

## What is GDF?

- GDF is the "geophysical data exchange format", an ASCII data exchange and archive standard for geophysical point and line data, prepared for the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG); ASEG-GDF2 is the second version of the standard
- The full version of the GDF standard can be obtained from:  
<http://www.aseg.org.au/Standards/default.aspx>
- GDF is designed for exchange of located data with accompanying machine-readable metadata, so that unrelated software packages can read each other's outputs
- Each dataset is supplied with a set of three files, \*.dat, \*.dfn and \*.des. The data file (\*.dat) has the data in flat ASCII columns, the corresponding definition file (\*.dfn) contains machine-readable definitions of the columns, and the description file (\*.des) has human-readable text that explains the survey

## Why does the Department require GDF?

- GDF is the standard exchange format for geophysical data
- GDF is endorsed by the:
  - ASEG Federal Executive
  - SEG (the ASEG's American sister society)
- GDF is a nominated format in the *Australian Governments' Digital Reporting Guidelines*, developed and maintained by the Government Geoscience Information Committee. The guidelines can be downloaded from [www.geoscience.gov.au/geoportal/ARSDEData.pdf](http://www.geoscience.gov.au/geoportal/ARSDEData.pdf). All state and Territory jurisdictions use these guidelines as the basis for their statutory reporting requirements
- Software in the future will still be able to read today's data with its metadata
- Machine-readability allows automatic loading of data with all its metadata
- GDF structure can be converted automatically into other formats eg XMMML
- Government supplies its data to companies and other clients as GDF

## What types of data need to be in GDF?

- All airborne magnetic and radiometric data, airborne electromagnetic and all gravity data must be supplied in GDF
- IP and ground EM are supposed to be supplied as GDF, but that is yet to be as rigorously enforced

## How do I get my data as GDF?

- Ask the acquisition contractor to provide GDF in the first place
- Gravity contractors who have been supplying data in comma separated files, are also able to supply GDF. It is up to the explorer to ask explicitly for GDF as well
- All standard geophysical software now routinely exports and imports GDF; processing packages such as Intrepid, Geosoft, or ChrisDBF, enable the data to be re-loaded, the metadata keyed in and the "export" facility used to create the three GDF files. As the exported description file is often inadequate, the description of the survey should be edited in, most easily by taking an existing readme.txt file and inserting the characters "COMM " (note the space) into the leftmost columns
- Download the freeware version of Geosoft Oasis Montaj available at:  
<http://www.geosoft.com/pinfo/oasismontaj/free/montajviewer.asp> , key in the metadata and export the data to ASEG-GDF that way
- Alternately, if such a package is not handy, the data can be sent to someone who can do the job for a fee. Contractors can be found in the "Professional Directory" section of the ASEG Membership Directory