
84             kop_id, camera_
85             kop_array.append([kop_id, point.Y, point.X, sun_pitch,
86         return kop_array
87

```

```

19 <KOPArray>
20 <KOP>
21 <KOPID>1</KOPID>
22 <VueNorthing>-253.927738287</VueNorthing>
23 <VueEasting>2437.09785053</VueEasting>
24 <CameraZPosition>3.7</CameraZPosition>
25 <FOVPosition>Center</FOVPosition>
26 <CameraYaw>102.334980719</CameraYaw>
27 <CameraPitch>93</CameraPitch>
28 <SunPitch>129.848225203</SunPitch>
29 <SunYaw>116.553015413</SunYaw>
30 </KOP>
31 </KOPArray>

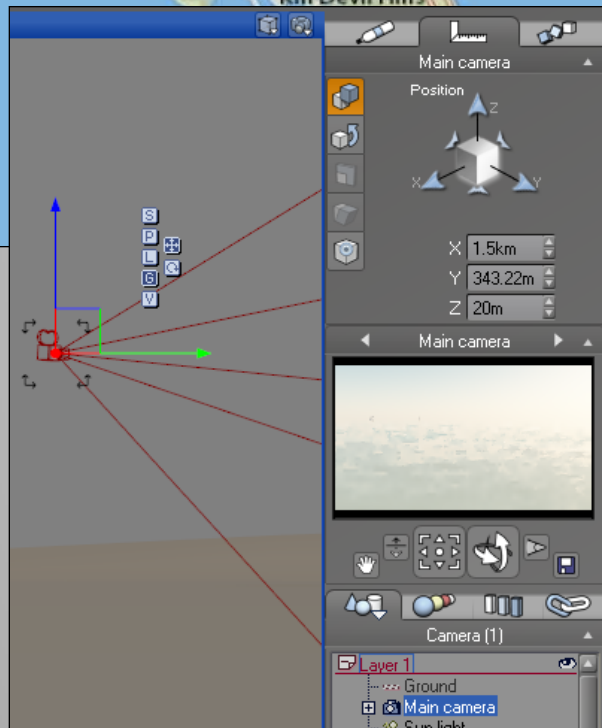
```



```

55 class KOP(object):
56     def __init__(self):
57         pass
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59     def dd_to_dms(self, dd):
60         """Convert a coordinate in decimal degrees to a tuple of (
61         is_positive = dd >= 0
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64         degrees, minutes = divmod(minutes, 60)
65         degrees = degrees if is_positive else -degrees
66         return (degrees, minutes, seconds)
67
68     def get_kop_locations(self, project_path, project_name, render_
69         render_time, camera_position):
70         """Iterate thru KOP featureclass and gather KOP array info
71         # Get dictionary of sun positions for KOPs
72         sun_positions = self.get_sun_position(project_path, project_
73         render_date, render_
74         gdb = os.path.join(project_path, project_name + ".gdb")
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81             kop_id = row.getValue("OBJECTID")
82             sun_pitch, sun_yaw, utc_time = sun_positions.get(kop_id
83             camera_yaw = self.get_camera_yaw_angle(project_path, pr
84             kop_id, camera_
85             kop_array.append([kop_id, point.Y, point.X, sun_pitch,
86         return kop_array
87

```



