

## Re: Visio: Geographic Stencils

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Visio/microsoft.public.visio.developer/2005-02/0160.html>

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Visio includes quite a few map shapes, which have the ability to position themselves together...something I've never seen anywhere else. For instance, you can drop Washington, Oregon and Florida on the page, right-click a shape and select "Arrange to page", and the shapes will position and resize themselves to their proper locations.

That being said, lawyers from various countries have really spoiled it for Visio users, forcing MS not to include such shapes as China due to border disputes, or not showing infinitesimal islands that aren't important for the "clip-art" use that most users need.

Judging by your language, you are a "map-guy", which means your needs are likely more specialized than the average user. Visio supports the importation of many forms of clip-art. Map data is available from many sources, so I would suggest downloading/purchasing one of these.

I remember that Corel Draw used to ship with 350,000 pieces of clip art. Is that something Visio should do? I think it's beyond the core-competency of Visio, which is to help business users create business diagrams. All of that clip-art is still available to the Visio users that want to import it.

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Hope this helps,

Chris Roth

Visio MVP

"Mark Aytor" <[Mark.Aytor@discussions.microsoft.com](mailto:Mark.Aytor@discussions.microsoft.com)> wrote in message news:A36DD433-0C85-42FD-9CAF-759DD18EF416@microsoft.com...

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> Visio should have Geographic stencils. These should contain a U.S. map
> stencil as a composite, with each of the 50 states as individual objects;
> an
> EU map as a composite, with each of the 12-25 member states as individual
> objects. A mercator map, with each of the world's 144 countries as
> individual
> objects.
>
> The problem: it is very difficult to draw the shapes of geographical
> boundaries. Yet, business diagrams may more easily describe concepts such
> as
> "Region" or "Jurisdiction" much more easily with geographic map stencils.
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