

Chapter 1 Overview (Updated 6/30/2010)

1.1 Introduction to Site

The Environmental Screening Tool (EST) supports agency participation and community involvement throughout Florida's Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Process. This application provides tools to input and update information about transportation projects, perform standardized analyses, gather and report comments about potential project effects, and provide information to the public. It brings together information about a project and provides analytical and visualization tools that help synthesize and communicate that information. It is used throughout the ETDM Process to:

- Integrate data from multiple sources into an easy to use, standard format
- Analyze the effects of proposed projects on the human and natural environment
- Communicate information effectively among Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) representatives and make information available to the public
- Store and report results of the ETAT review effectively and efficiently
- Maintain project records, including commitments and responses, throughout the project life cycle

The EST is continually updated to provide additional information and tools in support of the ETDM Process. A list of EST functions is provided in Chapter 2.4 of the EST Handbook, and is also available in the application under EST Site Map.

The EST integrates Internet mapping technology, relational database management systems and geographic information systems (GIS). This integration was implemented using industry-standard platform-independent development tools such as Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML), Hibernate, Velocity, Java Script, and Extensible Markup Language (XML). The EST is deployed as a Web-based application in order to minimize system requirements on the users' desktop computers. The application is deployed at the University of Florida in conjunction with the Florida Geographic Data Library (FGDL). FGDL is a repository of GIS data gathered from federal, state, and local governments.

1.2 System Requirements

Hardware

Following are the *minimum* requirements for the end user's desktop computer:

- 700 MHz, Intel Pentium III or equivalent AMD processor
- 3 gigabyte free disk space
- 1024 x 768 video card resolution
- 17-inch color monitor (19-inch monitor recommended)
- Access to the Internet (128 Kb connection or better)
- Access to color printer recommended, but not required
- 256 MB RAM

Software

The following software packages are required on the end user's desktop computer:

- Microsoft Windows 7, Vista, XP Professional or Home, Windows 2000, NT, 95, and 98
- Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) 7 or higher (must run in compatibility mode if running IE 8 or 9), available for free download at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/default.asp>

- Adobe Acrobat Reader, current version available for free download at:

<http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/main.html>

- Adobe SVG Viewer, version 3 or higher, available for free download at:

<http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/main.html>

1.3 Website Access

ETDM Coordinators and authorized MPO and FDOT District staff have read/write access to the Environmental Screening Tool so that they can update project information and respond to ETAT review comments. ETAT representatives have read/write access to provide comments about potential effects to environmental resources. Community Liaison Coordinators (CLCs) create community inventories and review projects for potential sociocultural effects using the Environmental Screening Tool. These users are authorized by FDOT's ETDM Coordinators and granted access by EST administration staff. Each user is given a unique username and password that grants permission to the servers and to the database. Each user is assigned a specific role according to their job duties which grants them write authority to specific portions of the database. These authorized users access the Environmental Screening Tool through a common Internet website at:

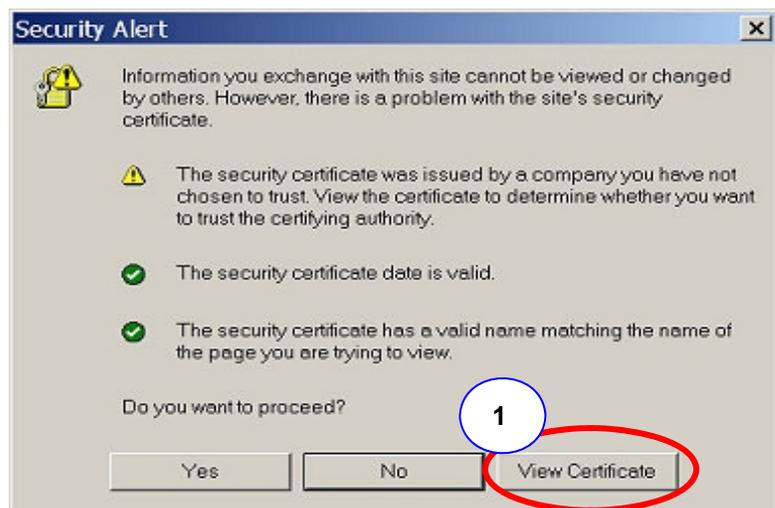
<http://www.fl-etat.org>

To enter the site, use Microsoft Internet Explorer version 7.0 or higher. The application may not function properly with other Internet browser software. Type the website address (above) in the address box at the top of the screen.

