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Maps Engine Lite

Google maps API Guide

https://developers.google.com/maps/

ITT 343
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Final Project/ Instructional Material
with Adobe In Design
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boyadjieva_fin.indd 2 5/1/2014 1:54:03 PM

THOUGHTS

If you are into graphic design, web development, and digital graphics, eventually, someone will ask you to make a map. There are a number of online recources on the topic, and custom maps are an excellent feature to add to any website. Making a custom map with a marker and personalising the info window with a embeded picture, is a good way to start. And it pnly takes a few minutes, a computer, and a photo editor.

BEFORE YOU START:

Google Maps are becoming common features on company and private websites.The new Google API has a number of personalisation options that will make your map stand out and that will fit any taste and liking. You can customize:

- the map base colors,
- personalise the info window with graphical content,
- custom pictures,
- embed a You Tube video,
- embed a custom 360 panorama.

All in just few easy steps.

THE PROJECT

This project is divided into three parts:

i. Creating the base map and placemark.
ii. Insert a photo in the infowindow.
iii.Adding the finished map to your website.

Optional: setting up the infowindow to display video content.
The finished result:

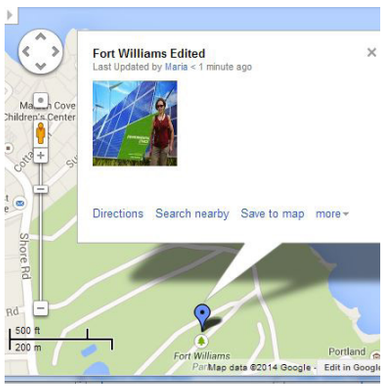


Fig1.Custom Google map with info window and picture.

ASSUMPTIONS:

Before you proceed we assume the following in place:

- basic web site publicly hosted.
- access to the editable content of your site.
- html literacy



NOTE: *If you have never used Google maps for customizing a map, the "Clasic maps" are the way to go. The free version of Maps Engi*gne Lite (check: https://mapsengine.google.com/map/?).

boyadjieva_fin.indd 3 5/1/2014 1:54:03 PM

1.MAKE THE BASE MAP AND DROP A PLACEMARK.

For the task we will use the Classic Google Maps. Feel free to explore the free version of the daughter company :**Maps Engine Lite.** Classic Maps remain an all time favorite and provide an easy to use interface,
making them great for starters. We go to : *https://www.google.com/maps/.*
From the menu on the left select Classic maps. if you do not see the link, try the original url: *https://www.google.com/maps?output=classic.*
From the menu on the left then select MY PLACES --> CREATE .(see Fig1)



Fig2. Create a map

Edit the map title

In the map's search box type the name of the specific location,where your photos originates from: In my case- this is Fort Williams Park (Portland Head Light). Then, in the next dialog box- enter a name for your map,ex "Welcome page" (Fig3.),
Click SAVE.

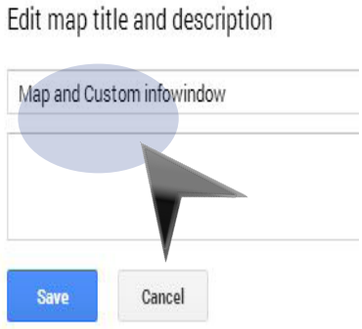


Fig3. Edit the map title

The map toolbar

Most of the controls we will be using for the task are located in a small toll-bar at the top of the map(Fig3).
It looks like this:

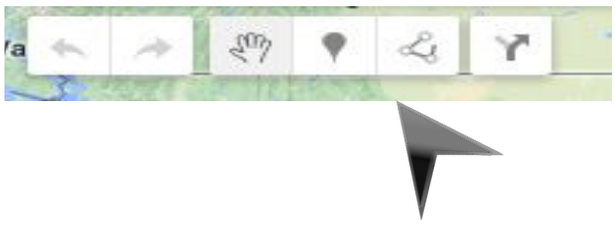


Fig4. The map toolbar

boyadjieva_fin.indd 4 5/1/2014 1:54:03 PM

Drop a placemark(or several)

On the Map toolbar,select a colored marker. Click on it to expand the list of available options.Choose your placemark by clicking on the selection(Fig4). Name and save the changes similar to the previous section.

