# Creating a New Theme from Existing Attribute Data in ArcView 3.x

Creating a new theme from existing attribute data allows the user to create themes with a more manageable number of features for a desired task.  For example, the user may wish to extract only the capital cities of the Canadian provinces and territories from the cities attribute table (in ArcCanada 3.1 Disk 1) which contains a large number of Canadian cities. In this example, you would already have created a map of Canada and added the cities shapefile.

You could follow the same procedure for another project, whatever geographical area it covers (provincial, national, or international) and where you have a theme layer from which you want to select a more manageable number of features.

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1. On a prepared map (in this case a map of Canada), **Add** the desired shapefile (add **Cities** in this example).

2. In the **Table Of Contents** click once on the theme from which you want to edit (in this example the **Cities** theme would be selected).  This will make the box around the theme appear raised, indicating that it is the active theme.



3. On the toolbar click on the **Open Theme Table** button .  A table will now appear showing all the attribute data for the cities theme.

| File | Edit | Table | Field | Window | Help |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

0 of 497 selected

**Attributes of Cities.shp**
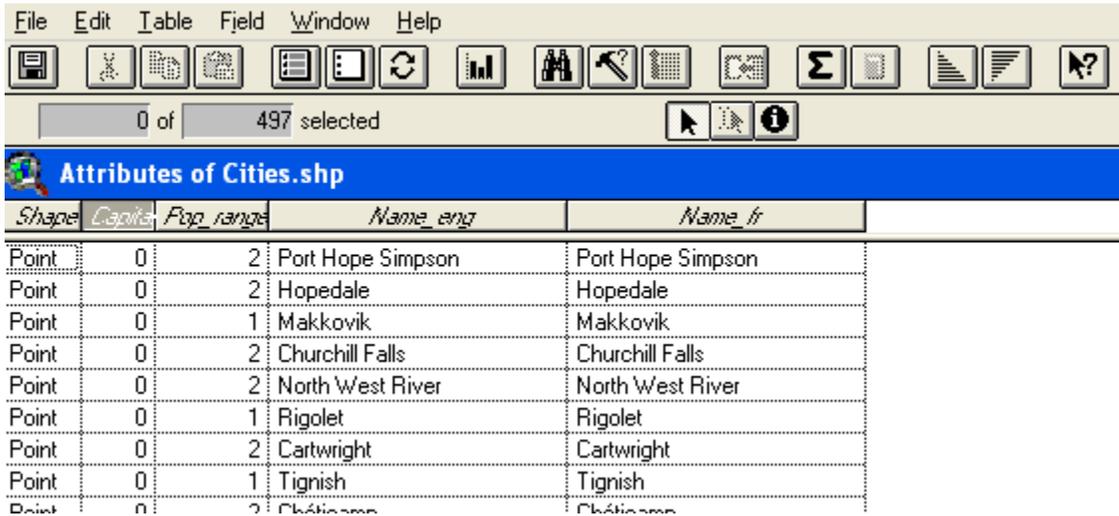
| Shape | Capital | Pop_range | Name_eng | Name_fr |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Point | 0 | 2 | Port Hope Simpson | Port Hope Simpson |
| Point | 0 | 2 | Hopedale | Hopedale |
| Point | 0 | 1 | Makkovik | Makkovik |
| Point | 0 | 2 | Churchill Falls | Churchill Falls |
| Point | 0 | 2 | North West River | North West River |
| Point | 0 | 1 | Rigolet | Rigolet |
| Point | 0 | 2 | Cartwright | Cartwright |
| Point | 0 | 1 | Tignish | Tignish |
| Point | 0 | 2 | Chéticamp | Chéticamp |

4.  Click on the column heading that will make the data the easiest to sort (in this example, click on *Capital*).  On the toolbar, click on the **Sort Descending** button so all the capital cities will be brought to the top of the table entries.

5.  Now hold down the Shift key and click and drag the cursor over all the capital cities to select them (they will be highlighted in yellow).  Once this is done, close the **Theme Table** and return to the **View** (map).

