

CONVERSION OF RANDOM DIGITAL FILES AND PRINTED DOCUMENTS INTO A STANDART DIGITAL FILE FORMATS WHICH IS SUITABLE FOR GIS

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Management and organization of spatial data values form main topics of GIS. In Turkey and elsewhere, some computer programs have been used to carry out computational and graphical side of the mapping work without any idea of their contribution to a GIS, and outputs of these programs have been kept in digital files. On the other hand, some activities of municipalities and the government offices have been carried out with the use of computer programs, and the outcomes are kept in digital files or printed forms. That means, some of the data for GIS already exist in some way or another. Therefore, instead of trying to produce all GIS data from the beginning, converting the existing digital files which may be at random format into a standard format or recognizing characters of printed text files in digital forms will be a big support to establish GIS. This paper presents software development and application case studies.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is not possible to mention about the existence of an information system which has no data at all. According to some researches, proportion of cost of the data gathering work to the total cost of an GIS is about 60% - 80%. On the other hand, it is also a fact that an effective GIS needs to be upgraded and renovated continuously. The results of some investigations indicate that proportion of a GIS's hardware cost to software cost and to data production cost is 1:10:100 respectively [Comert, 1996]. To make a GIS more economical and productive, if not necessary, GIS data, therefore, should not be obtained from the beginning stage, or should not be obtained from newly started projects. Instead, GIS data should be gathered from existing data resources as much as possible.

In this case, existing data formats may conflict with GIS's data formats. But this can be overcome by converting the formats of existing data in to a standard format which is suitable for GIS.

In Turkey, nationally well known CADD style computer programs such as EGHAS, KARTOCAD, NETCAD, etc. have been used to carry out automated mapping and zone application projects for the last ten years, an data belong to these projects has been archived either on computer storage facilities or in printed files. Therefore it may be considered that most of the data needed for establishment of a GIS exists in some way or another. This situation increases importance of converting the existing data formats to GIS data formats.

In this paper, software developments in which a number of data transformation processes carried out are introduced.

2. TRANSFORMATION OF GRAPHICAL DATA

Effective usage and sharing of data appears to be an unavoidable fact in any situation where GIS applications are mentioned. In spatial data management, conventional form of data sharing is the data exchanging, or transferring data from different sources. In any data exchange process, there are two sides. The one which provides the data is named as "server", the other one which requires the data is named as "applicant".

In general, data transferring process is known as transformation of data from one format to another. Transferring process is being carried out with the use of two methods known as "direct data transferring" and "indirect data transferring" methods. In the first one, transferring is applied between two different data formats. Here, as transferring is carried out from one format to another directly, quality of data transferring is very high. Data transferring softwares developed for this purpose are named as "spatial data converters" [Comert, 1999].

In the second one, transferring between two data formats is being carried out through a interval format. Here, first of all, format to the server data is being converted to an interval format, and then the applicant transforms it into its own format [Comert, 1999].

3. TRANSFORMATION OF NON-GRAFPHICAL DATA INTO A STANDARD FORMAT

Most important peculiarity of GIS which distinguishes itself from other information systems is processing and management of attached graphical and non-graphical data. In the very first place, information of properties and then quantitative values of geographical features can be given as examples to the spatial non-graphical data. Non-graphical data examples can be seen as hand-writing or printed documents inside the land registry records, etc. or can be seen as either printed materials or computer text files of Word, Excel, Access programmes, etc.

Nowadays, it is possible to save or process hand-writing or printed files and documents as data files in a computer system through use of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) methods. For this, these printed files or documents are needed to be transferred into a computer system. For this purpose, raster images of these materials should be obtained with the help of a scanner. These raster images are then separated and converted into a text files with the use of OCR programs. Serious problems may occur during the separation process. Some conflicts can be faced while separating characters of the text whether or not they are letters or words. There are some methods which are used to ease or overcome this kind of problems. [Oztürk, 1998]

4. SOFTWARE INTRODUCTIONS

As stated above, to be able to make a GIS more economical and productive, it is necessary to benefit from the existing data at the very beginning stage of GIS establishment. For this purpose, some computer programs should be developed to make the existing data usable for GIS databases. In following texts, two computer programs dealing with graphic and non-graphic data transfers are introduced.

