

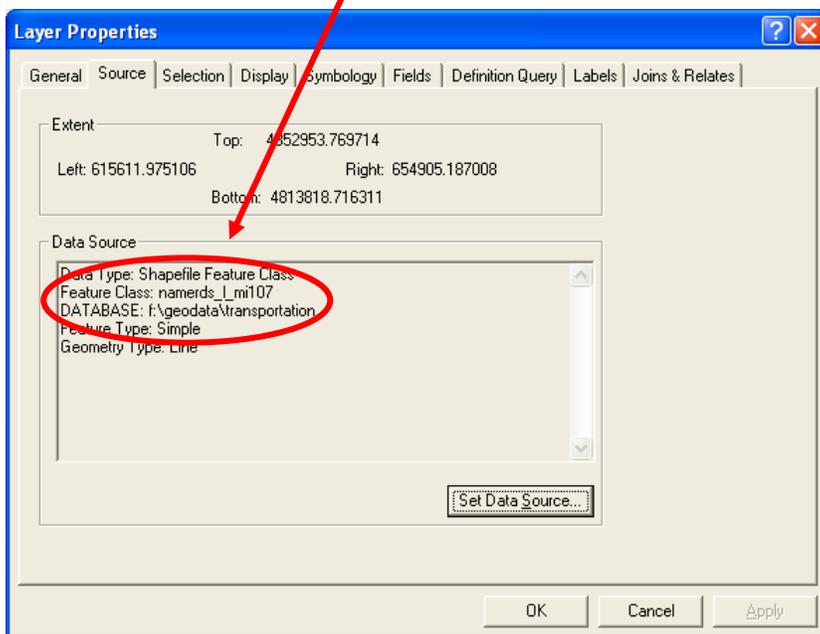
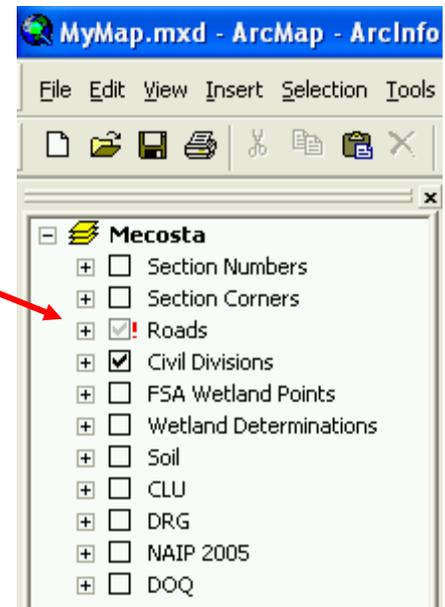
Setting a Layer's Data Source

Layers within an ArcMap project act as “pointers” to data files on the server. If the source data files are moved or renamed, the resulting layers will become invalid. This skill builder provides instructions for resetting the data source of invalid layers.

Identifying the Problem

Layers with an invalid data source will display with a red exclamation point in the Table of Contents (TOC).

If we viewed this layer's properties, we would find that its data source is “f:\geodata\transportation\namerds_1_mi107.shp”.



We know that the “namerds” shapefiles became obsolete and were replaced with updated “allroads” shapefiles in December of 2006.

This ArcMap project was apparently created before the “namerds” shapefiles were eliminated. The “Roads” layer points to a data file that no longer exists on the server.

Setting the Data Source

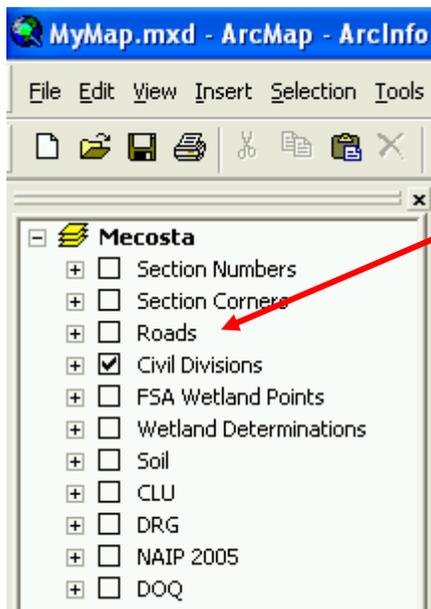
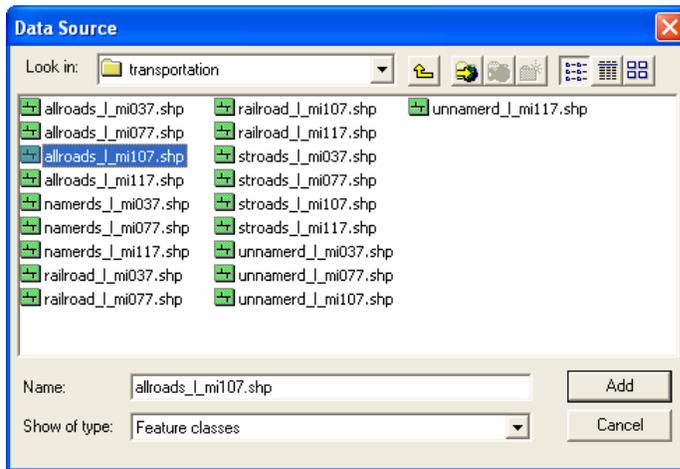
In order to fix the problem, we simply have to identify a valid data source for the layer.

1. In the TOC, click on the layer's “grayed-out” checkmark.  Roads

(Or click the **Set Data Source** button if the layer properties window is open.)

Setting the Data Source (continued)

2. Navigate to the location of the new (replacement) data source.
3. Select the new data source, click the **Add** button...



... and the data layer becomes usable again.

NOTE: A complete list of available geodata data can be found in the document “Michigan Service Center Geodata Structure” on the NRCS-MI GIS web site.

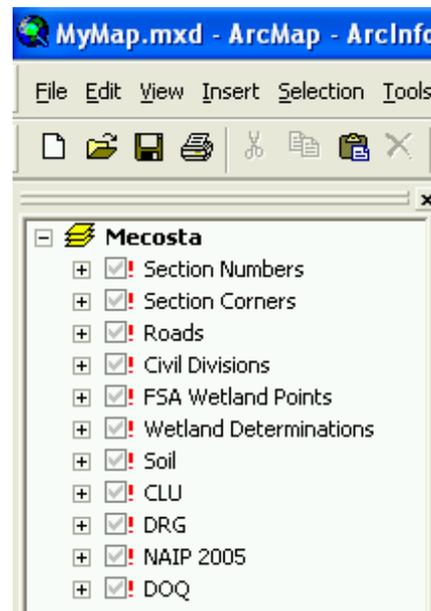
4. The layer's updated data source will be saved when you save the ArcMap document.

Multiple Invalid Layers

If multiple layers display red exclamation points, it generally indicates one of the following problems:

1. Unmapped “F:” network drive
or
2. Access denied to “F:” on the local server

If all of the data layers are invalid as shown, close ArcMap without saving and contact:



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