

A GROWING number of mining exploration companies are using professional drillhole software, like Geosoft's Target, to simplify and speed up the generation of sections for their drilling-intensive projects. Streamlining the chores of map creation and revision ensures that geologists are able to focus on formulating and fine-tuning their understanding of their targets, and the end-result is faster, more informed decision making.

While drillhole capabilities are often included in larger mining applications, as add-ons, generating sections or presentation-quality maps with modeling software can be complex and time-consuming for all but expert users of these programs.

Geosoft Target provides geologists with powerful, yet easy-to-use, tools for data processing and drillhole visualisation, and it can be effectively integrated with GIS and specialised modeling packages for further advantage. Using Target, geologists can update and view their data on a daily basis, so data is kept current.

Target provides the capability to visualise and edit a thousand or more drillholes at a time. Users can quickly generate and regenerate sections, incorporating up-to-date information, with a few mouse clicks. They can easily modify the way the data plots on those sections for one-off presentations, or they can create new sections for areas with new drilling based on previous section plotting parameters.

SIMPLIFYING SECTIONS AND PLANS

Platreef Resources, a South African-based exploration company working on the Platreef (Northern limb of the Bushveld Complex) selected Target for its efficiency in visualising drillhole sections.

Mark Le Grange, Project Geologist for Platreef Resources says, "The difference it's made has been fantastic. We no longer have to wait for our mine modeling geologists to give us sections. We can update them on a daily basis and are able to look at a section immediately at our desktop. It's made our lives as geologists that much easier."

TARGET AND ARCGIS

Until recently, visualisation tools for exploration data in the GIS environment

Geosoft Target expedites drilling-intensive projects

have been very limited. This is changing, as integration of exploration software with broad-based GIS systems takes greater priority. Target, as an extension to ArcView, is seen as providing a necessary solution.

Gold Fields International, a South Africa-based major global gold producer, uses ArcGIS as its GIS platform for exploration. They purchased Geosoft's Target for ArcGIS for its ability to provide integrated drillhole plotting and surface mapping capabilities in ArcGIS. "ArcGIS is an outstanding package", says Julian Misiewicz, Consulting Geologist for Africa and Europe with Gold Fields "and Target provides the facility to plot drillholes within ArcGIS".

Target for ArcGIS enables quick and easy drillhole plotting, as well as surface mapping, contouring, plotting and treatment of geochemical and geophysical data in ArcGIS. One doesn't have to be a specialist or geophysicist to process the data, and a geologist working with multiple data sets can do it easily using Target within ArcView.

TARGET AND ACQUIRE

Apollo Gold Mining, an emerging small gold producer based in Australia, selected Geosoft's Target for surface and drill-hole mapping and Metech's acquire for data management based on the software's ability to provide an integrated solution for exploration data.

Compatibility between drillhole and exploration data management software is an important consideration for project efficiency, well as longer term effectiveness in resource development. Target can easily

import and export data directly from acquire, enabling users to efficiently verify, work with and manage their drillhole project data.

Geosoft's Target is available as a stand-alone software package or as an extension to ESRI's ArcGIS. **For product and technical information, visit www.geosoft.com.**

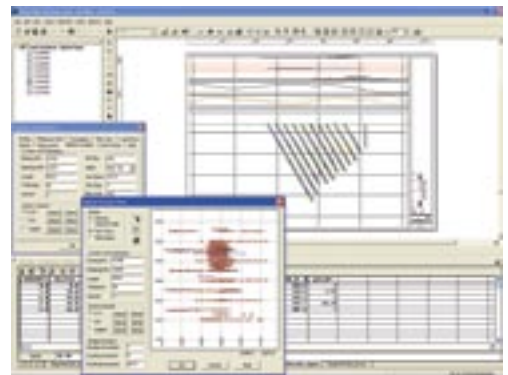


Image 1: Using Geosoft's Target, sections can be easily regenerated with new data as it becomes available, modified and/or new sections can be created from existing sections quickly and easily.

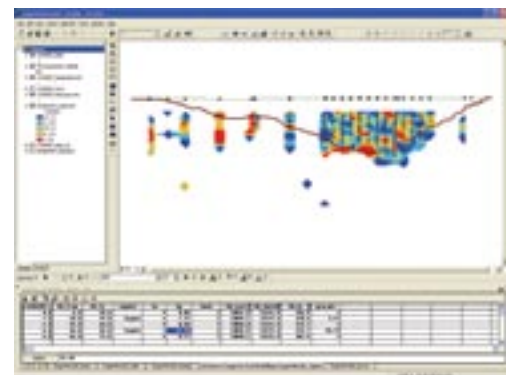


Image 2: Data that is extracted directly from acquire can be displayed with other calculated information from acquire, such as significant intercepts. This data can then be displayed and processed inside of ArcMap with Geosoft's Target for ArcGIS. The example above demonstrates how gram-metre calculations can be gridded for a particular long section through the drilling data and displayed with other pertinent information, such as current pit development, imported from Surpac string files.