# Metadata in ArcGIS 10.1: Questions and Answers

### What happens if I upgrade to ArcGIS 10 format?

During the upgrade, your metadata is translated to ArcGIS 10 metadata format. Upgrading allows you to edit your record with the ArcGIS 10 metadata editor. A variety of XML tags are inserted, deleted, and moved around during the upgrade. After upgrading, your metadata is no longer connected to the FGDC portion of the record; FGDC elements are no longer synchronized with ArcGIS elements.

### If I don't upgrade, what can I do with my FGDC metadata?

If you do not upgrade, you can still work with your FGDC metadata in ArcGIS 10. FGDC metadata is stored in FGDC elements. If you do not upgrade, FGDC elements will be synchronized with ArcGIS elements. You can edit non-upgraded FGDC records using either ArcGIS or EME. No translation is required in order to submit your non-upgraded records to metadata catalogs, geoportals, etc.

### So, should I upgrade or not?

Do you need to contribute your metadata to a geoportal, e.g. EDG or Geo.Data.gov? If you upgrade, you will need to export metadata to a compatible standard (FGDC, ISO) before contributing it to a geoportal.

Do you want to edit FGDC fields in your metadata? **Don't upgrade**.

Do you need to edit your metadata using the ArcGIS 10 editor? **It may be a good idea to upgrade.**

Remember, you can always upgrade down the road. However, once you upgrade you cannot go back to FGDC format without potentially losing content.

### What's new for metadata in ArcGIS 10.1?

In ArcGIS 10.1, developers can append metadata to the end of a service's REST URL to get an XML file containing all the service's metadata. A service's full XML metadata record is accessible from a new endpoint that is available for map services: [http://servername/arcgis/rest/services/servicename/MapServer/info/metadata](http://servername/arcgis/rest/services/servicename/MapServer/info/metadata).

This metadata can be viewed in ArcCatalog and edited with the appropriate credentials. You also have the ability to document your map service with metadata and publish content to a GeoPlatform.