

# Getting to Know the Utility Network | Q & A

**Q:** Will the Attribute Assistant be available for ArcGIS Pro and the new Network?

**A:** The Attribute Assistant is an ArcMap Editor Extension and will not be upgraded for ArcGIS Pro. There is a project that is in development, Attribute Rules, which will provide Attribute Assistant like functionality across the ArcGIS platform. Regardless of where you edit, the rules you define will be executed. Since Attribute Rules is a cross platform implementation, expect things to be different than what you are currently used to with the Attribute Assistant. More information will be available later this year.

**Q:** Will the Water Utility Network Editing Add-In be available for ArcGIS Pro?

**A:** The Water Utility Network Editing Add-In contains a number of extension to ArcMap that have become core parts of ArcGIS Pro and the Utility Network. At the moment, there is not plan for a specific Add-In for the water industry. As we approach the release of the Utility Network, we will evaluate the gaps and determine the best location to fill them.

**Q:** Will we be able to convert our existing geometric networks to a Utility Network?

**A:** There will not be a single button to convert an existing Geometric Network to a Utility Network. The new Network is a completely different design and you will have to migrate your data to the new format. In addition, the new network provides a series of new capabilities that did not exist in the Geometric Network and these additional capabilities will have to be configured. Esri will provide some tools with the final release to aid in the process of moving your geometric network data to the Utility Network.

**Q:** Will we be able to customize the Utility Network (fields, domains, layers, etc.)?

**A:** Yes, you will be able to extend the network by adding new device types, adding fields and defining additional network properties. You can also build your own network from the ground up for industries that standard models are not provided for.

**Q:** Can we host the Utility Network on ArcGIS Online/Portal?

**A:** With the first release of the utility network, you will not be able to host a network in ArcGIS Online. These capabilities are planned for a future release.

**Q:** Will the Utility Network support hosted feature layer views?

**A:** The utility network will not be supported in ArcGIS Online at the first release. The network will support views once that capability is available in Portal for ArcGIS.

**Q:** Will the Utility Network support true curves and z-values?

**A:** Yes and Z is always enabled

**Q:** Will Collector for ArcGIS support the Utility Network?

**A:** The network is composed of simple features and will be accessible in Collector for ArcGIS. The capabilities of the network outside the standard feature service operations will not be available in the first release. The specific network properties that will be available in Collector are still in development.

**Q:** Will we be able to run line traces in ArcGIS Online/Portal?

**A:** Yes, part of the standard feature service access to the network, there are additional REST capabilities that are exposed. This will allow web and mobile apps to trace and run advance analyst against the network. At the first release, the JS API and runtime SDKs will not have native libraries or objects to call these Rest services, but those are planned for a future release.

**Q:** Why would a user consider moving to the Utility Network?

**A:** We strongly encourage you to download and read the white paper on the Utility Network available at this location: [go.esri.com/utilitynetwork](http://go.esri.com/utilitynetwork).

There are many exciting capabilities that the Utility Network offers for managing your facility data. The two main tenets of the vision for this project are:

- Provide utility customers the ability to *model, edit, and analyze* complex networks leveraging the entire *Esri* platform
- Enable modeling concepts to better support true representations of what is on the ground, while fostering an easy exchange of network information with other mission critical systems

In terms of providing ROI to your organization for moving to the Utility Network, the key benefits are:

- Services based architecture for enabling the platform – allows us to provide the capabilities of the network (view, query, editing, analysis, etc.) anywhere you want to work.
- Ensuring data quality and correctness – users want more capabilities in the core software to limit the creation of bad data as they edit. The improvements in feature template capabilities, snapping based on connectivity rules, Attribute Rules, etc. will be a big benefit to editors.
- Real world representation of what is on the ground – a better representation of devices within the GIS allows for an easier export of this data to other mission critical systems (OMS/DMS,

modeling systems, etc.). It also makes it possible for partners to build more domain specific modeling capabilities directly within the GIS.

- Sophisticated analysis – strong out of the box capabilities to analyze your network with a variety of options that can be configured to your specific needs.
- Subnetwork management – manage source information within your network and delineate individual subnetworks based on circuits, pressure zones, isolation zones, etc.
- Improved mapping and visualization techniques – network diagrams capabilities are completely integrated within the Utility Network to meet all of your schematic and one line diagram requirements.
- Expanded data exchange capabilities – many of you have multiple custom snippets of code for exporting data to all your other mission critical systems. With the Utility Network, we will provide the ability to export the connectivity information of your network to a variety of formats. This will greatly reduce the need for custom code to export data.
- Increased performance – an improved transaction model, streamlined database calls, etc., all combine to improve the overall performance of the network for end users.
- A strong foundation for our customers and partners – together all of these things combine for a strong framework for user organizations as well as partners to build their solutions. Strong capabilities out of the box will aid users, while partners add productivity and domain specific tools on top to complete the solution.

**Q:** There will be tools without cost to our customers to migrate from Geometric Network to Utility Network?

**A:** We plan to provide tools to reduce the amount of work to migrate, however they will not make it a push button migration.

**Q:** We know that there will be a Utility for water in the year-end version. But, would we have the chance of analyzing the data model of Utility for water in advance? Could you tell us your roadmap from now to end of the year?

**A:** The water data model will be available at Beta 1 of the utility network, so please sign up for the Beta. We'll tweak the data model during the beta and will release V1 with the release of the Utility Network.

**Q:** Will you add tools (outage primary / secondary, upstream / downstream, longitudinal profile, editing tools) as core into Utility Network or there will be specific tools for ArcGIS PRO water solutions like there are now.

**A:** We will be providing many generic editing capabilities for the Utility Network within the core tools. Templates (standard, group, and preset), snapping based on connectivity, rubberbanding, moving associated features when parents move, etc. are just some of the things that will be available with the core editing tools. The Solutions Division themselves won't be creating Utility Network specific editing and analysis tools at the first release. We may create some tools in the future depending on needs and

requirements identified by users. We also expect partners to fill many (most) of the gaps through a series of domain specific productivity tools.

**Q:** Is the Utility Network available for ArcMap?

**A:** No, it will not be available in ArcMap. It has been developed to run in ArcGIS Pro.