4.1 Programme CFT For Coordinate and Parcel Data Format Transformation

A computer program-CFT which carries out coordinate and parcel data transformation was developed in Visual Basic programming language. This programme accepts the coordinate and parcel data files and their formats as server format, and then transforms them to data files or formats of ACCESS programme.

4.2 Standard Format Formation Programme – SFF

There are two circumstances to mention about presence of non-graphical data. These data can be in the form of printed pages, hand or type-writer writings, or can be in the form of text files of EGHAS or NETCAD programmes.

At the first possible situation, there is a need for transferring of printed documents to a standard format. For this, raster images of these data should be obtained via a scanner scanning. Later on, with the use of OCR methods, the raster image firstly converted to a text file, and then some editing work is done to rearrange the text.

A computer programme-SFF which ables printed document or digital data usable for GIS was developed in Visual Basic programming language.

4.3 Application Of CFT

Flow chart of the execution of main steps of this programme is given in Figure 1. For the test of the CFT EGHAS's coordinate and parcel data files with ".ALN" extension and NETCAD's coordinate and parcel files with ".TXT" extension are used. Figures 2 and 3 shows formats of these data files. CFT programme reads these files and converts them to Access database which show propriety to GIS databases. Figure 4 shows format of Access database.

4.4 Application of SFF

Flowchart of execution of main steps of this programme is given in Figure 5. For the testing SFF, a text file produced by EGHAS programme (Fig. 9) and a document given in Figure 7 were chosen as the text file and printed document. Both the printed page and the text file consist of land registry information about parcels which were produced from a district zone application project in town Gebze.