Security Certificate

When the site is first accessed, a security alert may appear about the site security certificate. This warning is issued if the user profile does not recognize www.fl-etat.org site as a trusted site. The warning will appear each time you log on until you accept and install the certificate.

1. To install the certificate, first click on the button "View Certificate."



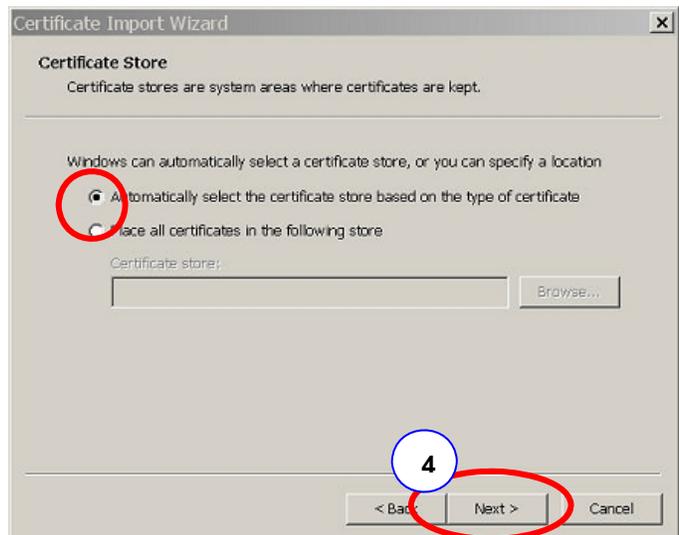
2. In the next window, click "Install Certificate."



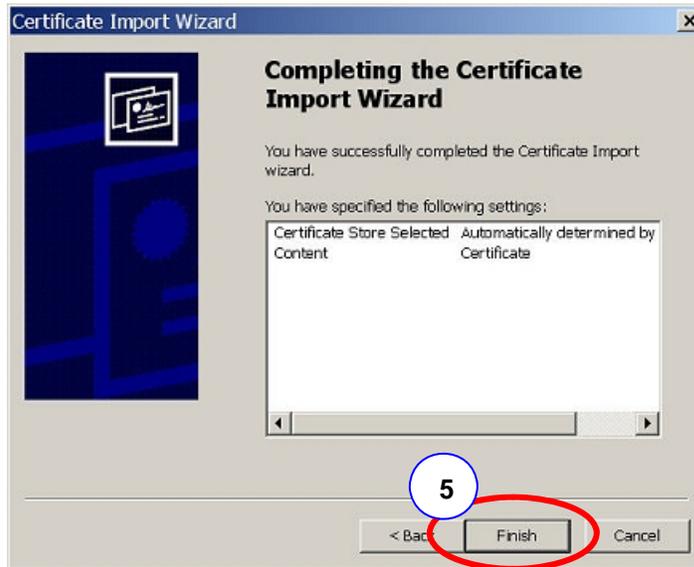
3. Click "Next" in the Certificate Import Wizard window.



4. The next window specifies where the certificates are kept. Use the default value to allow Windows to automatically select a certificate store. Click "Next" to continue.



- In the next window, click "Finish" to complete the certificate import process.



