

## 9. Choosing Overlay Files

An overlay is a display, such as a geopolitical map or latitude/longitude grid. It is displayed on top of a radar product, such as a TRACK or CAPPI product, to give it more visual appeal and meaning.

Overlays are text files containing the coordinates of the lines in the map or grid, possible icons and text such as city names. They are created by operators or system managers and stored in a central location on the IRIS system. Each overlay is associated with a particular radar site, and there can be many overlays for any one site. The Overlay menu lets you pick which overlay to use when displaying products from the various sites connected to your system.

When displaying a product with an overlay, IRIS can make adjustments for changes in the radar location up to 1000 km. For instance, if a radar is located on a ship at sea, IRIS can shift the overlay to match the ship's movement.

### To enter the Overlay menu:

Choose **Menus→Overlay Menu** from the IRIS menu bar or from any of the IRIS menus.

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For information on creating overlay files, and where to store them for system-wide use, see the **overlay** utility chapter of the *IRIS Utilities Manual*.

## 9.1 Overlay Menu



Each entry in the Overlay menu contains the ID of a radar site and the name of an overlay file used when displaying information from that site. The list of sites and overlays differs from system to system, depending on the radar sites connected to the system.

### Site ID

A site ID is a three-letter abbreviation for a radar site. It is assigned by the system manager using the Setup utility. The XXX site ID is present on all IRIS systems. It is the ID for unknown sites.



**Hint:** Set the XXX overlay to the default overlay for your radar site, or the site from which radar data are most likely to come.

### Overlay Name

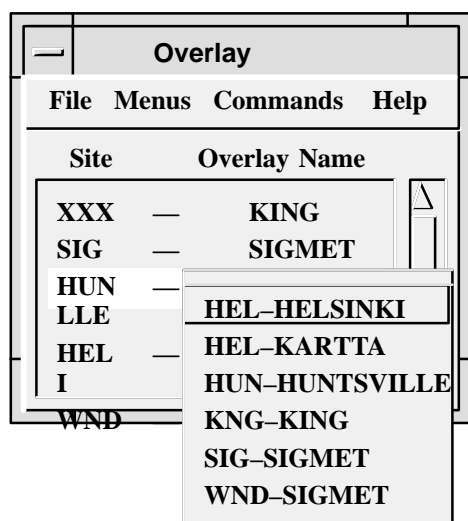
An overlay name is the name of the text file containing the map or grid. These files are stored in a central location on your system and maintained by the system manager.

## 9.2 Assigning an Overlay to a Radar Site

The IRIS system manager associates a default overlay file for each site connected to the system. You may assign a different overlay to the site, as follows:

1. In the Overlay Menu, highlight the site that you want to change and pop up a list of overlays available on the system. Figure 9–1 shows a pop-up menu containing two overlays for the HEL site — HELSINKI and KARTTA.

**Figure 9–1: Overlay Menu with Pop-Up Menu**



2. Choose an overlay from the list.

There is nothing to prevent you from choosing an overlay that is invalid for a radar site. Therefore, the pop-up menu also shows the site IDs for which the overlay is valid. If you try to display a product with an invalid overlay, IRIS displays the message, “Overlay origin more than 1000 km from radar location.” If you should get this message, check that the correct overlay is assigned to the radar site.