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GEOGRAPHICS

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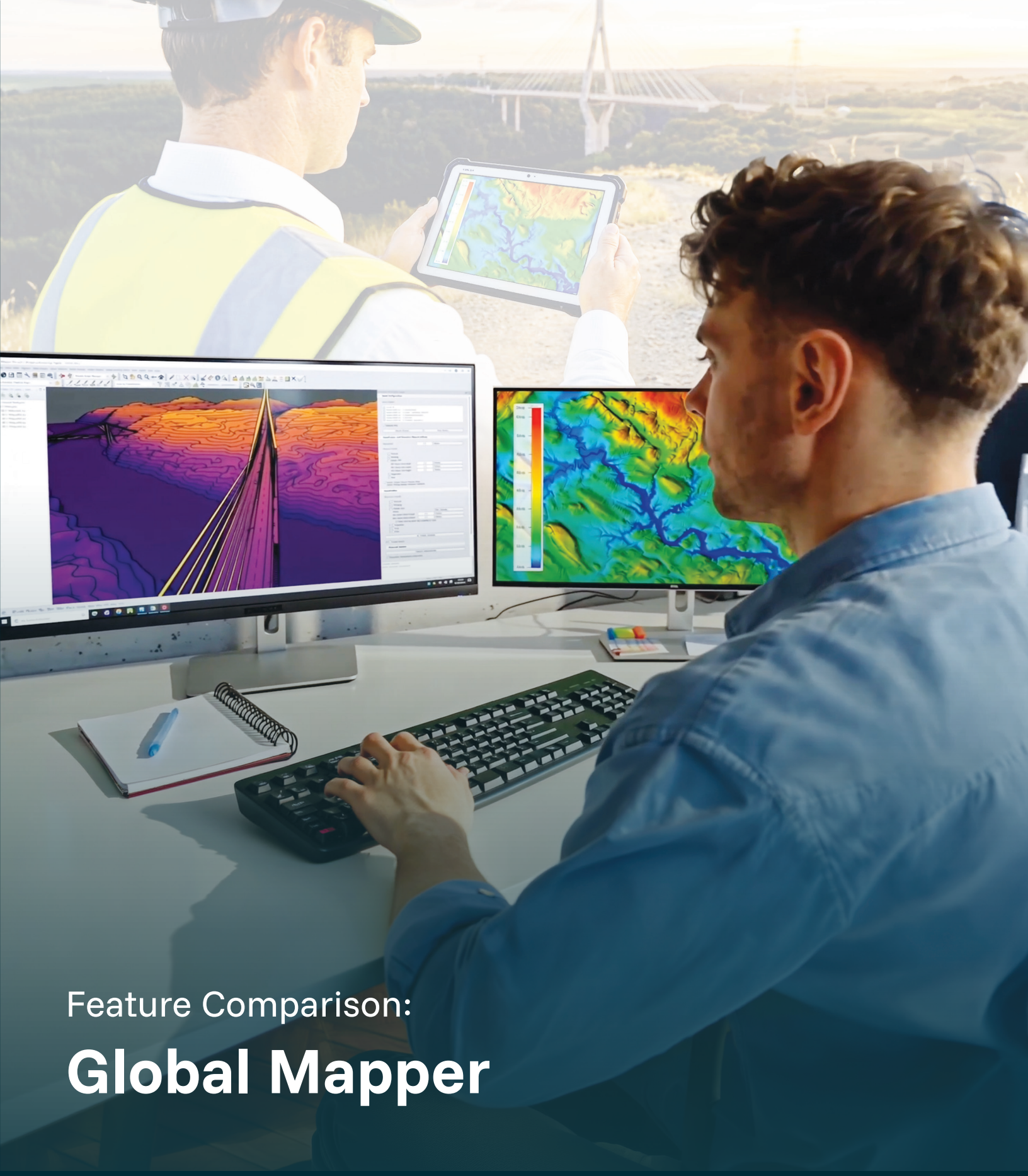

Feature Comparison:

Global Mapper

BLUE MARBLE GEOGRAPHICS

LICENSING GUIDE

Global Mapper: Subscription vs. Perpetual License

Feature Comparison by Tier

This document shows the capabilities of Blue Marble's new Global Mapper subscription offering (Essentials, Advanced, and Professional tiers) alongside the legacy perpetual license model (Standard and Pro licenses). On subscription, each user gets the capabilities that match their role and workflow.

