

TERRAEXPLORER VS. CESIUM – A COMPARISON

Skyline's TerraExplorer for Desktop is a Windows based, cutting-edge 3D GIS viewer and creator that provides powerful tools and a high resolution 3D environment in which to view, query, analyze and present geospatial data. With TerraExplorer's robust and extensive capabilities and seamless interoperability, users can overlay the terrain with unlimited data layers, 3D models, virtual objects and more to create stunningly realistic 3D visualizations.

Skyline also offers a lightweight online 3D GIS viewer – TerraExplorer for Web – that enables you to view and analyze high-resolution, realistic 3D content in a web browser, without any plug-ins. Built on the powerful Cesium open source library, TerraExplorer for Web significantly extends Cesium's core functionality with additional viewing, analysis, navigation, editing and search capabilities as well as enhanced performance (See table below for details).

About Skyline

Skyline Software Systems, Inc. is a leading provider of 3D earth visualization software and services. The company offers a comprehensive platform of applications, tools and services that enable the creation and dissemination of interactive, photo-realistic 3D environments. Skyline has built a “best of breed” set of tools that remain focused on the needs of our customers including flexibility, efficiency and robustness.

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Comparison Table

Capability	TerraExplorer for Desktop	TerraExplorer for Web	Cesium
Basic viewing			
Base terrain (imagery + elevation)	✓	✓	✓
Imagery layers	✓	✓	✓
Elevation layers	✓	✓	-
Feature layers	✓	✓	-
3D Mesh layers	✓	✓	✓
BIM	✓	✓	✓
Point cloud	✓	✓	✓
KML	Full	Partial	Partial
Weather effects	✓	-	-
Animation effects	✓	-	-
Offline/online support	Offline + Online	Online	Online
Built-in user interface	✓	✓	-
Navigation			
Play routes/presentations	✓	✓	Partial
Create presentations	✓	-	-
Underground mode	✓	✓	-
Analysis tools			
Aerial Distance	✓	✓	✓
Ground Distance	✓	✓	-
Area	✓	✓	-
Terrain profile	✓	✓	-
Shadow analysis	✓	✓	✓
Viewshed	✓	✓	-
Contour map	✓	✓	-

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Capability	TerraExplorer for Desktop	TerraExplorer for Web	Cesium
Slope map	✓	✓	
Volume	✓	V7.2	-
Best path	✓	-	-
Flood	✓	-	-
Cross section	✓	-	-
Threat dome	✓	-	-
Line of Sight	✓	V7.2	-
Feature layer query and editing			
Query single feature	✓	✓	-
Spatial queries	✓	V7.2	-
Attribute table	✓	✓	-
Edit attribute data	✓	V7.2	-
Edit geometry	✓	-	-
Add/remove features	✓	-	-
Save to local file (multiple formats)	✓	-	-
Save to online server (WFS-T)	✓	V7.2	-
Search			
Address search	✓	✓	-
Coordinates (Lat/Lon, MGRS)	✓	✓	-

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