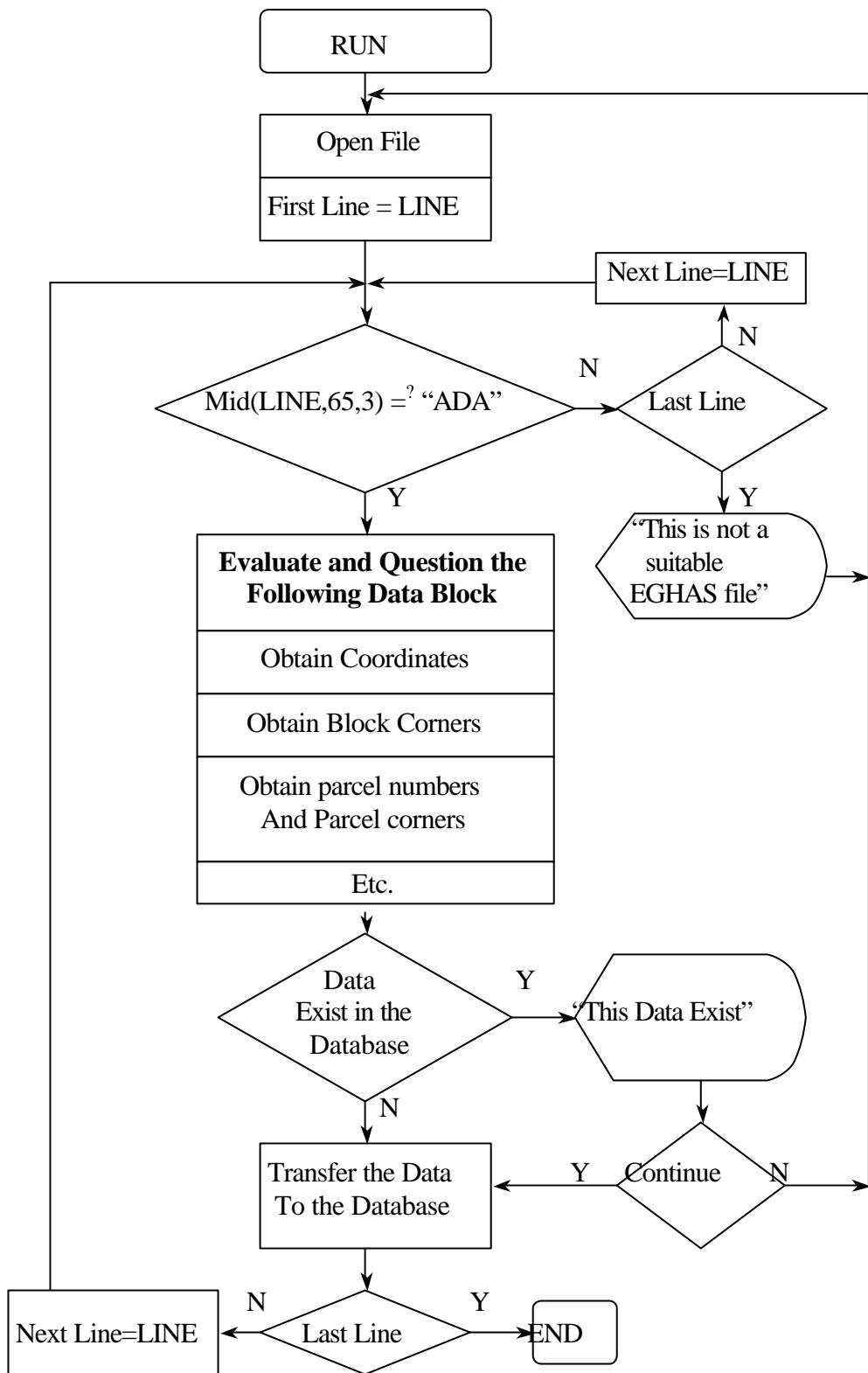


Figure 1: Flow Chart of the program CFT for EGHAS data

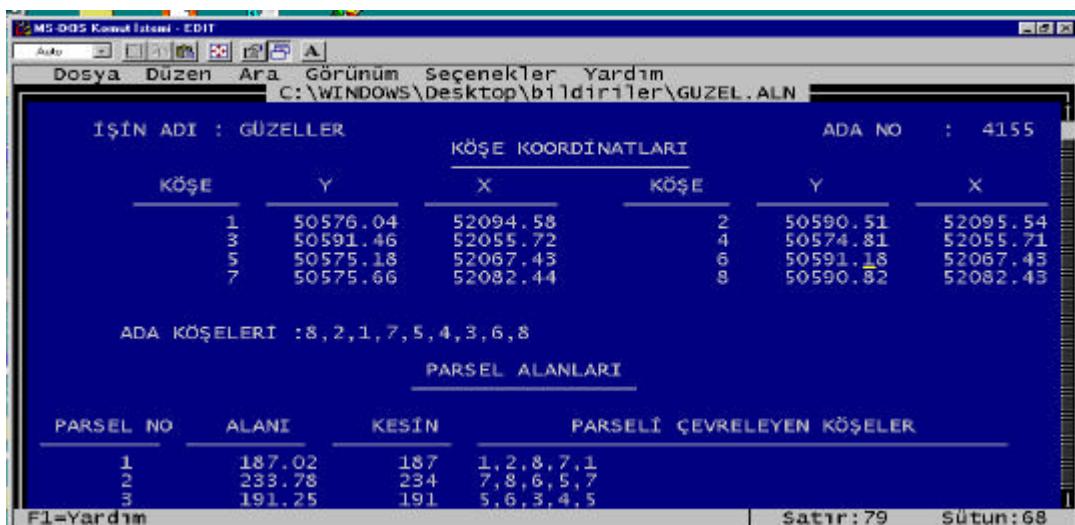


Figure 2: Sample of server data (EGHAS's coordinate and parcel data)

Ada/Parsel	Alan	Nokta No	Y	X	Cephe
6339	2328.952	X1170 X1141 X1185 X1212 X1175	17499.829 17522.468 17489.407 17466.260 17495.894	-18184.046 -18247.103 -18254.640 -18192.197 -18181.494	67. 33. 66. 31. 4.
6339/1	308.823	X1186 X1195 X1212 X1202	17489.021 17481.560 17466.260 17472.754	-18202.771 -18186.671 -18192.197 -18209.716	17. 16. 18. 17.
6339/2	295.749	X1186 X1166 X1170 X1175 X1195	17489.021 17504.352 17499.829 17495.894 17481.560	-18202.771 -18196.643 -18184.046 -18181.494 -18186.671	16. 13. 4. 15. 17.