Tier Mapping: Legacy » Subscription

Use this table to identify which subscription tier fits your existing Global Mapper workflow.

Legacy Perpetual License	Typical Workflow Profile	Recommended Subscription Tier	Notes
Standard	Basic viewing, format conversion & online data only	**Essentials**	No GIS capability loss
Standard	Includes terrain analysis (contours, viewshed, watershed)	**Advanced**	Terrain analysis is an Advanced-tier capability in the subscription model
Pro	Lidar, point cloud and photogrammetry workflows	**Professional**	Full feature continuity. Subscription also adds new capabilities not in the perpetual model.
Pro	Terrain, vector, scripting and GPS workflows without lidar or photogrammetry	**Advanced**	Pro users do not automatically require Professional

Feature Comparison

✓ Included — Not included

★ New in the subscription model. Not available in any legacy perpetual license.

Feature	LEGACY PERPETUAL		SUBSCRIPTION		
	Standard	Pro	Essentials	Advanced	Professional
SUBSCRIPTION PLATFORM: NEW WITH SUBSCRIPTION, NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PERPETUAL MODEL					
Blue Marble Hub — centralized license administration	—	—	✓	✓	✓
Single sign-on (Apple, Google, Microsoft SSO)	—	—	✓	✓	✓
Self-serve offline & air-gapped access tokens	—	—	✓	✓	✓
4 releases per year (2× more than perpetual update cadence)	—	—	✓	✓	✓
CORE & VISUALIZATION					
Basic geospatial format import/export	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Immersive 2D & 3D visualization	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basic vector drawing & feature creation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Batch file conversion & reprojection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Online streaming imagery, basemaps & terrain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3D data creation, fly-through recording & layer animation	—		—	✓	✓
FILE FORMAT SUPPORT					
Comprehensive format support (300+ formats)	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Lidar/point cloud formats (LAS, LAZ, etc.)	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Spatial database support (GeoPackage, PostGIS, etc.)	—	✓	—	✓	✓
Niche lidar formats — E57, Leica PTS, BPF, LAS NIR/1.5	—	✓	—	—	✓
S-63 encrypted chart support	—	✓	—	✓	✓
ESRI MapServer & ImageServer direct streaming ★	—	—	—	✓	✓
GeoPackage visual fidelity: symbology, labels and styles preserved on exchange ★	—	—	—	✓	✓

Feature	LEGACY PERPETUAL		SUBSCRIPTION		
	Standard	Pro	Essentials	Advanced	Professional
VECTOR TOOLS					
Advanced vector feature creation, editing & analysis	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Spatial operations (buffer, overlay, clip, dissolve)	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Thematic & choropleth mapping	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Attribute editing, joining, calculation & querying	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Find/fix topology issues (gaps, overlaps, duplicates)	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Graph and Chart Manager	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Address geocoding	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Variography and Kriging	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
TERRAIN ANALYSIS & CREATION					
Terrain analysis: contour generation, viewshed, watershed, and flood simulation	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Advanced terrain shading: slope, aspect, hillshading	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Basic terrain and grid creation: TIN elevation grid	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Volume calculation, pile volumes, cut & fill analysis	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Least Cost Path analysis	—	✓	—	✓	✓
Elevation grid QC against 3D control points	—	✓	—	✓	✓
Breakline calculation: Generate Breaklines and Guided Breakline Extraction	—	✓	—	—	✓
Terrain painting (manual DTM editing)	—	✓	—	—	✓
Optimized transmitter placement/viewshed	—	✓	—	—	✓
Optimized pad site	—	✓	—	—	✓
Advanced grid methods: binning method terrain creation, roughness and relative elevation	—	✓	—	—	✓
Combine/Compare terrain layers	—	✓	—	—	✓

