

Two Quick Ways to Change a Labeling Field to Proper Case

Use the Field Calculator or a Label Expression

By Monica Pratt, ArcUser Editor

When using text in an attribute table for labeling features (or generating reports), you may discover that all or some of the data in the desired field was entered in UPPERCASE, lowercase, or mIXEed cAsE rather than Proper Case. Using the field as it is will produce unattractive results, but manually entering this data correctly is probably not a viable option.

Here are two strategies for displaying text in proper case (i.e., the first letter of each word in uppercase and remaining letters in lowercase). Each technique can be quickly applied. One will create a new field and populate it with text converted to proper case. The other uses a label expression to cause labels to display in proper case. Both make use of VBScript.

The Permanent Fix

A simple line of VBScript and the Field Calculator in ArcMap can copy the contents of the offending field into a new field and convert the text to proper case. This example will use a layer containing the names of Florida cities created entirely in uppercase.

1. Right-click on the Cities layer in the table of contents (TOC) and choose Open Attribute Table.

2. Add a new field to hold the converted data by clicking the Options drop-down at the lower left of the table and choosing Add Field.
3. In the Add Field dialog box, name the field something other than the original field's name, choose Text as the type, and set the length to accommodate the longest name in the field. In this case, the original labeling field was called NAME and the new field was called ProperName.
4. Right-click on the header for the new field and choose Field Calculator.
5. In the text box under ProperNames = enter the following VB code, `StrConv([Existing Field], vbProperCase)` substitute the name of the field to be converted to proper case for `[Existing Field]`, and click OK. In this example, the expression would be `StrConv([NAME], vbProperCase)`

The new field will be populated with the same text but that text will be in proper case. This new field can be used for labeling map features or generating a report.

Create a new field in the attribute table that will contain the reformatted text field.

Use StrConv in the Field Calculator to populate the new field.

OBJECTID	CITIES	FEATURE	NAME	ProperName	POP_RANGE
444	3222	POPULATED PLACE	FRUITLAND PARK	Fruitland Park	0 - 9,999
445	3223	POPULATED PLACE	MOUNT DORA	Mount Dora	0 - 9,999
447	3237	POPULATED PLACE	WILDWOOD	Wildwood	0 - 9,999
449	3241	COUNTY SEAT	TAVARES	Tavares	10,000 - 49,999
450	3244	COUNTY SEAT	TITUSVILLE	Titusville	10,000 - 49,999
451	3281	POPULATED PLACE	LEESBURG	Leesburg	10,000 - 49,999
454	3257	POPULATED PLACE	WINTER SPRINGS	Winter Springs	10,000 - 49,999
455	3260	POPULATED PLACE	LONGWOOD	Longwood	10,000 - 49,999
457	3270	POPULATED PLACE	OVIEDO	Oviedo	10,000 - 49,999
461	3268	POPULATED PLACE	CASSELBERRY	Casselberry	10,000 - 49,999
462	3266	POPULATED PLACE	CRYSTAL RIVER	Crystal River	0 - 9,999
464	3248	POPULATED PLACE	COLEMAN	Coleman	10,000 - 49,999
465	3241	POPULATED PLACE	ALTA LINDSEY SPRINGS	Altamonte Springs	0 - 9,999
469	3246	COUNTY SEAT	INVERNESS	Inverness	0 - 9,999
470	3247	POPULATED PLACE	ADIROA	Adironda	10,000 - 49,999
471	3242	POPULATED PLACE	ADULTA	Adulta	0 - 9,999
476	3242	POPULATED PLACE	HOWEY IN THE HILLS	Howeey In The Hills	0 - 9,999
477	3243	POPULATED PLACE	MAITLAND	Maitland	10,000 - 49,999
484	3248	POPULATED PLACE	WINTER PARK	Winter Park	10,000 - 49,999
488	3261	POPULATED PLACE	CAPE CANAVERAL	Cape Canaveral	0 - 9,999
501	3251	POPULATED PLACE	BOYDSDALE	Boydsdale	10,000 - 49,999
502	3254	COUNTY SEAT	ORLANDO	Orlando	100,000 - 249,999
503	3255	POPULATED PLACE	DOOR	Doon	0 - 9,999
504	3251	POPULATED PLACE	CENTER HILL	Center Hill	0 - 9,999
506	3222	COUNTY SEAT	BUSHNELL	Bushnell	0 - 9,999
507	3262	POPULATED PLACE	WINTER GARDEN	Winter Garden	10,000 - 49,999
510	3260	POPULATED PLACE	COCOA	Cocoa	10,000 - 49,999
511	3263	POPULATED PLACE	OAKLAND	Oakland	0 - 9,999
513	3268	POPULATED PLACE	MINNEOLA	Minneola	0 - 9,999
518	3264	POPULATED PLACE	BOYDSDALE	Boydsdale	0 - 9,999
520	3272	POPULATED PLACE	WEBSTER	Webster	0 - 9,999

There are two solutions when the text field in an attribute that you want to use for labeling is not in proper case.