Figure 3: Sample of server data (NETCAD's coordinate and parcel data)

Figure 4: Sample of applicant data in Access database

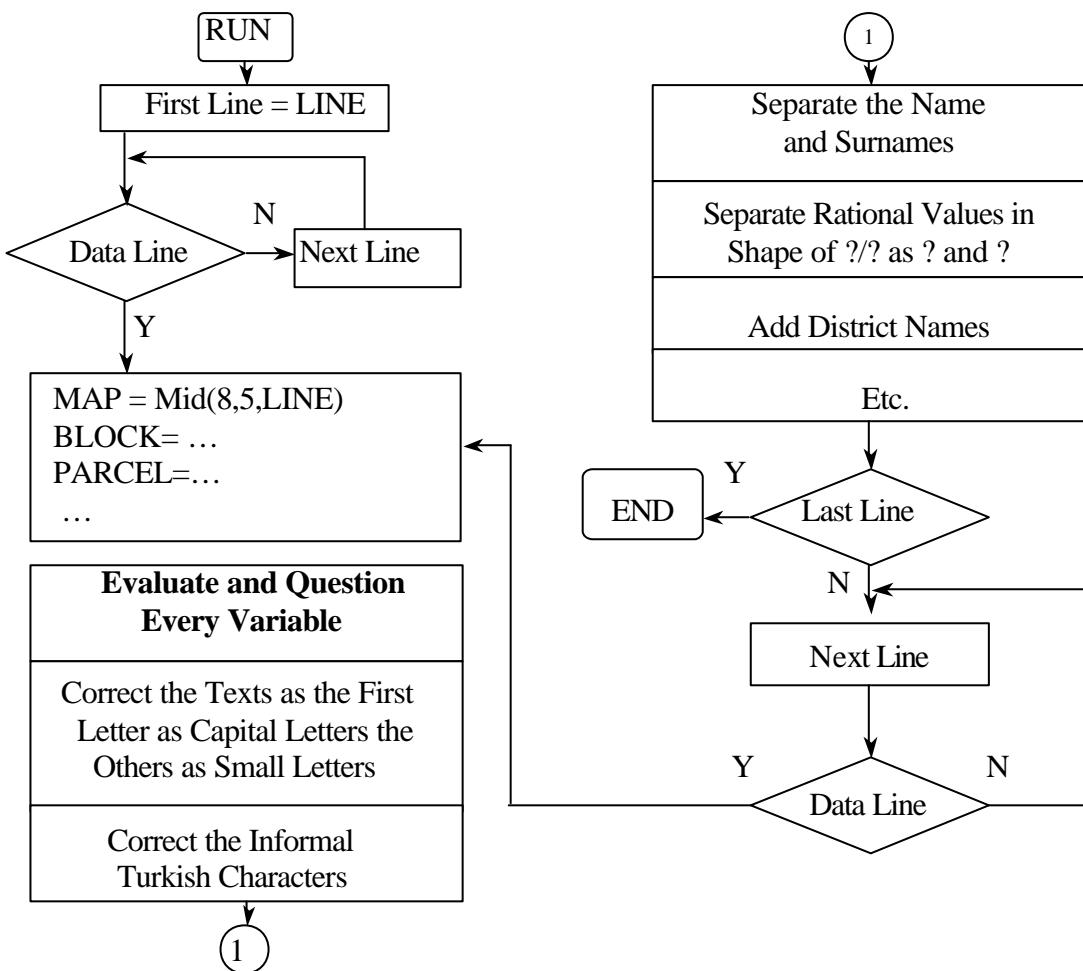


Figure 5: Flow chart of the program SFF for EGHAS text files

sira	ypafta	yada	yparsel	yhisipay	yhisipayda	hisyuzolculu	yalan	adi	soyadi	babaadi
14348		4851	14	149	186	149	186	Adem	Tekir	Ismail
14349		4851	4	1	1	212	212	Ahmet	Karakaya	Hüseyin
14350		4940	1	75	3596	75	3596	Ahmet	Karakaya	Hüseyin
14351		4852	3	211	236	211	236	Ali	Durdu	Rasim
14352		4853	13	225	254	225	254	Ali	Sahin	Ibrahim
14353		4853	14	223	304	223	304	Ali	Yigit	Salih
14354		4851	6	163	436	163	436	Avni	Gursoy	Muslum
14355		4851	6	149	436	149	436	Avni	Gursoy	Muslum
14356		4853	12	218	219	218	219	Bekir	Ilkun	Mehmet
14357		4851	13	1	1	182	182	Cemal	Malkoc	Hüseyin
14358		4988	1	54	1239	54	1239	Cemal	Malkoc	Hüseyin
14359		4851	2	143	213	143	213	Emine	Kilic	Temel
14360		4851	8	1	1	326	326	Gazi	Sahin	Bayram
14361		4851	9	130	169	130	169	Gazi	Sahin	Bayram
14362		4851	11	109	181	109	181	Hamdi	Demir	Ali
14363		4851	7	228	387	228	387	Hasan	Tekir	Ismail
14364		4852	1	1	1	328	328	Huseyin	Kasik	Ali
14365		4862	10	63	158	63	158	Huseyin	Kasik	Ali
14366		4853	16	53	314	53	314	Ismail	Yilmaz	Hasan
14367		4853	15	284	537	284	537	Ismail	Yilmaz	Hasan
14368		4853	15	???	537	???	537	Mehmet	Toncu	Rilal