```

19 <KOPArray>
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28 <SunPitch>129.848225203</SunPitch>
29 <SunYaw>116.553015413</SunYaw>
30 </KOP>
31 </KOPArray>

```

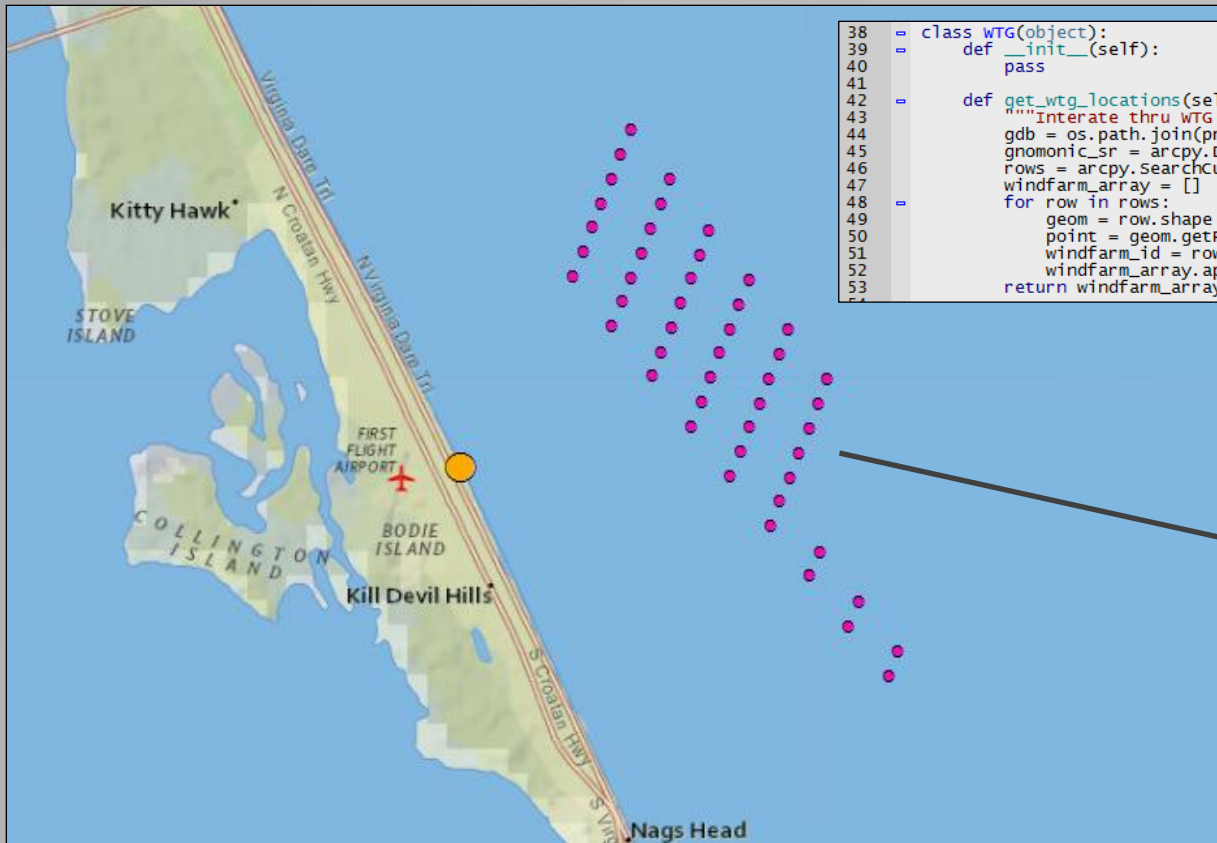
```

202 select_camera = SelectByName("Main camera")
203 camera = GetSelectedObjectByIndex(0)
204 for k, v in kop_dict.iteritems():
205     camera.SetPosition(float(v[1]), float(v[0]), float(v[2]))
206     Refresh()
207     camera.SetRotationAngles(float(v[5]), 0, float(v[4]), true)
208     Refresh()
209     DeselectAll()

```


WTG placement





