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# NEWS & VIEWS

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## Federal push for 'cloud' technology faces skepticism

The New York Times [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Before cost-cutting became fashionable in Washington, Vivek Kundra, the White House's chief information officer, was working to shrink the federal government's enormous budget for information technology. But even as Kundra returns to academia after a two-and-a-half-year run, his vision for a leaner and more Internet-centric future for government is being met with caution by at least a few of the technology chiefs at the federal agencies that have to carry it out. [MORE](#)



## 5.8-magnitude earthquake strikes East Coast

The New York Times [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

A 5.8-magnitude earthquake based in Virginia sent tremors from the nation's capital to New York City and New England on Tuesday afternoon, officials said. Buildings throughout major metropolitan centers in the northeast were evacuated after the quake, and tremors were felt as far north as Bath, Maine, and as far south as Hampstead, N.C., with some limited reports of damage reported near the quake's epicenter in Virginia, where a nearby nuclear power plant was taken offline. [MORE](#)

## Revisit key moments from the Survey Summit

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Presentations from the 2011 Survey Summit are now available online. Browse through the available videos, presentations, and slide decks for new ideas or to refresh your memory about the valuable resources you discovered. We look forward to seeing you at next year's summit. [MORE](#)

## NYSAPLS to host workshops on high accuracy surveys

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The New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors will be hosting a series of one-day fall workshops, titled "Deformation and Other High Accuracy Surveys" with Herbert W. Stoughton, Ph.D., on the following dates in October:

Oct. 24 – Batavia, N.Y.  
Oct. 25 – Verona, N.Y.  
Oct. 26 – Wappingers Falls, N.Y.  
Oct. 28 – Long Island, N.Y.

Please visit [www.nysapls.org](http://www.nysapls.org) to register or call the NYSAPLS office, (518) 432-4046. All programs offer 8.0 NY CE for land surveyors and professional engineers. [MORE](#)



## The face of surveying

The American Surveyor [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

To understand the situation in which we find the practice of surveying today. We need to ask: Who, what, where, when and why are we? ... are they? The struggle to answer doesn't come so much from its members understanding themselves. It comes from dealing with and answering the misconceptions of those not members of the profession. [MORE](#)

## ACSM Radio Hour features guest Greg Johnson

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The Aug. 22 edition of the ACSM Radio Hour is available for download by clicking [here](#). This week's guest was Greg Johnson, PE, PLS, a manager in the Land Department of Georgia Power Company. Johnson and host Curt Sumner discussed the various types of surveying projects that are required for a utility company, the combination of in-house and outsourced personnel used and many interesting situations encountered. [MORE](#)

## DARPA at work on satellite-free navigation system

Government Computer News [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

The U.S. military's weapons and communications systems rely on global positioning data to determine their locations. But satellite navigation systems are becoming more susceptible to jamming during a conflict. To meet this challenge, the Defense Department's research and development arm has launched a program to develop new technologies that would allow military gear to function and to know its location without the benefit of Global Positioning Satellite signals. [MORE](#)

## Emerging market opportunities in oil and gas development

Pangaea [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Thanks to the recent uptick in gas prices, there is an increase in oil and gas development in eastern Colorado. This trend is already providing more opportunities for local surveyors. There's also a trend that could further multiply these opportunities: This development is reaching into populated areas that have not yet experienced such activity, which has led local counties to add another layer of regulation to oil and gas development, going beyond state regulations. [MORE](#)



## How geodemographics has changed over 40 years: Part 2

Directions Magazine [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

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In part two of Jan Kestle's article on lifestyle segmentation and geodemographics, the veteran geodemographics professional, now president of Environics Analytics, explains a new cloud-based solution for micromarketing called ENVISION that will integrate location analytics with CR. [MORE](#)

### Surveyors on a busman's holiday

The American Surveyor Share [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

What surveyor is not fascinated with quad maps? How about a 2000' offset in a state boundary? Add some neat labels like "Montgomery's Corner" and "30 Mile Post," a few good friends, a love of the mountains, and a plan is born. This "offset" is on the north slope of North Georgia's Hightower Bald, some 4,000 feet in elevation. Its tale is a continuation of the story of the Camak Stone, described by Bart Crattie in the Nov/Dec 2009 Georgia Land Surveyor. [MORE](#)

### Engaging new GIS students with web mapping

Vector 1 Magazine Share [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Not that long ago, "web mapping" was an advanced topic, best left to be taught in a senior GIS course. While that can still be the case, depending on how it is defined, the fact is that creating a map of your own data on a web page has become something anyone can do in a matter of minutes. This was recently made clear out while doing some research on Google Fusion Tables. [MORE](#)

### Map publishers facing a rough road

Moneyville via the Toronto Star Share [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

When Don Boyes was driving to northern Canada recently, heading to a cottage where he had never been, he brought along his iPhone. Armed with an app that serves as a GPS device, he could maneuver all the right turns along the roads. Suddenly at one point, where cellphone service became spotty, he lost his connection, and his directions. But Boyes wasn't worried, because his car's glove compartment is stuffed with paper maps. [MORE](#)

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