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Combining ArcGIS Online and Collector to Update Partner Data

Summary

The ArcGIS platform has matured to allow for sharing data in many ways, but still has many weaknesses that can be closed with workarounds. For my job I assist in installing and inspecting the integrity of closures on abandoned mine features across the state for federal and state partners. We have a feature class of closure locations for the state but until recently had no organized way of reporting inspections for these closures or way of visualizing what needed up to date inspection. I developed a related record of inspections that we can now take into the field and add new inspection reports onto features using the one-to-many relationship however no information from these reports filters back to the features themselves, which prevents easy querying and symbolizing. To better organize our efforts of inspection and targeting needed work I developed a python script to automatically add "inspection freshness" to the feature class attribute table which then allows us to visualize where we need to go. I also made partner specific portals using definition queries on several relevant datasets to allow them to access the same information and export it as needed. The only remaining weakness with this is ArcGIS Online does not allow for editing of related records which prevents partners from being able to add in their own reporting to make it a two way interaction.