```

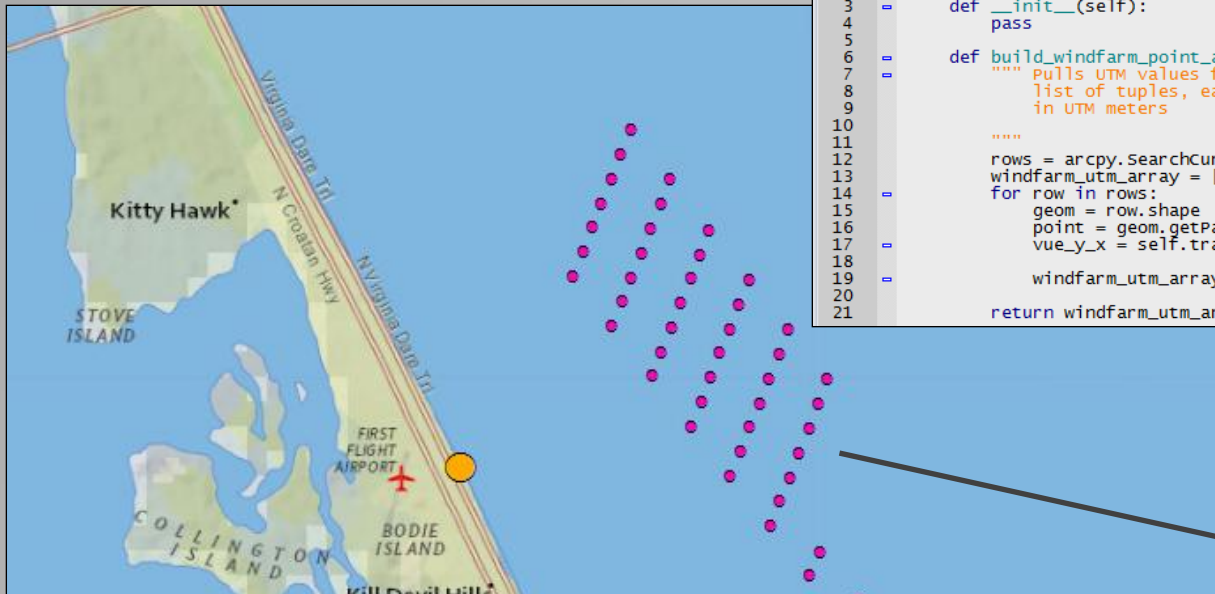
38 class WTG(object):
39     def __init__(self):
40         pass
41
42     def get_wtg_locations(self, project_path, project_name):
43         """Iterate thru WTG featureclass and gather WTG array info"""
44         gdb = os.path.join(project_path, project_name + ".gdb")
45         gnomonic_sr = arcpy.Describe(os.path.join(gdb, project_name +
46         rows = arcpy.SearchCursor(os.path.join(gdb, "windFarmArray"),
47         windfarm_array = []
48         for row in rows:
49             geom = row.shape
50             point = geom.getPart()
51             windfarm_id = row.getValue("OBJECTID")
52             windfarm_array.append([windfarm_id, point.y, point.x])
53         return windfarm_array
54

```

```

32 <WTGArray>
33 <WTG>
34 <WTGID>1</WTGID>
35 <VueNorthing>6068.67431977</VueNorthing>
36 <VueEasting>5592.75417541</VueEasting>
37 </WTG>
38 <WTG>
39 <WTGID>2</WTGID>
40 <VueNorthing>5134.24113799</VueNorthing>
41 <VueEasting>6330.87555269</VueEasting>
42 </WTG>
43 <WTG>
44 <WTGID>3</WTGID>
