

# Supplementary Guidelines on Using the Data Alignment Workflow (DAWp) to Align Data to ParcelMap BC

**The purpose of these guidelines is to provide additional tips and tricks in using the Data Alignment Workflow Package (DAWp)**

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## Background

The content in this document was developed from questions initially raised by users during the Data Alignment Workflow Package (DAWp) Pre-Release Feedback Web Session on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The responses were provided by Sarah Sibbett (Senior Consultant – [Esri Canada](#)) and compiled into these guidelines for use by the broader ParcelMap BC adopter community. This document may be revised from time to time as new guidelines are added based on feedback from the community. For any questions or comments, please contact [ParcelMapBC@Itsa.ca](mailto:ParcelMapBC@Itsa.ca) or visit the [ParcelMap BC Adoption Resources and Tools](#) page.

### **Q1) Are there any special guidelines on how to use the Initial Alignment tools in the DAWp on selected blocks of data that require different tolerances prior to feeding the data into the A1 Pre-Processing Tool?**

1. In order to honour the selection set, make sure you are using feature layers as inputs to the tool (i.e., dragging and dropping the data from the Table of Contents)
2. Make sure your data is not stored in a group layer in the Table of Contents (I believe this limitation is noted in the user guide documentation as well)
3. You may want to utilize the 'Naming Convention' parameter to help you keep things organized. So, the default is 'DAW' - you may want to use something like 'DAW\_Block1'. That way, it will be easy to differentiate what datasets correspond to what block.

Alternatively, since you don't need to specify any tolerances until you get to the 'B1. GRL and Evaluation' initial alignment tool, you could run the A1 Pre-Processing tool on your whole dataset and then apply selection sets on the output feature classes that were created before you feed them into the GRL and Evaluation tool.

Both options are fine. It may be easier to stay organized using the first option discussed, but you may save some time using the latter option and only running the A1 pre-processing tool once.

## **Q2) Are there any guidelines to using the Initial Alignment tools in the DAWp when your dataset contains natural boundaries?**

Natural boundaries tend to require a lot more QA/QC work, which can really impact the length of time it takes to verify the links before you apply them (assuming you are using the Rubbersheet method of initial alignment).

Initially, it is key to understand whether the natural boundary representations you are considering to align actually depict the same information (ex. legal survey plan representation versus orthophoto digitization). Additionally, it may be worthwhile to consider aligning natural boundaries at a later time, if that is something that would suit your organization. For either example, you could select all links along your natural boundaries and then delete them before you apply the links to your data. At that point, the interior data would be aligned, and the natural boundaries could be worked on at a different date. The process of ongoing alignment would not be impacted - you can still apply ongoing alignment links to your natural boundaries, just bear in mind that since those areas are not starting from a place of alignment, they won't be aligned after applying the ongoing links.

When you have time to work on aligning your natural boundaries, you can generate new links along these areas using an appropriate tolerance - just make sure you are using the ParcelMap BC data the rest of your dataset is current with. For example - let's say you aligned all your interior data in April and then consumed ongoing alignment links in May and June. When you go to generate new initial alignment links along natural boundaries, you should utilize the ParcelMap BC parcels from the data package received in June. This way, all your data is aligned to the same iteration of ParcelMap BC.

## **Q3) How do you determine relative shift accuracy when features are aligned using the tools provided in the DAWp?**

When you apply alignment links to data that is offset from parcel boundaries, the data is shifted relatively so that the existing offset is maintained as much as possible. There is currently no tool in the DAW package that verifies the offset before and after alignment, unfortunately. Outside of the DAW package, doing some selective spot checks might be a good option to verify relative shift accuracy. For example, you could create a simple line feature class that connects the offset data to the parcel boundary and then label the shape length of the connecting line. After applying the alignment links to all your datasets as well as the connecting line feature class, the shape length label should read about the same length. During internal testing of the DAW package, the difference in the length of the connecting line feature class before and after alignment was only about 1cm - 3cm.

#### **Q4) Are features (i.e., points or end points of lines) that are snapped to parcel boundaries still snapped after alignment links are applied?**

For the most part, yes, features that are snapped to parcel boundaries are still snapped after alignment links are applied to all datasets. However, there is one scenario that will require some clean-up after the links are applied. In areas where parcels on one side of the road are held fixed with anchor points (or identity points) and parcels on the other side of the road are shifted, some features may drift off the parcels boundaries that are held fixed. A geodatabase topology would likely be an effective way to catch areas that require some clean-up. Alternatively, you could utilize a selection query to identify features that are no longer snapped properly (i.e., select all points that intersect parcel boundaries > switch selection).