

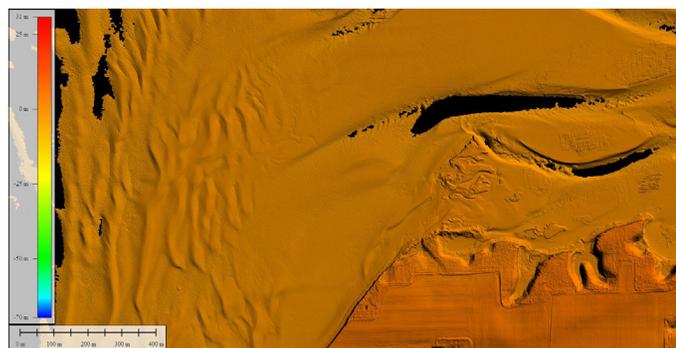
# GIS Tips & Tricks

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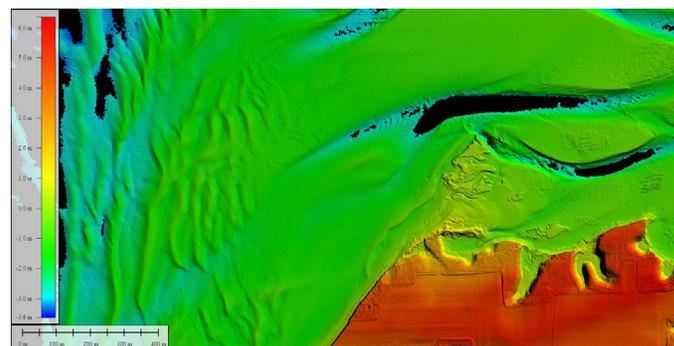
## Never use the Defaults

How many times has one of these scenarios played out for you? You just got a new computer and you have to reinstall all the software that you have been using for the past three years, or you finally get that upgrade to a piece of software that you have using “forever” that upon installation, wipes out all your favorite settings. In either of these scenarios, the software may be set to the “manufacturer defaults”, and if you are like Emily and me, it’s a real stretch of your memory to remember where to customize your GIS experience. A similar scenario just played out here at Dewberry when Emily logged-in to a new (to her) Virtual Machine. Emily fired up a session of Global Mapper, and all of the familiar settings that she has been using and tweaking over the past several years were suddenly gone and the software defaults in place.

While GlobalMapper is an excellent GIS system for viewing 3D data, like topobathymetric lidar, the default for displaying the raster color ramp defaults to show the elevation range for the full extent of the loaded dataset. While that is great when you are viewing the entire dataset, if you zoom in to a smaller extent, the default color ramp shrinks to the range of values in that extent, as in this bathymetric DEM, below, where the elevation range is small and displayed in a narrow color range of orange(s).



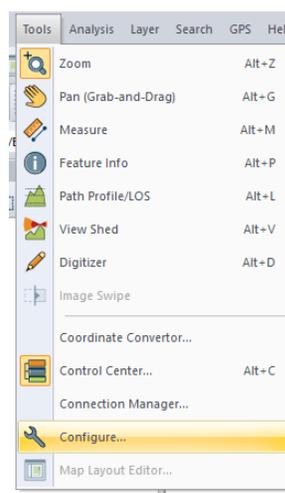
Here is the same extent symbolized by the color ramp of the entire dataset. Obviously, when the entire color ramp is used to render the smaller extent, additional bathymetric detail is easily seen. Changing the way GlobalMapper displays the elevations to the range in the view really enhances the way the data are perceived.



To customize the default display range, simply click on ‘Configure’ (the wrench icon located in tool bar.)



Alternatively, you could click on ‘Tools’ and then ‘Configure’

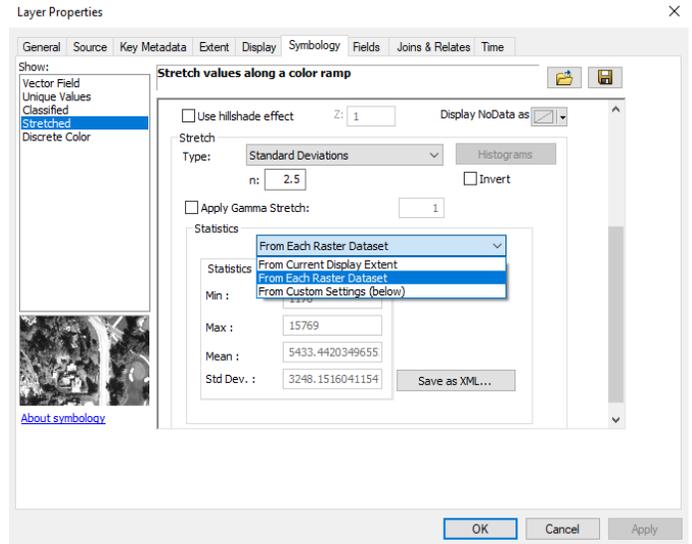
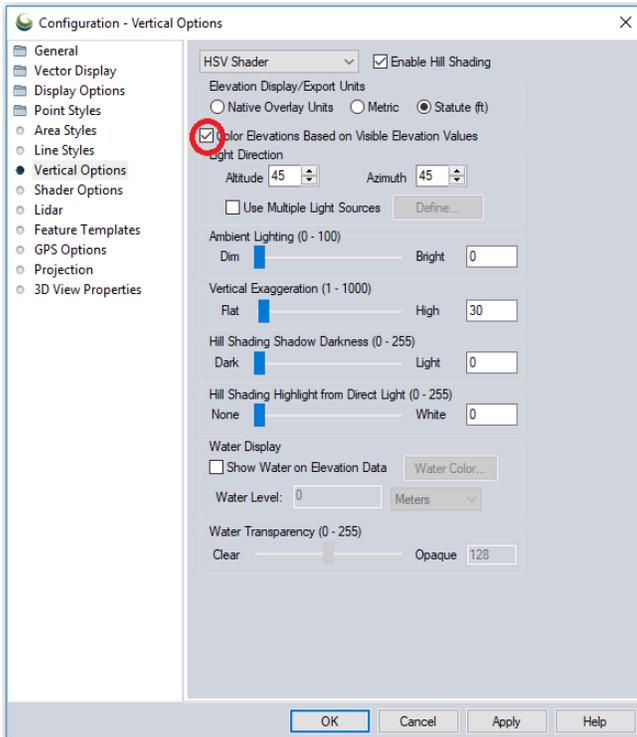


(Remember, there is always more than one way to fix something in GIS). Either way, once activated a GUI will open. Navigate to ‘Vertical Options’ and check the box next to

Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing  
Vol. 87, No. 2, February 2021, pp. 73–74.  
0099-1112/21/73–74

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and Remote Sensing  
doi: 10.14358/PERS.87.2.73

‘Color Elevation Based on Visible Elevation Values’, press “Apply” and “OK”.



ArcGIS control is in the Layer Properties | Symbology tab, and choose from the dropdowns: “From Current Display Extent” to render the entire color ramp for your smaller extent.

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And it is that easy!

By the way: There is similar control in Esri-ArcGIS Desktop that renders the entire color ramp for the displayed extent. The

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