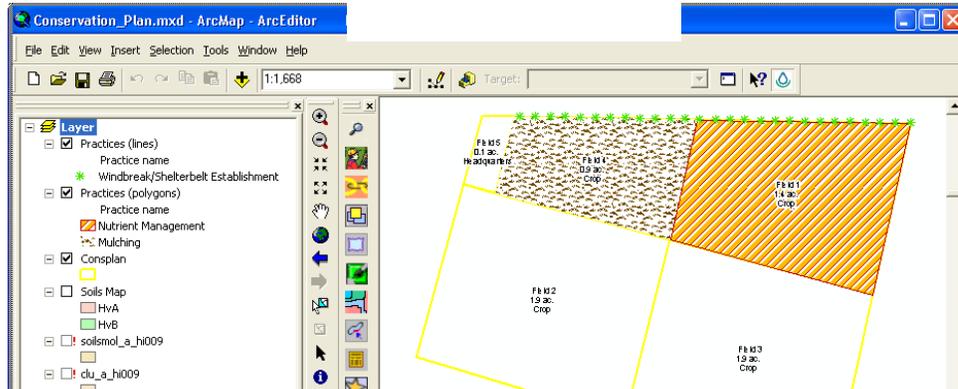


# Pacific Islands Area - Toolkit Issues & Resolutions

## 2. Red Exclamation Mark Resolution

### Issue:

Red exclamation mark preceding a layer in ArcMap, indicating there is a broken path to the layer.



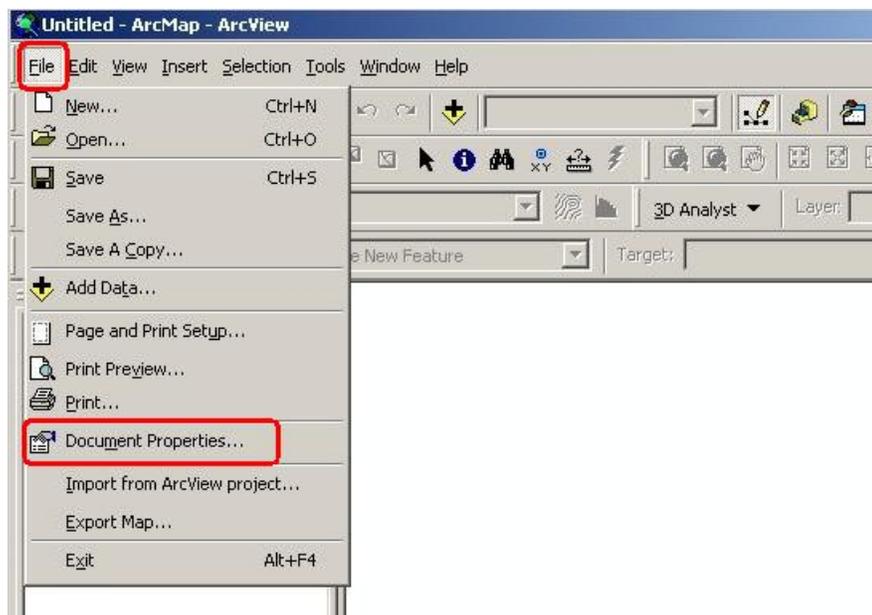
### Background:

The red exclamation mark shows up because the layer's source data is referencing the C:\documents and settings path of a previous user and is unable to "read" that the GIS file now resides under the C:\documents and settings path of the current user.

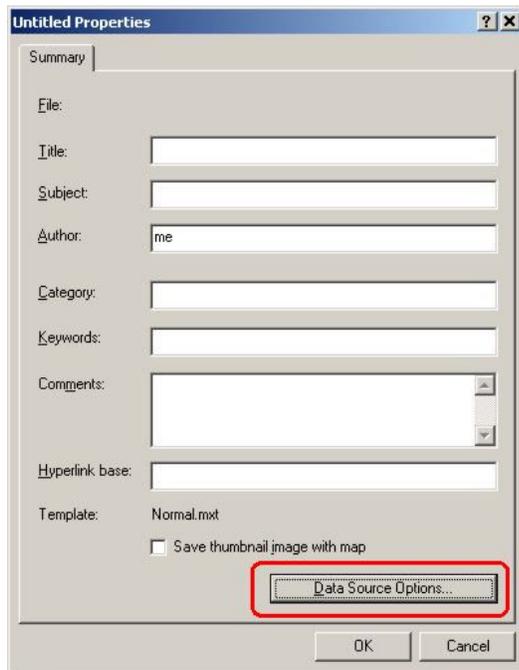
### RESOLUTION:

The ArcMap document template needs to be set to store "relative path names" instead of "absolute path names." The data links to the layers must then be repaired and saved. The following steps should help you do both:

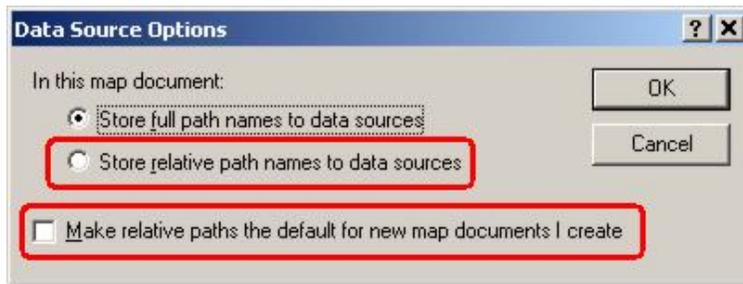
1. Open the ArcMap .mxd file.
2. Click the "File menu" and click "Document Properties".



3. In the Properties Dialog, click "Data Source Options":

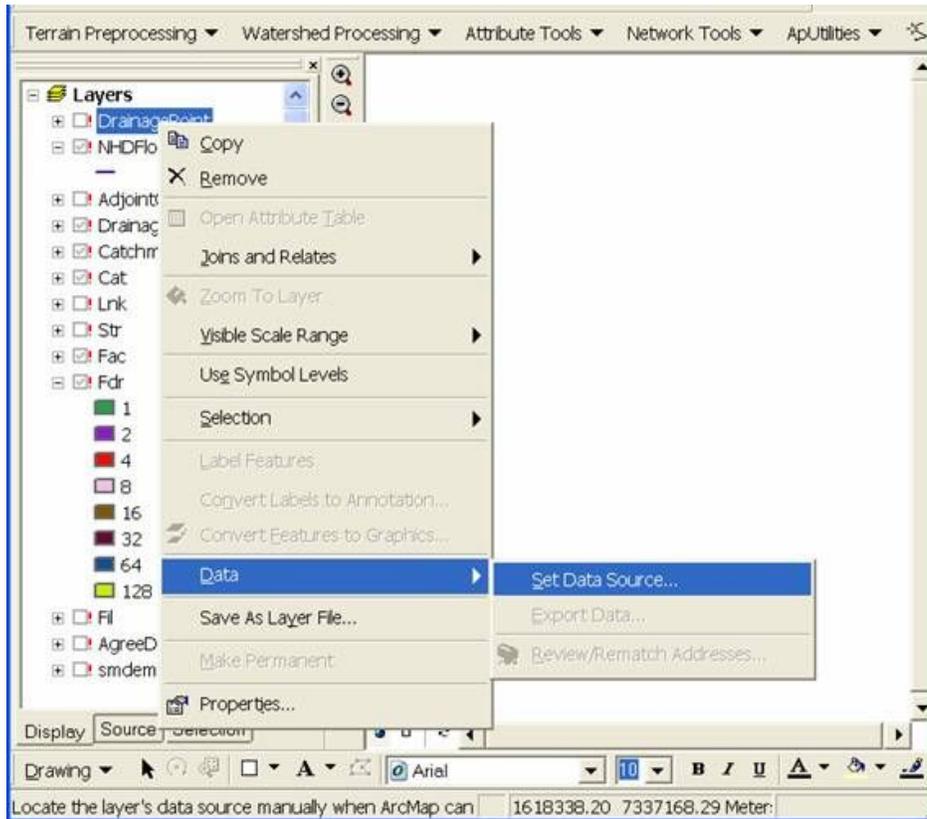


4. In the "Data Source Options" dialog,
- a. Select the **[Store relative path names to data sources]** radio button and
  - b. Check the **[Make relative paths the default...]** checkbox.



5. Save the map.

6. Right click on the layer(s) with the broken link and go to Data --> Set Data Source:



7. Then browse to the current location of the layer, highlight the layer and click Add.
8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 for all the layers with broken links.
9. Save the map and close ArcMap.

This should help alleviate the problem of having to reset the broken data links each time you/users access the customer folders.

Note: You may also want to set your customized templates to this option.