



ECRI 2024 Product Releases

ECRI is releasing version updates of the Rigel software for 2024, with important new features as described in these release notes.

ECRI enhances the Rigel software products continuously throughout the year, increasing performance, updating support for existing and new external interfaces, improving the user interface, and fixing any problems discovered. All Rigel products share some common code base, so the applicable improvements are common to all products.

Users have the option to check for updates automatically or manually. Customers on software maintenance can download free updates at any time.

Most minor changes will increment only the software build number that appears in the program About box, but each year the minor software version number is incremented to denote an annual release with additional changes and new features. This year the major version number has been incremented to denote significant internal changes in Rigel, mostly “under the hood”. These changes are required to ensure ongoing compatibility of Rigel with the operating environment for the future.

New product versions for 2024:

- Rigel Workstation 3.2
- Rigel Analyst 14.0
- Rigel CIW 2.2
- Gemini 3.2

Significant updates for 2024:

This year there have been some more major internal updates to Rigel necessary for compatibility with the evolving software environment of Windows and external map sources:

- Update the SQL Server database to the LocalDB 2017 version
- Update for compatibility with Microsoft .NET 4.8 and later

All users should pay close attention to these updates, as they may require some compromise on backwards compatibility.

For mapping:

- Added support for Leaflet maps, a new open source interface to multiple map sources
- Added support for MapTiler local map database

As always, there are also less significant updates accumulated throughout the year to stay compatible with external software and to address minor issues.

.NET Update



.NET is Microsoft's cross-platform, open source developer platform for building Windows applications. It underpins many Windows applications, including Rigel. While Microsoft supports some backwards compatibility in .NET, occasionally it becomes necessary to update to stay compatible with the current operating environment. This can involve significant internal changes to the applications.

Previously Rigel updated to .NET 4.6.2, which will be supported until Jan 2027. This year since additional changes are required which necessarily sacrifice backward compatibility, Rigel has been updated to version to .NET 4.8.1.

The required .NET version is installed along with Rigel if not already present when the full installer is used. Rigel will display a specific error message if the required version of .NET is not installed on the system.

SQL Server Update



Rigel uses Microsoft SQL Server for its database, providing the necessary performance, capacity, and security. The LocalDB version is installed by default with Rigel, or you can connect to a network SQL Server database hosted on another server. Rigel has used the LocalDB 2012 version since it was released, keeping that version for stability and backward compatibility with Windows 7. However Microsoft is ending support for that version, so an update is required, and backward compatibility can no longer be maintained.

This year Rigel will switch to using SQL Server 2017, which is fully supported on Windows 10 and later, but is not compatible with Windows 7. This switch requires a database format change, as SQL Server 2017 cannot read SQL Server 2012 databases. Rigel users can either start with a fresh database going forward, using xml case import/export to copy over any cases in progress, or follow the SQL Server database update script available from ECRI to transcribe the existing database format from old to new. It is also possible to keep the older version of Rigel installed alongside the current version to access the old database.

