aws marketplace

FME

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users

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Product Recap

FME

FME Recap

FME is a powerful tool designed for efficient geospatial data handling, supporting over 400 file formats and integrating with diverse systems. Its intuitive interface facilitates seamless automation of workflows, making it ideal for sectors that manage large spatial data volumes.

With FME, businesses automate data flows and manage GIS data transfers while integrating with tools like GE Smallworld. It empowers users with self-service capabilities for data processing and real-time event management. Despite its strengths, users note areas for improvement such as better mapping presentations, simpler loops, and more guidance on geographical transformations. Pricing remains a consideration for some markets. However, FME is a robust solution for massive data transformations, network infrastructure management, and automation of data quality control, especially in governmental contexts.

What are FME's key features?

- Spatial Capabilities: Efficient handling of geospatial data through triggers and automation.
- Integration: Seamlessly works with FME Flow, FME Form, and scripting languages like Python.
- User-Friendly Interface: Simplifies data transformation and debugging without extensive coding.
- Format Support: Over 400 file formats ensure wide-ranging compatibility.
- System Integration: Connects with numerous systems, preferred for large spatial data volumes.

What benefits should users consider?

- Automation: Streamlines workflows and reduces manual intervention.
- Efficiency: Handles large datasets effectively, optimizing data operations.
- Cost-Effectiveness: Despite pricing concerns, offers significant functionality for data processing.
- Self-Service Capabilities: Enables users to manage and transform data independently.
- Real-Time Processing: Supports real-time event handling for dynamic environments.

FME is widely adopted across industries that require precise geospatial data management such as government agencies needing to automate and control data processes efficiently or organizations handling complex network infrastructures that engage in frequent GIS data transfers. Its capacity for seamless integration with various systems enables practical use for extensive data transformations and automation, increasing operational efficiency in data-intensive sectors.

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Valuable Features

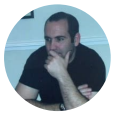
Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- "From my reseller perspective, the best features in FME are the ease of operation and the fact that it works."

Gert Booysen

Software Solutions Leader at GE Vernova

- "We make minor subtle changes to the workbenches to improve it. We can share the workbenches. We don't have to use GitHub or anything else."



Alan Bloor

Geographic Information System Developer at Public Sector

- "FME is spatially aware and understands how to deal with the conversion of spatial objects and their attributes."

Validated user

Senior Solution Architect at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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"All spatial features are unrivaled, and the possibility to execute them based on a scheduled trigger, manual, e-mail, Websocket, tweet, file/directory change or virtually any trigger is most valuable."

Verified user

Consultant FME - Beschikbaar at Ordina

"It has standard plug-ins available for different data sources."

Validated user

Software Solutions Leader at a engineering company with 10,001+ employees

"The most valuable feature of FME is the graphical user interface. There is nothing better. It is very easy to debug because you can see all steps where there are failures. Overall the software is easy to optimize a process."

Validated user

Special Adviser at a marketing services firm with 11-50 employees

"FME's features that I have found most valuable are that it has a very friendly user interface, you don't need to use a lot of code, it has a lot of connectors and few forms, and it has a strong facial aspect that can do a lot of facial analysis."

Validated user

Expert Data at a government with 1,001-5,000 employees

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What users had to say about valuable features:

"FME is spatially aware and understands how to deal with the conversion of spatial objects and their attributes. It is a well-established product for handling geospatial data, transfer, and ETL processes. It helps automate workflows for GIS customers, making it a standard in the industry.."

Validated user
Senior Solution Architect at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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"When I do coding, I think about every single function. Some of these functions can be very elementary, like doing a substring or some capitalization. But FME removes all that coding because it's a transformer, so the time to develop an application to get to a point where you're producing results is decreased massively. It used to take weeks and months to develop software, and now I can use something like FME, and within one day, we get results. We can look at and validate data. We make minor subtle changes to the workbenches to improve it. We can share the workbenches. We don't have to use GitHub or anything else.."

Alan Bloor
Geographic Information System Developer at Public Sector

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"All spatial features are unrivaled, and the possibility to execute them based on a scheduled trigger, manual, e-mail, Websocket, tweet, file/directory change or virtually any trigger is most valuable.

The integration between FME Flow and FME Form is super as is its integration with scripting like Python is superb.

It is a really intuitive product; just type anything in the canvas and methods for processing pop up. Data is processed intelligently, though for optimal dataflow some human thinking has to be done. ."

Verified user
Consultant FME - Beschikbaar at Ordina

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"From my reseller perspective, the best features in FME are the ease of operation and the fact that it works. They are developing the necessary plugins to third-party products, so it's easy to use and very well-developed and usable.

The extensive format support, which covers over 400 file formats in the product, is essentially one of the reasons why we are using it.

Regarding the advanced spatial data capabilities, I don't know the technical details directly, as I'm more on the sales side. FME manages large volumes of spatial data in sectors such as GIS and environmental analysis effectively. It performs well and doesn't have issues in managing big loads of data.."

Gert Booysen
Software Solutions Leader at GE Vernova

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Other Solutions Considered

"I have used ArcGIS Pro and FME is a bit easier to use. ArcGIS Pro takes a lot more experience and expertise to use and we still use it for more complex data processing tasks.."

Validated user
Special Adviser at a marketing services firm with 11-50 employees

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"I did some work with Azure Functions, Databricks, and AWS Web Services. It is just for historical and pricing reasons that I did not switch to AWS or Azure platforms. ."

Verified user
Consultant FME - Beschikbaar at Ordina

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Use Case

"FME is used to transfer GIS data from either on-premise into the cloud or between the primary servers and disaster recovery. We use it in various different ways.."