Feature	LEGACY PERPETUAL		SUBSCRIPTION		
	Standard	Pro	Essentials	Advanced	Professional
IMAGERY & RASTER ANALYSIS					
Image blending, feathering, cropping & pan sharpening	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Image rectification	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Create multi-band image layer	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Image/Raster Paint (editing, healing, pixel value reassignment)	—	✓	—	—	✓
Raster calculation: NDVI, NDWI, NBR & custom formulas	✓	✓	—	—	✓
Image & raster reclassification	—	✓	—	—	✓
Automated vectorization of imagery & terrain (Vectorize Raster)	—	✓	—	—	✓
Solar Power/Shadow Map analysis	—	✓	—	—	✓
MAP DESIGN & OUTPUT					
Map design & pre-print layout editor	—	✓	—	✓	✓
MAPublisher: professional cartographic finishing in Adobe Illustrator ★	—	—	—	✓	✓
GEODETIC TOOLS					
Basic geodetic reprojection & transformation (built-in all versions)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Built-in advanced geodetic analysis and Geographic Calculator standalone application ★	—	—	—	✓	✓
SCRIPTING & AUTOMATION					
Global Mapper Scripting (GMS)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Python workflow scripting	—	✓	—	✓	✓
Script Builder (record UI actions as script)	—	✓	—	✓	✓
Built-in Script Editor with syntax coloring	—	✓	—	✓	✓
Streamlined mobile data merging	—	✓	—	✓	✓

Feature	LEGACY PERPETUAL		SUBSCRIPTION		
	Standard	Pro	Essentials	Advanced	Professional
GPS & FIELD DATA					
External GPS & RTK support	—	✓	—	✓	✓
GPS tracking & waypoints	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
POINT CLOUD — VISUAL ANALYSIS					
Display & filter controls for lidar point cloud data (density, height, intensity, classification)	—	✓	—	✓	✓
ADVANCED LIDAR PROCESSING					
Lidar/Point Cloud QC: comparison against 3D control points	—	✓	—	—	✓
Lidar strip alignment (3D adjustment of points)	—	✓	—	—	✓
Create Swath Separation Image	—	✓	—	—	✓
Voronoi density: localized point cloud density measurement	—	✓	—	—	✓
Manual point cloud classification toolset	—	✓	—	—	✓
Point cloud profiling: view and edit lidar in path profile	—	✓	—	—	✓
Change detection: Compare Point Clouds	—	✓	—	—	✓
Auto-alignment: Fit Point Clouds	—	✓	—	—	✓
Advanced querying, selection and filtering of lidar	—	✓	—	—	✓
Automatic classification: ground, buildings, vegetation, power lines, and poles	—	✓	—	—	✓
Vector feature extraction from classified point clouds	—	✓	—	—	✓
Colorize lidar from loaded imagery (no export required)	—	✓	—	—	✓
Automated tree trunk classification ★	—	—	—	—	✓
Live Preview Window in Automatic Point Cloud Analysis ★	—	—	—	—	✓

Feature	LEGACY PERPETUAL		SUBSCRIPTION		
	Standard	Pro	Essentials	Advanced	Professional
PHOTOGRAMMETRY					
Pixels to Points®: 3D point clouds, orthoimagery and textured 3D models from drone and UAV imagery	—	✓	—	—	✓
Multi-spectral imagery support in Pixels to Points ★	—	—	—	—	✓
AI / ML IMAGE ANALYSIS					
Land Cover Classification: deep learning models including specialized desert and chaparral models	—	✓	—	—	✓
Object Detection: buildings and vehicles from high-resolution imagery	—	✓	—	—	✓
Custom model training: fine-tune Land Cover and Object Detection models on your own data	—	✓	—	—	✓
3D MESH & MODELING					
Create 3D model from selected lidar	—	✓	—	—	✓
Create volumetric 3D mesh buffer features from vector	—	✓	—	—	✓
Mesh editing: simplify, partition, reverse faces and normals, convert handedness	—	✓	—	—	✓
Mesh conversion to and from vector, point cloud and imagery	—	✓	—	—	✓

Notes

★ Subscription-only capabilities not available in any perpetual license: (1) Subscription platform: Blue Marble Hub, single sign-on (SSO), self-serve offline license tokens, and four software releases per year. (2) New GIS capabilities: ESRI MapServer/ImageServer streaming and improved GeoPackage visual fidelity (Advanced and above); automated tree trunk classification, Live Preview in Automatic Point Cloud Analysis, and multi-spectral imagery support for Pixels to Points (Professional). (3) Bundled products: MAPublisher (included in Advanced), and full Geographic Calculator (included in Advanced) were previously sold as standalone products.