45 <VueNorthing>4199.69976142</VueNorthing>
46 <VueEasting>7069.29084193</VueEasting>
47 </WTG>
48 <WTG>

```



```

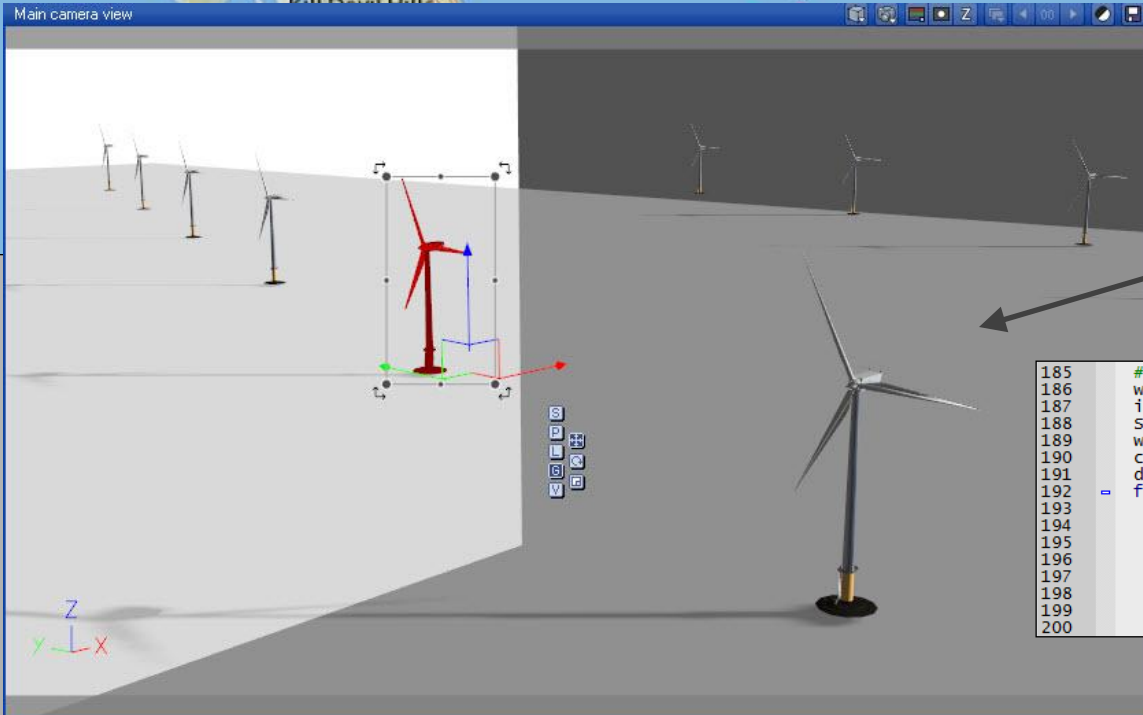
1  - class WTG:
2      """Class for creating and working with WTG and WTG array data"""
3      def __init__(self):
4          pass
5
6      def build_windfarm_point_array(self, gdb, x_center, y_center):
7          """
8          Pulls UTM values from windfarmArray FC and returns a
9          list of tuples, each tuple representing a WTG location
10         in UTM meters
11
12         """
13         rows = arcpy.SearchCursor(r"D:\NC_GCS.gdb\windFarmArrayNC")
14         windfarm_utm_array = []
15         for row in rows:
16             geom = row.shape
17             point = geom.getPart()
18             vue_y_x = self.transform_utm_to_vue_coords(point.Y, point.X,
19                                                         x_center, y_center)
20             windfarm_utm_array.append((point.Y, point.X,
21                                         vue_y_x[0], vue_y_x[1]))
22         return windfarm_utm_array

```