**Attributes of Cities.shp**
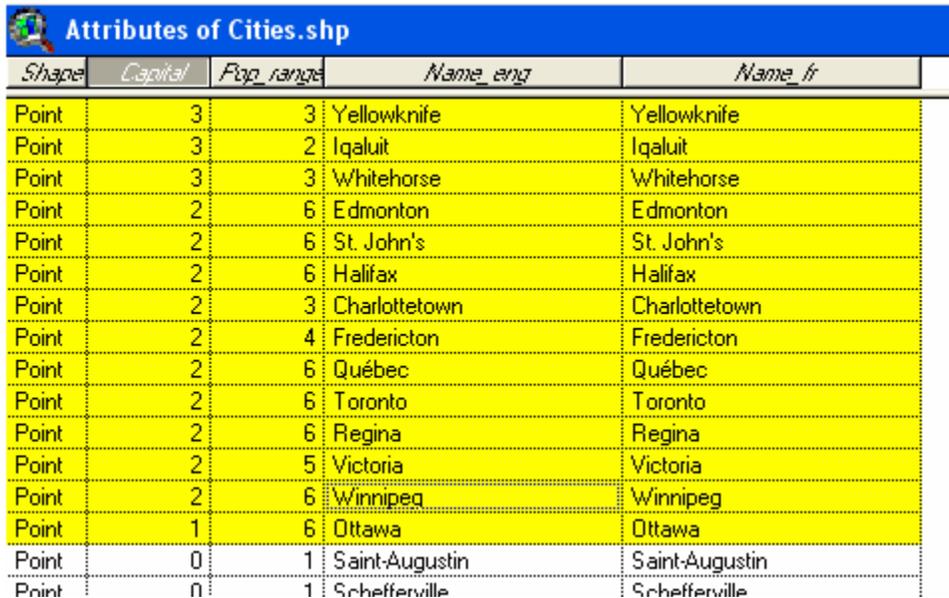
| Shape | Capital | Pop_range | Name_eng | Name_fr |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Point | 3 | 3 | Yellowknife | Yellowknife |
| Point | 3 | 2 | Iqaluit | Iqaluit |
| Point | 3 | 3 | Whitehorse | Whitehorse |
| Point | 2 | 6 | Edmonton | Edmonton |
| Point | 2 | 6 | St. John's | St. John's |
| Point | 2 | 6 | Halifax | Halifax |
| Point | 2 | 3 | Charlottetown | Charlottetown |
| Point | 2 | 4 | Fredericton | Fredericton |
| Point | 2 | 6 | Québec | Québec |
| Point | 2 | 6 | Toronto | Toronto |
| Point | 2 | 6 | Regina | Regina |
| Point | 2 | 5 | Victoria | Victoria |
| Point | 2 | 6 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg |
| Point | 1 | 6 | Ottawa | Ottawa |
| Point | 0 | 1 | Saint-Augustin | Saint-Augustin |
| Point | 0 | 1 | Schefferville | Schefferville |

6.  On the tool bar go **Theme → Convert To Shapefile** and when prompted, select the desired Directory to where you want to save the new theme, then give it an appropriate title (e.g. **Capital Cities**) and select **OK**.
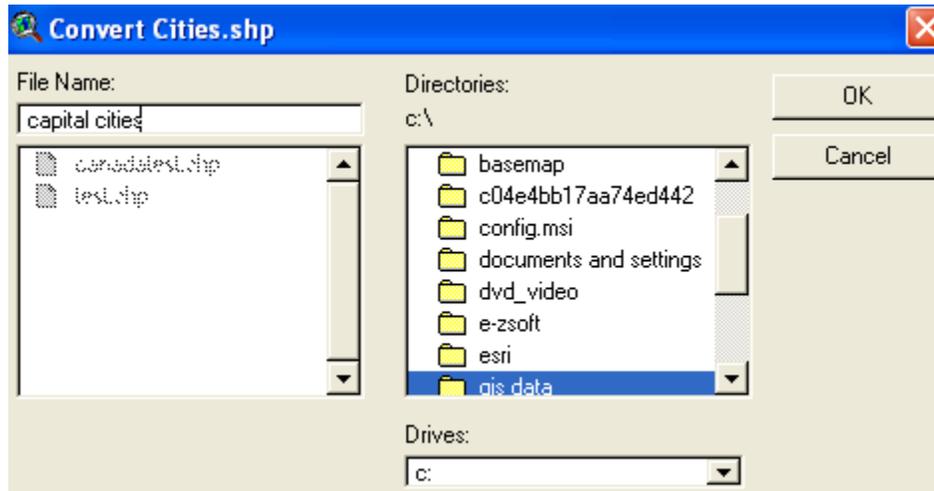


7.  When prompted, add the **New Shapefile** to the **View.**

8.  You can change the name of the new layer in the **Table of Contents** to better reflect what it represents.  Make sure that your new theme is Active (click on it once so it appears raised).  In the toolbar go **Theme → Properties** to display the **Theme Properties** dialog.  Type in the desired name of the new theme beside **Theme Name.**

9.  You can now turn off or delete the original **Cities** theme as you no longer need this layer.  You can turn it off by unchecking the layer in the **Table of Contents.**
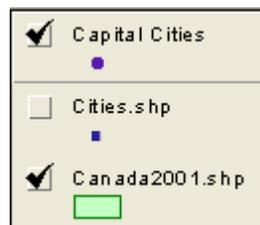


10. To delete the layer, make sure that it is *active* (raised), and then go **Edit → Delete Theme.**

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