Validated user
Senior Solution Architect at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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"We use FME to do some ad hoc analysis, especially facial analysis, but they use it as well to do some generic processing for data quality controls. These are the main use purposes. It's in a governmental context and the most important data sets or addresses link to other information. Also authentication on partials.."

Validated user
Expert Data at a government with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"Primary use cases include: creating automatic data flow processes, enabling users to self-serve their data needs, and handling real-time events. It is a fault-tolerant, scalable multi-tier solution, so it has backup facilities. One can use a multi-server setup with a database. We can download data, start processes, update databases, send messages, tweets, push notifications, and almost everything in a few clicks. With spatial data, it has almost no competitors.."

Verified user
Consultant FME - Beschikbaar at Ordina

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"The use cases for FME are mainly integration to the GE Smallworld product. GE Smallworld is a GE product, and we are using it to integrate with other third-party products into GE Smallworld and ADMS systems.

The feature regarding automation capacity for scheduling data processing tasks is mainly used by one of our customers, Vodacom, and they are doing the automated exchange. That is very useful for them. It's only one of my customers that's using it. That's their business requirement to do real-time data exchange.."

Gert Booysen
Software Solutions Leader at GE Vernova

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“I use two versions currently. The latest version that's just come out and the 2022 versions.

Currently, I'm using the solution to pull APC data using the data collection. I've got to transform the data massively to make it usable, so I use FME for huge amounts of transformation and to put it into ArcGIS Enterprise. FME is a ZTL as well, specifically the "L" bit. I also use FME for a lot of analysis where we want it quick and efficient on big datasets that ArcGIS Pro is unrealistic to do on.

I also use FME, where if somebody sends me a spreadsheet where, for example, we would need to get everything in capital letters, it's quicker for me to capitalize everything in FME Workbench than it is in Excel.

I can use FME for just about everything, from logging processes to looking at file structures, what's changed in file structures, what people are doing, or what they've updated. It's not just need-to-know. It's a massive piece of software that's also coded in Python. What FME can't do, I then write in Python.

I can make FME pull in ArcPy, which means that for every single thing that ArcGIS Pro can do, I can make FME. It's much bigger than the box..”

Alan Bloor
Geographic Information System Developer at Public Sector

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

"The platform is fast and easy to install. It takes less than two hours to complete the process. If you have a license for annual support for maintenance, you receive updates and patches. One executive is required to maintain it.."

Validated user

Software Solutions Leader at a engineering company with 10,001+ employees

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"The initial setup of FME is not for beginners. The installation of the license server locally can be a challenge. However, fortunately, it's very similar to the on-premise installation of license servers from ArcGIS Pro which we have used.

The full process of implementing FME took a couple of days because we had to involve the national IT unit.

I rate the initial setup of FME a five out of ten.."

Validated user

Special Adviser at a marketing services firm with 11-50 employees

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“FME workbench is dead easy to set up. It cannot be easier. Double-click on something and go, "Next, next, next." And then it's done.

Licensing is so straightforward if you've got a trial license or pay for it. You just type it in, and it authenticates on the server.

FME server, on the other hand, comes in two types: FME Cloud, with FME server inside, or FME server, which is on-premises. They are straightforward, provided you've got an IT department to set up the servers correctly in the first place.

FME Workbench took three minutes to deploy. FME server took a morning. FME Cloud is all automated. We just need to sign up, type in our details, and add a credit card, and It builds the server for us. The whole process takes under one hour..”

Alan Bloor

Geographic Information System Developer at Public Sector

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Other Advice

“FME is a great tool, but I don't know if we can scale it up since the prices are high and we would need to convince the decision makers to provide more budget.

On a scale of one to ten, I would give FME an eight.

To get a higher rating, it would have to improve the price and the associated scalability. These are the main issues..”

Validated user
Expert Data at a government with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“I would recommend the desktop version of FME. The company is trying to sell it as a server version with automatically processing capabilities, but it's only buying one shared license for batch processing purposes. That's cost-effective. I don't think we will be able to raise the money for a desktop version. The data we are using it for would have to be very important.

I rate FME a nine out of ten..”

Validated user
Special Adviser at a marketing services firm with 11-50 employees

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“I rate FME a seven out of ten because of the price.

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The number of types of data you can save and read is growing massively. Similarly, the solution is improving at working with APIs, downloading data from remote sources much more efficiently. There are more transformers, but these are aimed at data types that don't apply to me.

Before choosing FME, immediately look into licensing and costs before you go down the road of trials and becoming dependent on the trial. When you finish that trial, you'll find yourself semi-dependent on software. Get the costs first because it's a shock.."

Alan Bloor
Geographic Information System Developer at Public Sector

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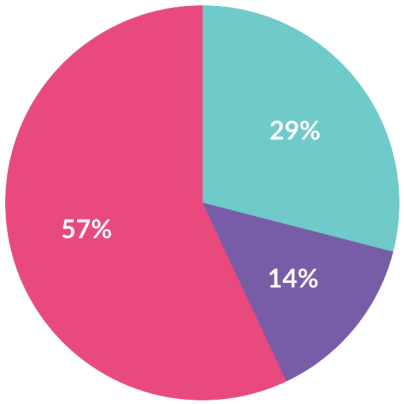

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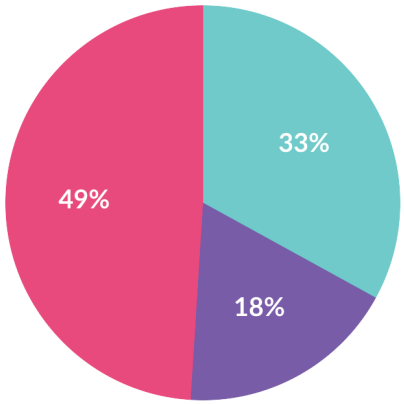

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