Figure 6: Sample of standard format in Access database

ŞÜYULANDIRMA CETVELİ																					
DÜZENLEMEDEN ÖNCESİ DURUM										DÜZENLEMEDEN SONRAKİ DURUM											
ÇLÜ	SAYFA	CİNSİ	PARTA	ABA	FARKEL	ALAN m²	HİRE FAY	HİRE FAYNAKİ	TAKU MÜKAMASI	D.O.P	TARİH	ABA	SOYAD	BABA AŞİ	PARTA	ABA	FARKEL	ALAN m²	HİRE FAY	HİRE FAYNAKİ	DOĞRUCELER
36	3541	Arsa	18c1c	3908	1	314	TAM	314.00	0.00	314.00	Ahmet	Nas	Arif oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	314.9379	314.9379		
36	3542	Arsa	18c1c	3908	2	241	TAM	241.00	0.00	241.00	Danışan	Ayyıldız	Ahmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	241.9379	241.9379		
36	3543	Arsa	18c1c	3908	3	239	TAM	239.00	0.00	239.00	Danışan	Ayyıldız	Ahmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	239.9379	239.9379		
36	3544	Arsa	18c1c	3908	4	239	TAM	239.00	0.00	239.00	Danışan	Ayyıldız	Ahmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	239.9379	239.9379		
36	3545	Arsa	18c1c	3908	5	278	TAM	278.00	0.00	278.00	Kemal	Erdoğań	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	278.9379	278.9379		
36	3546	Arsa	18c1c	3908	6	259	118.259	118.00	0.00	118.00	Ali Haydar	Diyaroğlu	Hüseyin oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	118.9379	118.9379		
36	3548	Arsa	18c1c	3908	6	259	118.259	118.00	0.00	118.00	Kemal	Erdoğań	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	118.9379	118.9379		
36	3548	Arsa	18c1c	3908	6	259	22.259	23.00	0.00	23.00	Gebe Belediyesi			G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	23.9379	23.9379		
36	3547	Arsa	18c1c	3908	7	262	TAM	262.00	0.00	262.00	Hanım	Usta	Mustafa kızı	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	262.9379	262.9379		
36	3548	Arsa	18c1c	3908	8	264	TAM	264.00	0.00	264.00	Wahmet	Usta	Mustafa oğlu	G22B18c1c	102	2	171.00	TAM	TAM		
36	3549	Arsa	18c1c	3908	8	264	TAM	264.00	0.00	264.00	Wahmet	Usta	Mustafa oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	93.9379	93.9379		
36	3549	Arsa	18c1c	3908	9	267	157.267	157.00	0.00	157.00	Abdurrahman	Gündüz	G22B18c1c	102	1	188.00	157.188	157.188			
36	3548	Arsa	18c1c	3908	9	267	118.267	118.00	0.00	118.00	Bebe Belediyesi			G22B18c1c	102	1	188.00	118.188	118.188		
36	3549	Arsa	18c1c	3908	9	267	118.267	118.00	0.00	118.00	Gebe Belediyesi			G22B18c1c	101	2	232.00	12.232	12.232		
36	3549	Arsa	18c1c	3908	9	267	118.267	118.00	0.00	118.00	Gebe Belediyesi			G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	97.9379	97.9379		
36	3550	Arsa	18c1c	3908	10	269	TAM	269.00	0.00	269.00	Kemal	Erdoğań	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	102	3	289.00	TAM	TAM		
36	3551	Arsa	18c1c	3908	11	339	TAM	339.00	0.00	339.00	Kemal	Erdoğań	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	102	4	339.00	TAM	TAM		
36	3552	Arsa	18c1c	3909	1	346	TAM	346.00	0.00	346.00	Kemal	Erdoğań	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	346.9379	346.9379		
36	3553	Arsa	18c1c	3909	2	365	TAM	365.00	0.00	365.00	Kemal	Erdoşań	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	365.9379	365.9379		
36	3554	Arsa	18c1c	3909	3	313	242.313	243.00	0.00	243.00	Recep	Türk	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	243.9379	243.9379			
36	3554	Arsa	18c1c	3909	3	313	70.313	70.00	0.00	70.00	Sami	Yılmaz	Sabri oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	70.9379	70.9379		
36	3555	Arsa	18c1c	3909	4	272	TAM	272.00	0.00	272.00	Nurhan	Cömert		G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	272.9379	272.9379		
36	3556	Arsa	18c1c	3909	5	259	TAM	259.00	0.00	259.00	Kemal	Erdoşań	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	259.9379	259.9379		
36	3557	Arsa	18c1c	3909	6	253	TAM	253.00	0.00	253.00	Kemal	Erdoşań	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	253.9379	253.9379		
36	3558	Arsa	18c1c	3909	7	246	22.246	22.00	0.00	22.00	Sami	Yılmaz	Sabri oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5379.00	22.9379	22.9379		

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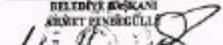