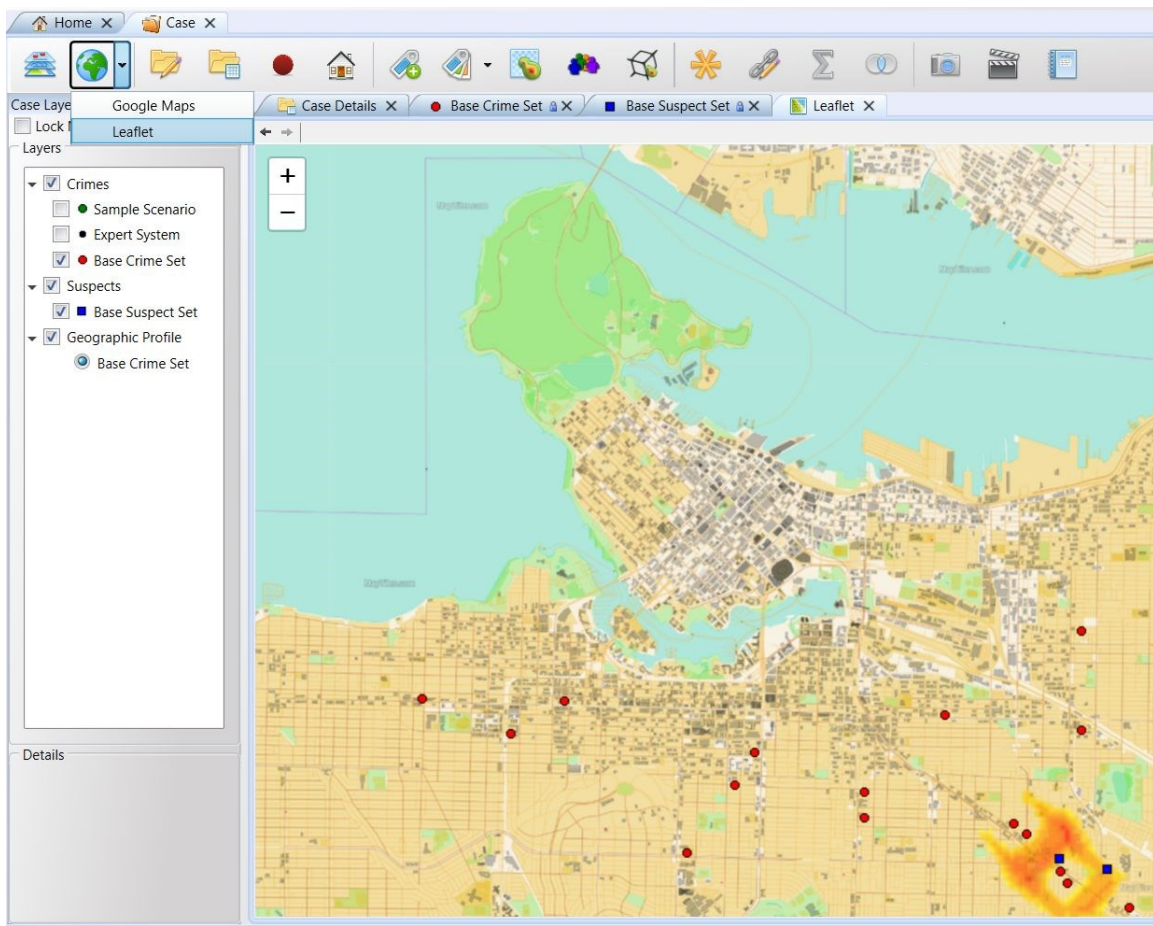
Leaflet Maps



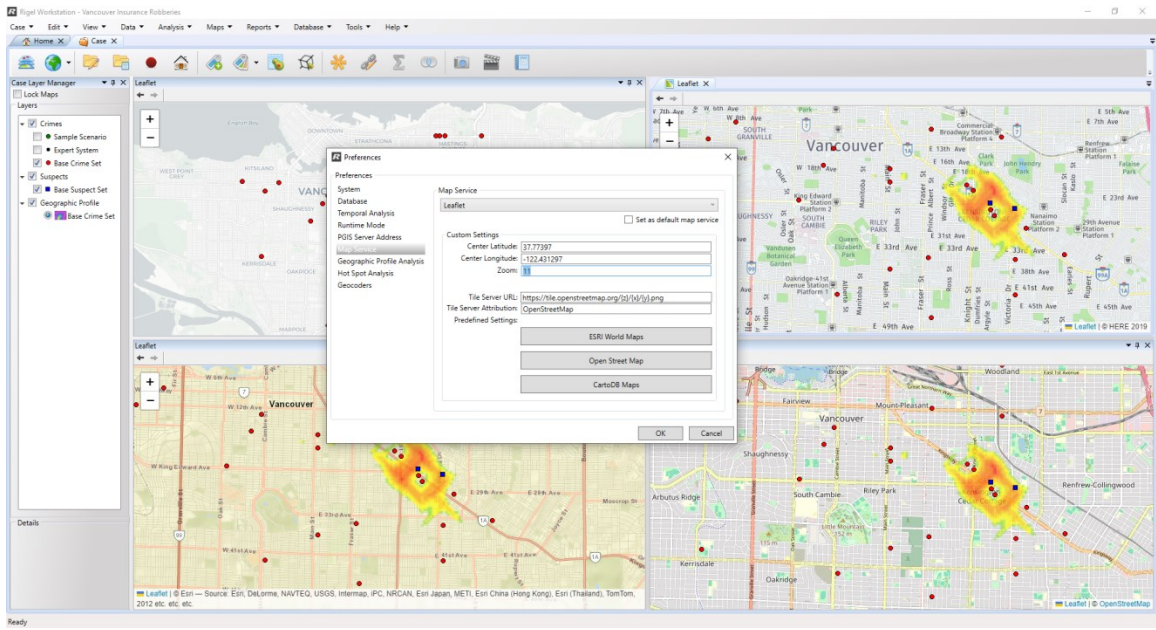
A new open-source common map interface called Leaflet has been growing in popularity and support (see <https://leafletjs.com/index.html>). This year Rigel adds support for Leaflet, opening up some new map sources and capabilities.

Rigel uses the Leaflet Javascript API running on a WebView2 browser, with the default installation set to connect to Open Street Maps (OSM). Other online map sources supported include:

- Google Maps
- ESRI world maps
- HERE maps
- Bing Maps
- Carto
- UK Ordnance Survey



Example of Leaflet Map



4 Different Leaflet Map Sources with Preferences

MapTiler Offline Maps



For those who want an offline local map database without internet access, the Leaflet map can also be configured to connect a local map source. MapTiler's self-hosted server (see <https://docs.maptiler.com/leaflet/> and <https://www.maptiler.com/server/>) is the most convenient option (free for non-commercial use, paid license required otherwise). MapTiler also supports raster image overlays, such as orthodigital aerial photos. Another option which allows free commercial use is a local OpenStreetMaps server in a Docker container, slightly more complex to set up but fully supported.

For More Information

Product comparison: <http://ecricanada.com/Products>

A full set of video tutorials for Rigel Workstation and Rigel Analyst is available online at:

<http://rigelanalyst.net/RWDemo>

<http://rigelanalyst.net/RADemo>