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Spatial data storage is necessary but not a given. Use this format comparison to make an informed choice.

 SHAPEFILE	Category	 GEODATABASE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups several individual files that work together (typically geometry, attributes, and indexing)</li> <li>• Near-universal compatibility with all GIS software packages</li> <li>• Considered the most portable format in GIS as users outside of Esri environments/geodatabases can access files</li> </ul>	<b>Key Benefits</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups similar data into one database</li> <li>• Allows topology setup, coded value domains, raster catalogs, relationship classes, and geometric networks</li> <li>• Increases spatial function performance speed</li> </ul>
Greater than .gdb	<b>File Size</b> 	Less than .shp
10 characters	<b>Field Name Length Limit</b> 	64 characters
2 GB	<b>File Size Limit</b> 	Limited by computer hard drive storage space
Limited only by operating system	<b>Table /Feature Class Name Length</b> 	160 characters
Vector	<b>Data Types</b> 	Vector, Raster and more complex data such as topology
Can't be used in a field (0 used instead)	<b>NULL Values</b> 	Supported
No	<b>File Compression</b> 	Yes
No	<b>Proprietary Esri Format</b> 	Yes

Using the best tools for the job at hand is a matter of choice, not chance. Reach out to the ADCi team with any questions about how to make your digital mapping its most efficient and effective.