Figure 7: Sample of scanned image data

36	3541	Arsa	18c1c	3908	1	314	TAM	314.00	0.00	314.00	Ahmet	Nas	Arif oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3542	Arsa	18c1c	3908	2	241	TAM	241.00	0.00	241.00	Osman	Ayyıldız	Ahmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3543	Arsa	18c1c	3908	3	239	TAM	239.00	0.00	239.00	Osman	Ayyıldız	Ahmetoglu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3544	Arsa	18c1c	3908	4	239	TAM	239.00	0.00	239.00	Osman	Ayyıldız	Ahmetoglu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3545	Arsa	18c1c	3908	5	278	TAM	278.00	0.00	278.00	Kemal	Erdogan	Mehmetoglu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3546	Arsa	18c1c	3908	6	259	118.25918.00	118.00	0.00	118.00	Ali Haydar	Diyaroğlu	Hüseyin oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3546	Arsa	18c1c	3908	6	259	118.25918.00	118.00	0.00	118.00	Kemal	Erdogan	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3546	Arsa	18c1c	3908	6	259	23.259	23.00	0.00	23.00	Gebe Belediyesi	Usta	Mustafa kızı	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3547	Arsa	18c1c	3908	7	262	TAM	262.00	0.00	262.00	Hanım	Usta	Mustafa oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3548	Arsa	18c1c	3908	8	264	TAM	264.00	0.00	264.00	Mehmet	Usta	Mustafa oğlu	G22B18c1c	102	2	171.00	TAM	TAM	
36	3548	Arsa	18c1c	3908	8	264	TAM	264.00	0.00	264.00	Mehmet	Usta	Mustafa oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3549	Arsa	18c1c	3908	9	267	157.267157.00	157.00	0.00	157.00	Abdurrahman	Gündüz	Gündüz	G22B18c1c	102	1	168.00			
36	3549	Arsa	18c1c	3908	9	267	110.267110.00	110.00	0.00	110.00	Gebe Belediyesi	Türk	G22B18c1c	102	1	168.00				
36	3549	Arsa	18c1c	3908	9	267	110.267110.00	110.00	0.00	110.00	Gebe Belediyesi	Erdogan	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3549	Arsa	18c1c	3908	9	267	110.267110.00	110.00	0.00	110.00	Gebe Belediyesi	Erdogan	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3550	Arsa	18c1c	3908	10	269	TAM	269.00	0.00	269.00	Kemal	Erdogan	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	102	3	269.00			
36	3551	Arsa	18c1c	3908	11	339	TAM	339.00	0.00	339.00	Kemal	Erdogan	Mehmetoglu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3552	Arsa	18c1c	3909	1	346	TAM	346.00	0.00	346.00	Kemal	Erdogan	Mehmetoglu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3553	Arsa	18c1c	3909	2	365	TAM	365.00	0.00	365.00	Kemal	Erdogan	Mehmetoglu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3554	Arsa	18c1c	3909	3	313	243.313243.00	0.00	0.00	243.00	Recep	Yılmaz	Sabri oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3554	Arsa	18c1c	3909	3	313	70.313	70.00	0.00	70.00	Sami	Yılmaz	Sabri oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3555	Arsa	18c1c	3909	4	272	TAM	272.00	0.00	272.00	Nurhan	Cömert		G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3556	Arsa	18c1c	3909	5	259	TAM	259.00	0.00	259.00	Kemal	Erdogan	Mehmetoglu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3557	Arsa	18c1c	3909	6	253	TAM	253.00	0.00	253.00	Kemal	Erdogan	Mehmet oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			
36	3558	Arsa	18c1c	3909	7	246	22.246	22.00	0.00	22.00	Sami	Yılmaz	Sabri oğlu	G22B18c1c	103	1	5376.00			

Figure 8: Structure of edited text file of OCR processing

Figure 9: A EGHAS text file consists of land registry information.

As mentioned earlier, there is a need for converting characters of printed pages to a text file. Therefore, application of OCR methods should be applied at first. Due to this necessity, a raster image of this page was obtained by scanning it, and then a text file of the page was obtained using a OCR programme- “Recognita Plus”. Figure 8 shows structure of a text file output of OCR processing.

The programme SFF can be applied to these two text files separately, and converts the data into standard format in Access’s database as seen in Figure 6.

Followings are some of the editing work carried out by SFF.

- a) Letter editing: Here first characters and the others corrected as capital and small letters respectively.
- b) Word separation: Data in the form of “Name Surname” is separated as “Name” and “Surname”
- c) Correction of informal Turkish characters.
- d) Addition of external data: Data such as district names are added to appropriate data lines, etc.

5. CONSLUSION

With development of CFT, SFF or similar programmes, it was shown that graphical and non-graphical data obtained from text files of CADD applications, and obtained from printed documents, can be transformed to standard data formats which are suitable for GIS.

It is also shown that there is no need for reproduction of existing data to be used in GIS. Thus, data which is the most important factor for defining the production cost of GIS can be drawn back to law levels.

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