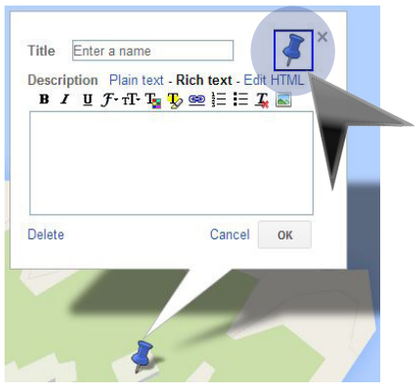


Fig5. Drop a placemark

2. INSERT PICTURES IN THE INFOWINDOW.

This is a fairly easy step , given that:
- You have successfylu created the map and the infowindow.
- You are hosting your pictures online, like: Picasa, Google Views, or Google Drive.

Open your photo online and find the embed link (or right click to get to the “get URL option”).



Fig6 . Embed Link

Paste the data to your clipboard. With this link we go back to our map. Click on the update link inside the infowindow--> go ahead and paste the url in the in the provided box. In my particular oc casion , i go to:
Google+ --> Profile --> Photos --> GoogleMapFiles --> copy image URL.

With this url on the Clipboard , we go back to our map.
Click the marker --> Select the Picture icon(or the Rich Text)inside the infowindow to enter Edit Mode.

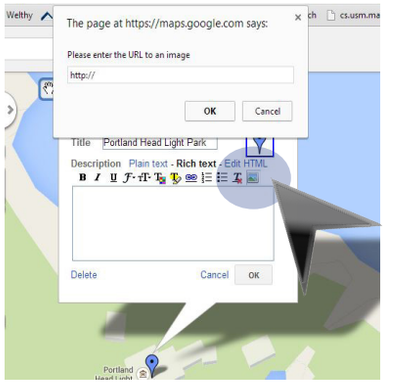


Fig7. Edit the infowindow content

Clil OK. Save you changes:click DONE.
You should now have the following preview (Fig6):

boyadjieva_fin.indd 5 5/1/2014 1:54:03 PM

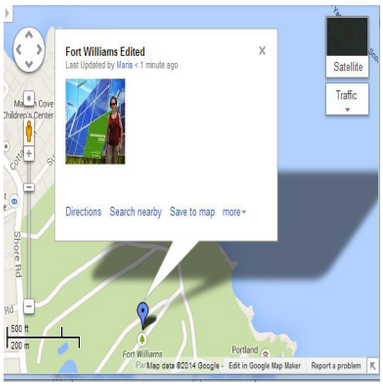


Fig8. Custom infowindow

3. EMBED THE MAP TO YOUR WEBSITE

Go to the left control panel and look for the embed link(it looks like a chain to the right of the printer). (Fig7)
There are two options there.

- a link that you can click on to get to the actual map.
- option to include the map itself in your website.

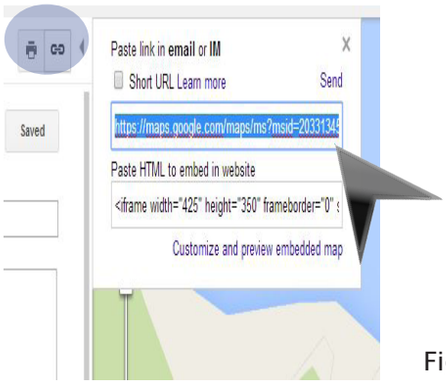


Fig9. Get the embed info

Go to your website html code.Copy and paste the provided iframe in the desired location(or use the url to display a link to the map).
The result with the map content displayed on a website(Fig8):



Fig10. The map displayed on a website

boyadjieva_fin.indd 6 5/1/2014 1:54:04 PM

VOILA!

Total work time - less about 1o min.

This example covers some basic start up methods.Feel free to explore soe of the drawing tools on the toolbar, or embed a video in the infowindow using the same technique as we did to insert the picture in Step2.

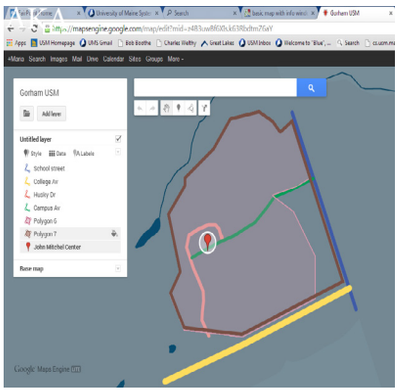


Fig11. Custumize with Maps Engine Lite

CONCLUSION:

Google maps makes it easy to embed a custom map to your website. With some html and java coding- the sky is the limit for what you can achieve.

KEYWORDS:

google maps, embed a google map on your website, google map with info window, custumizing the google maps info window, google maps engine, maps engine lite.

LIST OF MATERIALS:

All graphical content is developped with AI. Document layout with In Design.



Fig12. Google Maps

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