



What is A-Space?

In today's dynamic environment, in which responses to emerging threats are often time-critical, our traditional work practices and technology applications are not sufficient to achieve the multi-faceted collaborative analysis required for continued success. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence is teaming with the Defense Intelligence Agency to build a common collaborative workspace for Intelligence Community (IC) analysts. This common work environment, called A-Space, will give analysts shared access to corporate data and to numerous databases maintained by individual IC organizations. It will allow individual or collaborative analysis of that data, with an emphasis on researching answers to consumer requests and expanding collective knowledge about assigned subjects. Configured as a special enclave within the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System (JWICS), A-Space is accredited to handle information in the Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Control System and Gamma Information Handling (HCS/G) regimes.

How can A-Space help us?

A-Space helps analysts connect with data and colleagues across the Community — more quickly, easily, and efficiently. It is designed to give analysts access to a large and diverse corpus of text, graphics, imagery, and video intelligence spanning multiple classification levels with appropriate controls. IC elements will be able to make internal databases accessible to A-Space, and programs such as the Library of National Intelligence (LNI) and Catalyst will enhance the ability of analysts to sort through this information to identify the most relevant intelligence.

A-Space's workspaces allow analysts to maintain situational awareness, consolidate relevant data and analytic notes on topics of interest, and share their insights and intuitions in a trusted environment. A-Space will provide the shortest, fastest path to IC expertise and emerging intelligence insights, allowing analysts to collaborate early in the analytic process.

The most transformational aspect of A-Space is analysts' ability to post emerging insight during the course of their research — sharing their findings in a way that allows peers and mentors to see and comment on analytic work in progress. The resultant interaction is expected to enhance the quality of analysis by facilitating identification of alternative hypotheses, drawing analysts' attention to key assumptions, pointing to additional corroborating or conflicting data, and fostering collective assessments of source reliability. The accumulation of peer-reviewed knowledge will allow the Community for the first time to manage its collective knowledge about key intelligence topics without the constraints (length and content) associated with finished products.

What is happening with A-Space?

A-Space is now being deployed for operational use by a gradually expanding the number of analysts. The deployment is incorporating many of the 400 requirements generated during preliminary user testing in early 2008. A-Space will be open to 9,000 analysts in late September 2008 and work is already beginning on improvements to be made in 2009.