7. Mailing lists, updates, and bug reports.

Most public-domain (and even commercial) software comes with bugs, and the speed with which such bugs are detected and removed depends to a large degree on the willingness of the user community to report these to us in a useful manner. When your car breaks down, simply telling the mechanic that it doesn't work will hardly speed up the repair or cut back costs! Therefore, we ask that if you detect a bug, first make sure that it in fact is a bug and not a user error. Then, send us email about the problem. Be sure to include all the information necessary for us to recreate the situation in which the bug occurred. This will include the full command line used and, if possible, the data file used by the program. Send the bug-reports to gmt@soest.hawaii.edu. We will try to fix bugs as soon as our schedules permit and inform users about the bug and availability of updated code (See Appendix D).

With the distribution you will find two license registration forms; one for non-profit organizations and one for for-profit companies. We ask that you fill out the appropriate version and send it to us. There is no need to fill out a new license if you already are a registered user of and earlier version of GMT. You may also register electronically via the GMT home web page.

Two electronic mailing lists are available for users to subscribe to. The first is called gmtgroup@soest.hawaii.edu and is primarily a way for us to notify the users when bugs have been fixed or when new updates have been installed in the ftp directory (See Appendix D). We also maintain another list (gmthelp@soest.hawaii.edu) which interested users may subscribe to. It basically provides a forum for GMT users to exchange ideas and ask questions about GMT usage, installation and portability, etc. Please use this utility rather than sending questions directly to gmt@soest. We hope you appreciate that we simply do not have time to be everybody's personal GMT tutor.

The electronic mailing lists are maintained automatically by a program. To subscribe to one or both of the lists, send a message to listserver@soest.hawaii.edu containing the command(s):

subscribe gmtgroup <your full name, not email address>
subscribe gmthelp <your full name, not email address>

(Do not type the angular brackets <>). For information on what commands you may send, send a message containing the word help. You must interact with the listserver to be added to the mailing lists! We strongly recommend that you at least subscribe to gmtgroup since this is how we can notify you of future updates and bug-fixes. Most new users will also benefit from having the other forum (gmthelp) as they struggle to realign their sense of logic with that of GMT. While anybody may post messages to gmthelp, access to gmtgroup is restricted to minimize net traffic. Any message sent to gmtgroup will be intercepted by the GMT manager who will determine if the message is important enough to cause thousands of mailtools to go BEEP. Communication with other GMT users should go via gmthelp.

Finally, all GMT information is provided online at the main GMT home page in Hawaii, i.e., www.soest.hawaii.edu/gmt. Changes to GMT will also be posted on this page. The main GMT page has links to the official GMT ftp sites around the world.