

Improved support for dashed lines in Mapserver

To improve the support of dashed lines in Mapserver, **INITIALGAP** needs to be added as a **STYLE** parameter and **GAP** needs to specify the centre to centre distance between points.

Current support for dashed lines in Mapserver

Dashed lines have "always" been supported by Mapserver. Currently (Mapserver 6.0) with the **LAYER-> CLASS-> STYLE-> PATTERN** parameter.

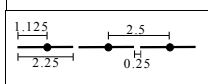
```
PATTERN <length1> <gap1> <length2> <gap2> ... END
```

The pattern is repeated until the end of the line is reached.

Support for styling of dashed lines with point symbols

Lines can be styled with point symbols using the **LAYER-> CLASS-> STYLE-> GAP** parameter, which places point symbols along a line with a spacing given by **GAP**. Currently, dashed lines can not be styled in this way. It is not possible to make the signature in the figure with Mapserver:

In order to support this kind of signature (which is used on orienteering maps), it must be possible to specify the gap to the first symbol on the line separately. For instance using **INITIALGAP** (as used in SLD), as suggested in Mapserver ticket #3879. Using **INITIALGAP**, the signature can be specified as follows:

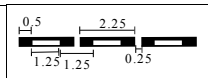


```
STYLE # DASHED LINE
  COLOR 0 0 0
  WIDTH 0.1
  PATTERN 2.25 0.25 END
END
STYLE # POINTS
  SYMBOL "circlef"
  COLOR 0 0 0
  SIZE 0.4
  INITIALGAP 1.125
  GAP 2.5
END
```

To simplify this kind of styling, it is also important that the **GAP** value specifies the centre to centre distance between the points (as suggested in Mapserver ticket #3867).

Support for styling of dashed lines with dashed lines

Lines can be styled with dashed lines by overlay (**STYLE** on **STYLE**). But styling of dashed lines with dashed lines is currently not possible. In order to make this possible it is necessary to specify a gap to the start of the pattern, for instance using **INITIALGAP**, as used for point symbols.



```
STYLE
  COLOR 0 0 0
  WIDTH 0.2
  PATTERN 2.25 0.25 END
END
STYLE
  COLOR 255 255 255
  WIDTH 0.1
  INITIALGAP 0.5
  PATTERN 1.25 1.25 END
END
```