

David DeLorme Biography:

David DeLorme, a Maine native and outdoorsman, was on a fishing trip at Moosehead Lake in the 1970s when he came to a fork in the road where his map indicated he should go straight. He realized then that he could make a better map and set about to do so. Gathering data from state highway, county, and town maps as well as federal surveys, DeLorme created a state map and had 10,000 copies printed in a large-format book. DeLorme himself then went town to town selling *The Maine Atlas and Gazetteer* out of his car. The map books quickly caught on with hunters, fishermen, hikers, canoeists, campers, and salespeople because the maps detailed virtually every road, trail, river, stream, and body of water in the state. The maps initially featured and continue to include a gazetteer section that highlights a variety of sites to see and activities to do, including hiking and bicycle trails, canoeing and kayaking trips, and museum and historic sites.

Company information:

DeLorme is a 33-year-old private company. David DeLorme, the founder, is actively involved in the business. The company has a history of technological firsts, including the first digital world atlas on CD-Rom in the late 1980s and the first US street atlas on CD-Rom in the early 1990s. Additionally, DeLorme holds a significant early patent covering a spatially tiled, hierarchical, and indexed data organization which is a component of virtually every digital mapping product today. In the mid-1990s, DeLorme began developing consumer GPS devices, resulting in the popular Earthmate® line of GPS sold in retail stores across North America.

Today, a leader in map publishing, the company makes maps, software, and global positioning system (GPS) products for consumers and professionals working in areas such as government, transportation, and civil engineering. DeLorme's products include its Street Atlas USA and XMap GIS (geographic information system) software, and the Earthmate GPS Receiver that displays DeLorme color topographic maps and aerial imagery via laptop, wireless device, or handheld receiver. DeLorme's Yarmouth, Maine, headquarters houses Eartha, the world's largest globe (41 ft. in diameter).

Sources:

<http://delorme.com/about/default.aspx>

<http://www.answers.com/topic/delorme-publishing-company-inc>