Mid-Western United States

legend

rankings

Name	Special Title or Rank
Name	Ars Tribunus Militum
Name	Ars Senator
Name	Ars Scholae Palatinae
Name	Ars Praetorian
Name	Ars Centurion
Name	Wise, Aged Ars Veteran
Name	Smack-Fu Master in training

post count

low

high

(based on post count per square mile)

synopsis

SYNOPSIS: This map, is the result of a joint collaboration project between a few members of www.Arstechnica.com's OpenForum. The map began as a simple ZIP code map created by me (thrillIb)o)based on input into a thread in the Lounge. While the maps were well received, there was much outcry from our non-US based Arsians.

A few days after releasing the ZIP Code Based Maps, I was contacted by **waubers**, who offered to set up a website and collect more data for the project, in an effort to expand the mapping to include our world-wide Arsians. We managed to decide on what data to collect, and **waubers** set up a web site in order to collect the data. The collection proceeded well, but topped out around 700 or so Arsians...far short of the rumored numbers of readers.

I contacted **Caesar**, who gave his permission for me to spam the other fora on Ars in an effort to attract as many users as possible. All told, we ended up with roughly 2900 Arsians mapped in the series.

Once the data was collected and downloaded, the laborious task of cleaning the data and reconciling it to any existing databases began (thank you, **Serpentyk**). The problems were numerous, ranging from misspellings and abbreviations to language issues and font mapping. Eventually, all Arsians but three were accounted for. The data was scrubbed, converted into Shapefiles (a GIS format), and was then used to create the various post count models you see here.

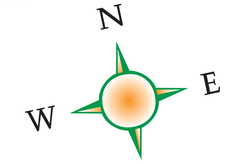
A word on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data: While the actual Arsian database was very small (137kb), the models this project generated range up to a few Gigs of data. Some of the software used includes ESRI's Arcview, ArcGIS, Spatial Analyst, Paint Shop Pro, Adobe Illustrator, and Map Publisher. For those of you interested, feel free to send me an email with any questions or comments.

Due to the sheer scale of a worldwide mapping project, it is simply not feasible for me to release an enlarged area map for each person. I apologize to those who did not make any of the blow-ups, but I have covered most of the participants. Several areas have been selected for enlarged maps; in the US, we'll be covering the North East, the Mid West, the South, the North West, and the North East. Additionally, we'll have separate maps covering Europe and Canada.

The rankings shown herein and the post counts are superfluous information, really. My intent with these maps was merely to show Arsians how close they are to one another, and to illustrate the popularity of a wonderful internet community.

I have really enjoyed working on this map. Eventually, we'd like to set up a dynamic mapping system, but then, we'd like lots of things.... **Thanks again to waubers, without whom, none of this would have been possible.**

-tj
thrillIb)o



0 10 20 30 40 Miles

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SOURCES: This map has been prepared for the inventory of participants in a gross roots GIS project; it has been based on BEST AVAILABLE data. Base map data provided courtesy of the United States Geological Survey (USGS); the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS, managed by the USGS); the Bahai Computer and Communication Association (www.bcn.org); and the United States Census Bureau.

Users of this map are hereby notified that the aforementioned public primary information sources should be consulted for verification of the information contained on this map.

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