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# On-Demand Training: WMS Transcript

Welcome to Tableau's Web Map Service video. Connecting to a web map service may be useful if you're looking for an alternative to the default, background maps that Tableau provides. These may be better suited for your specific geographic analysis. In this video, we'll show you how to connect to a WMS server via URL, how to import and export Tableau Map Source files, and how to add map layers to the existing WMS background map.

A Web Map Service is a way to share map images via the internet. Connecting to a WMS Server allows you to access the map as well as any data layers (such as boundaries or thematic data). Companies will often have their own WMS infrastructure for their specific needs, but Tableau Desktop also connects to openly available WMS servers on the web.

Let's create a new sheet and show how to add a WMS server. We'll go to the map menu, then select Background Maps. Select WMS Servers and click Add to enter a URL. A quick internet search may provide a list of publically available WMS Server URLs. For example, for now we'll connect to this (<http://irs.gis-lab.info/?layers=landsat&request=GetTile&z=!&x=!&y=!>) and select OK.

Now when we drag a geographic field into the view, our background map isn't the default that comes with Tableau Desktop, it's the map image from that WMS server. Here, we can switch back to the Tableau default, then back to our WMS map.

So I'll copy this URL and paste it in the dialog box then select OK. Once I've connected to this URL I can actually export it as a Tableau Map Source file. A Tableau Map Source file will allow me to reconnect to this URL from any other workbook, or even share this workbook with another Tableau Desktop user so they can connect to the same URL. I'll select Save and just overwrite the existing one. I can also add additional URLs by typing them in or pasting them or just import the Tableau Map Source files that I have on hand. I happen to have another Tableau Map Source file, so I'll select that then open it. I've now added two distinct URLs that I can access when I'm mapping in Tableau.

I'll close this dialog box and go in and double click on the State field in the Superstore Sales sample data source that comes with your installation of Tableau Desktop. Since I want to change the background map, I'll select the map menu, background maps, and now I'll chose from the two URLs that I added. I'll select the world map WMS server. Because nothing is showing up in the background besides some water and a blue outline of the continent of North America, I'll go to the map menu, select map options, and then apply different map layers. I can choose to add whatever layers are available for this particular web map service. The speed at which these maps render depends on the server that you're connecting to as well as your network connection. So I'll add a couple of these layers until we're happy with the way it looks.

Once I'm done building my map, I can now start to analyze data on it just as I would be able to with any other map. I'll go ahead and call this sheet example one. Let's create a brand new worksheet. I'll go ahead and plot the same geographic field, state, in my view and then go to the map menu, select background maps, then chose the second URL. This time I get an error message saying that one of the map images is blank. So because I want to choose a full map image, I'll select OK then go to the map menu and select map options one more time. By doing so, I can deselect any of the map layers that are not loading properly. I'll deselect this current map layer and go down to the blue marble map layer which I know works properly.

Once I've done that I can go ahead and start analyzing my data on this map layer. I'll place sales on the size shelf and profit on the color shelf. When I select the color option, you can see that Tableau will automatically apply a halo

effect to allow you to see your marks much clearer. You can change the halo color if you want to and even add a border to this mark. I'll call this example two. Any time you want to use this background map as your default map you can do so rather than having to connect to that URL every single time, you can simply go to the map menu, select background maps, and then set it as a default. Now, from this point on, any time you build a map this will be the background map that you'll be seeing.

So we've talked about how to connect to a web map service URL, how to import and export a tableau map source file, and how to add different map layers to customize the look of the map that you've connected to. You can also go ahead and set any of these maps as your default map if you choose to do so.

Thank you so much for watching our web map service video. Please download the companion workbook, that will help you practice some of these exercises.