```

32 <WTGArray>
33 <WTG>
34 <WTGID>1</WTGID>
35 <VueNorthing>6068.67431977</VueNorthing>
36 <VueEasting>5592.75417541</VueEasting>
37 </WTG>
38 <WTG>
39 <WTGID>2</WTGID>
40 <VueNorthing>5134.24113799</VueNorthing>
41 <VueEasting>6330.87555269</VueEasting>
42 </WTG>
43 <WTG>
44 <WTGID>3</WTGID>
45 <VueNorthing>4199.69976142</VueNorthing>
46 <VueEasting>7069.29084193</VueEasting>
47 </WTG>
48 <WTG>

```



```

185 # Import the WTG model
186 wtg = os.path.join(viesore_root_dir, "Templates\WTGs\siemensSW
187 import_wtg = ImportObject(wtg, 0, true, -1)
188 Select(import_wtg)
189 wtg_height = get_object_size(import_wtg)[2]
190 c = Copy()
191 d = Delete()
192 - for k, v in wtg_dict.iteritems():
193     # TODO: Set name using SetName() method, use FID of the WTG
194     # Paste the WTG
195     p = Paste()
196     # Move the WTG
197     curr_wtg = GetSelectedObjectByIndex(0)
198     curr_wtg.Move(float(v[1]), float(v[0]), int(wtg_height)/2)
199     Refresh()
200     DeselectAll()

```

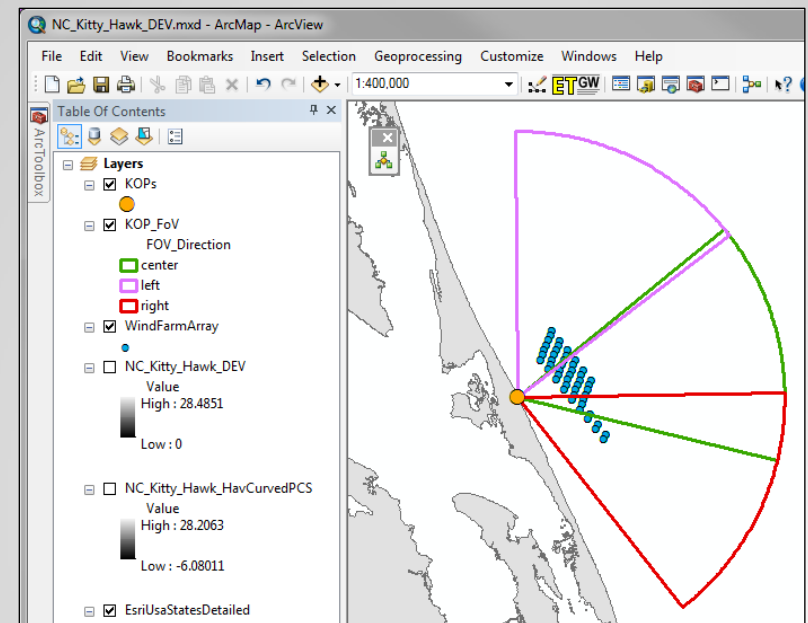
Current results

Real-world GIS data brought into Vue



Photorealistic renderings

User-friendly interface



Current results

Real-world GIS data brought into Vue
Photorealistic renderings ✓
User-friendly interface



Current results

Real-world GIS data brought into Vue
Photorealistic renderings

User-friendly interface
- still working on that...



Renders





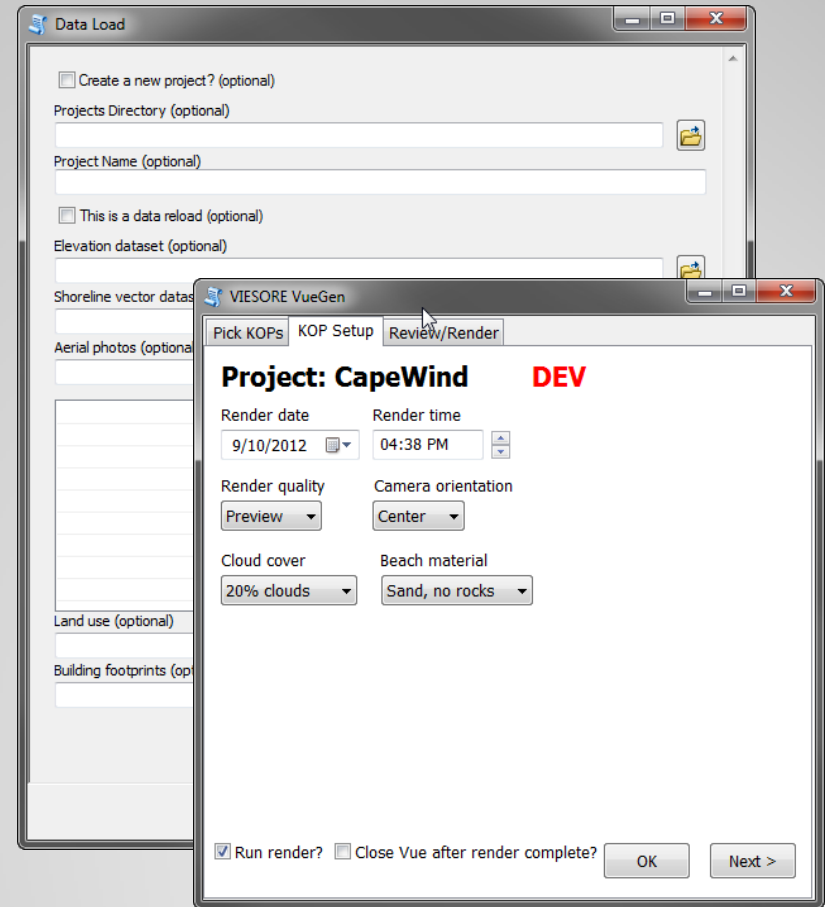


Issues tackled

- Vue data formats
- Data translations galore
- ***Using real-world data in software that wasn't really made for it***
- Coarse-grained Vue Python API makes you come up with creative workarounds

Still to do

- User interface to Vue
 - Toolbox designs and linkage to Python scripts
 - ArcToolbox tools
 - wxPython
- Report generation
 - Python
- Help/documentation



CapeWind.mxd - ArcMap - ArcView

File Edit View Bookmarks Insert Selection Geoprocessing Customize Windows Help

1:500,000

Table Of Contents

Layers

- ☒ KOPs
- ☒ KOP_FoV
 - <all other values>
 - FOV_Direction
 - center
 - left
 - right
- ☒ WindFarmArray
- ☐ CapeWind
 - Value
 - High : 77.9518
 - Low : -0.923677
- ☐ CapeWind_HavCurvedPCS
- ☒ States

VIESORE VueGen

Pick KOPs KOP Setup Review/Render

Project: CapeWind **DEV**

Render date: 9/10/2012 Render time: 04:38 PM

Render quality: Preview Camera orientation: Center

Cloud cover: 20% clouds Beach material: Sand, no rocks

☒ Run render? ☐ Close Vue after render complete? OK Next >

Questions?

chad@cast.uark.edu

<http://cast.uark.edu>

