



On-Demand Training: WMS Web Mapping Services Transcript

Welcome to this Web Mapping Services video. You can download the Exercise workbook to follow along in your own copy of Tableau.

A Web Mapping Service is a way to share map images over the internet. A WMS server provides the tiles that make up maps in Tableau. Connecting to a WMS Server may be useful if you're looking for an alternative to the default maps that Tableau provides and they may allow you to access data layers such as boundaries or thematic data.

Using a WMS connection

To connect to a WMS server,

- go to the map menu,
- Background Maps,
- WMS Servers
- Click Add and enter the URL
 - There are many publically available WMS Servers, or some companies have their own infrastructure
 - For now we'll connect to this – the link is available under the video
 - http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/gebco_web_services/web_map_service/mapserv?request=getCapabilities&service=wms
 - The speed at which these maps render depends on the server that you're connecting to as well as your network connection.
- Next, plot the data just like normal, here we'll double click on Country then State
 - If your maps ever don't look how you expected, check two places
 - One, go to Map and Background Maps and verify the WMS map is being used
 - Two, go to Map, Map Options, and play around with the Map Layers
 - We'll add SID Grid
 - Some WMS's have a lot of layers, so this is a good place to look and explore the options, including deselecting any layers that may not be working properly
- As a note, it's possible to connect to multiple WMS servers in a single workbook – you can use as many as you need.

Tableau Map Source Files

Now that we're connected to this WMS, if we want to save this connection for use with other workbooks, or to share this workbook, we can create a Tableau Map Source file.

- Go to Map > Background Maps > WMS Server > and click Export
- The file type is saved as a .tms file
- I have another .tms file already, World Map. Let me save the new one, then we'll go back Tableau and see

how to bring in a .tms file

- Again, we'll go to Map > Background Maps > WMS Server and this time we'll click import. Let's open that world map I had, this is also available for download under the video
- And we need to apply it to this view.
- Map > Background Maps > World Map
 - Let's add some layers
 - Map > Map Options
 - And we'll add countries, maybe waterbodies, rivers, and streams

Conclusion

Thank you for watching this WMS training video. We invite you to continue with the On-Demand Training videos to learn more about using Tableau.