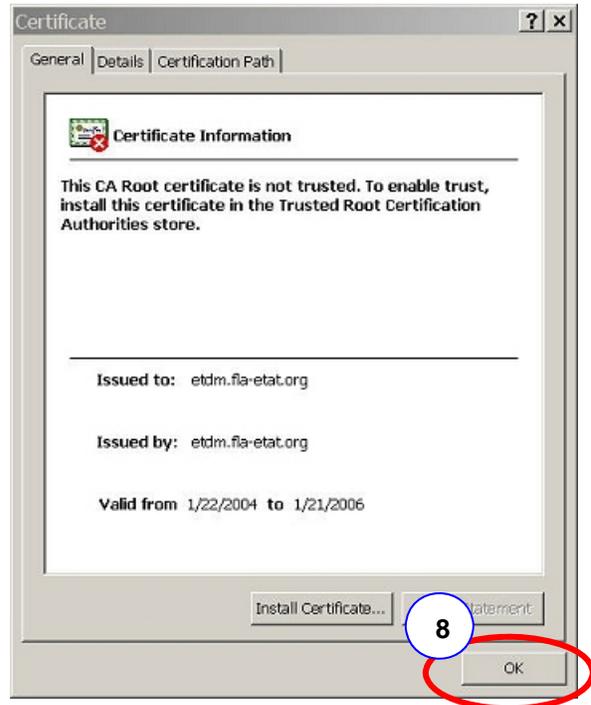
- In the next security-warning window, click on "Yes" to confirm the validity of the site and install the certificate.



- A message window will appear to confirm that the import was successful. Click "OK" to close the window.



- After importing the certificate, click "OK" on the Certificate Information window. The window will close.



- Click "Yes" to proceed from the initial security warning message. The window will close.



The certificate installation process only needs to be done one time. The next time you go to the EST website, the warning message will not appear.

For a description of the logon splash page, please proceed to Chapter 2 of the EST Handbook.

1.4 Background

The Environmental Screening Tool (EST) is a fundamental component of the ETDM Process. As such, its development occurred while the new business process was being defined. This produced a very flexible environment in which the process could be refined to take advantage of technology, and the technology could be easily adjusted as process details were defined. It also presented the application development team with the challenge of developing a complex application while the work process requirements were still evolving. The team addressed this challenge by designing for change and developing the application incrementally in a series of modules using an evolving prototype model for the development methodology. This is a life-cycle model in which the system is developed in increments so that it can be modified in response to customer feedback. Unlike other types of prototyping, the prototype code is not discarded; instead, it evolves into the code that is ultimately delivered. In the EST, the database design emphasizes flexibility so that the application can be easily adapted as the process is adjusted. Each of the initial modules was developed by starting with the basic requirements and adding complexity as the process was refined. This allowed frequent opportunities for the Steering Committee and potential users to review and respond to the application as it was being developed. The end result is a toolbox of customized applications that support the ETDM Process. Although the initial release of the EST was well received, it was anticipated that modification would be needed to reflect further refinement of the new business process after it had been used during the first year. Based on feedback from users during the first year of implementation, a new integrated design of the EST was developed to improve the graphical user interface, code maintainability, and user work flow. The new design also took advantage of technology advancements and upgrades made available since the conception of the project.

One primary objective of the new site organization was the integration of functionality. The original site organized functions by module. Each module supported specific process tasks such as project data input, ETAT review, or Sociocultural Effects evaluation. By developing the original application in modules, the development team was able to respond quickly to changes in part of the ETDM Process without affecting code developed to support other parts of the Process. However, as the Process evolved and people began using the application, the use of modules became somewhat problematic. Some functions were duplicated or slightly modified among modules. Users who had access to more than one module had trouble finding functionality among the various modules. The new site solved these problems by making all of the functions available in one integrated navigation system. The integrated navigation system is described in Chapter 2 of the EST Handbook.

1.5 Roles and Privileges (Updated 11/30/2011)

Only the functions needed by a user to perform ETDM task assignments appear in the EST main menu. This is determined by the roles and privileges assigned to the user when they are given access to the site. Users' roles are based on the tasks that they will perform. Privileges establish whether or not a user may add or modify records to specific parts of the database. The following matrix (**Table 1-1**) shows the functions available for each user role.

Note: The "Xs" in a row for an individual function indicate the user roles that have access to that function.