

XML File Interface for Google Maps

This interface allows users to plot multiple markers on a Google Maps map using a simple XML file.

URL format

Save the file to your webserver and send the complete HTTP URL as a query string to <http://www.namsys.net/maps/xml-map.php>. The query string must be URL encoded (e.g. PHP uses a 'urlencode' function, Java uses 'URLEncoder.encode').

Example:

<http://www.namsys.net/maps/xml-map.php?http%3A%2F%2Fwww.namsys.net%2Fmaps%2Ftest.xml>

URL is valid and will display the example below.

XML Format

- All of the fields are required.
- The address fields are self explanatory and are deciphered by Google's geocoder so the formatting is flexible.
- The 'zoom' field in the 'center' section that specifies the detail level for the map. It is a number from 0 - 17 (see Google Maps API for more information).
- The text in the description field of each marker is displayed when the user clicks on the marker.
- Any special characters must be escaped per the XML standard (e.g. '&' becomes '&')

```
<map>
  <center>
    <address>King St W &amp; John St, Toronto, ON, Canada</address>
    <zoom>15</zoom>
  </center>
  <markers>
    <marker>
      <address>667 King St W, Toronto ON, Canada</address>
      <description>Wheat Sheaf Tavern</description>
    </marker>
    <marker>
      <address>30 Yonge St, Toronto, ON, Canada</address>
      <description>Hockey Hall of Fame</description>
    </marker>
    <marker>
      <address>299 Queen St. W., Toronto ON, </address>
      <description>CityTV building</description>
    </marker>
  </markers>
</map>
```

Source and debugging

- The PHP source file can be downloaded at <http://www.namsys.net/maps/xml-map.txt>
- The Firefox Javascript console is useful for debugging