

Gmap4

Quick Start Guide

By: Joseph Elfelt

Last update to this file: April 13, 2017

For more documentation see the [Gmap4 Help page](#)

Also see the [“What is new”](#) page

Table of contents

Using Gmap4 on your smartphone, tablet or other mobile device	2
Online	2
Offline	3
Some things you can do after the map opens on your screen	3
Mouse things you can do while viewing the map	3
Button to change the basemap	3
Turn on a built-in GIS overlay	3
‘Menu’ button	3
Search	4
Geolocate yourself - Use the GPS in your smartphone/tablet	5
View the highest quality topographic maps for the USA	5
Change the amount of hill shading	5
View the highest quality topographic maps for Canada	6
Change the coordinate format	6
Display a UTM grid, USNG or MGRS grid	6
Find out if the map you are looking at has any GIS overlay layers or GIS basemaps	6
View GIS overlay layers without any basemap	7
View attribute data for a GIS symbol	7
Control whether the aerial photo tilts in certain urban areas	7
Get the coordinates for a feature on the map	8
Make a map-in-a-link, no data file needed	8
Display the current magnetic declination	8
Get draggable directions	9
See more information doing things after the map opens	9
Using parameters in a Gmap4 link	9
Display the default map	9
Open the map at a specific latitude, longitude coordinate	9
Open the map at a specific UTM coordinate	10
Open the map at a specific USNG or MGRS grid box	10
Open the map at your location and set coordinates to USNG	10
Open the map with the search window open	11
Open the map with one marker on the map	11

Open the map at a location outside of the USA and Canada	11
Open the map with GIS data displayed.	12
Change a long Gmap4 link that displays GIS data into a short link	12
Get a Gmap4 link to reproduce the map on your screen.	12
Get a Gmap4 link that will open the map centered at any spot on the screen.	12
Get a Gmap4 link that will open the map centered at your location.	12
See more information about Gmap4 link parameters	13
Using Gmap4 to display GPX, TPO, KML, KMZ, MyPlaces & text files.	13
Display a file that is hosted on a website	13
Display a file that is hosted on Google Sites	14
Display multiple KML/KMZ files on one map.	15
Display a map made with regular Google maps	15
Display a file and a USNG grid	15
Importance of the “refresh” link parameter.	16
Display a file with a ‘?’ in the link for that file.	16
View the content of a file that Gmap4 can display.	16
See more information about working with files	17
Make files that you can display with Gmap4	18
Try map-in-a-link, no data file needed	18
Use Gmap4 to make GPX files.	18
Use Gmap4 to make delimited text files.	18
Use Google Maps to make KML files	19
Use Google Earth to make KML files.	19
See more information about making files.	20
Printing maps	20
How to print maps.	20
Orient a printed map so it points to true north	20

Below are some of the things you can do with Gmap4 and basic instructions for doing them.

1. Using Gmap4 on your smartphone, tablet or other mobile device

a. Online

Open Gmap4 in the browser of your mobile device just like you open Gmap4 in the browser on a desktop or laptop. Gmap4 is a browser app (not a ‘native’ app) and will run in most popular browsers. Special buttons are automatically displayed when you open Gmap4 on a smartphone, iPod or Blackberry. Here is a quick way to start Gmap4:

1. Do a Google search for Gmap4.
2. Open the first ‘hit’. It is the Gmap4 homepage.
3. Look right under the title and click “Start Gmap4”. The default map will open.
4. Use zoom/pan and Menu ==> Search to find what you want.

b. Offline

Most of the Gmap4 features work fine offline. However, you first need to load the map area that you want to view offline into your browser's cache. For quick and ease instructions please download this pdf file: https://mappingsupport.com/p/help_files/gmap4_offline.pdf.

2. Some things you can do after the map opens on your screen

a. Mouse things you can do while viewing the map

- Click-and-hold then drag the map
- Roll the mouse wheel to zoom. (Mouse-wheel-zoom is disabled when Gmap4 is running in an iframe.) Or zoom by clicking the plus/minus symbols in one corner of the map.
- Double-clicking the map will zoom the map in one step. The spot you clicked will remain in the same position on your screen. This is similar to how most online map software works.
- Right-click the map to see a popup that displays coordinates (WGS84 datum) for the spot you clicked. The coordinates are displayed as latitude longitude (3 formats), UTM, MGRS and USNG. This popup also lets you get directions.

b. Button to change the basemap

In the upper right corner of the map (mobile users - lower right) is a button that always has the **name of the current basemap**. Click that button to see a menu of the available basemaps. That menu also lets you turn any transparent “Overlays” on/off.

c. Turn on a built-in GIS overlay

Click the basemap button and then look under the “Overlay” heading. Mobile users will need to scroll down. There are four built-in overlays which can display:

Weather radar

Google traffic

Congressional house districts (see “Map Tips” in the upper left corner)

State legislature districts (see “Map Tips” in the upper left corner)

Contour lines

d. ‘Menu’ button

The Menu button provides access to various features. The following choices appear on the drop down ‘Menu’ when you are using a desktop. You will see minor differences when using a mobile device:

- Terms of service Please read the Gmap4 terms of service.
- Gmap4 Facebook page If you are a facebook user you can go to the Gmap4 facebook page and 'like' Gmap4.
- Help and Quick Start Open a new window and display the Gmap4 Help page.
- Gmap4 Homepage FAQ, lots of examples, contact, links and more.
- Link to this map Display the link for the map view on the screen.
- Embed this map Display <iframe> code to include this map in a web page
- My location Display your location on a smartphone or tablet.
- Search Display the search bar.
- Draw and Save Trip planning and custom maps. Make a GPX file, delimited text file or map-in-a-link.
- Hill shading Change hill shading for the 't4 CalTopo Hi-res USA' maps.
- UTM - USNG - LatLng Chose type of coordinate format from latitude longitude (3 formats), UTM, MGRS, USNG or turn coordinate display off. A grid is displayed if you select UTM, MGRS or USNG.
- Declination Display present-day magnetic declination for the map center.
- Data file Toggle the map data on and off.
- Label Toggle symbol labels on and off (except for KMZ files).
- Streetview Toogle the streetview symbol. Streetview is only available if the basemap being displayed is hosted by Google (Map, Satellite, Hybrid, Terrain).
- Crosshair Toggle the crosshair symbol at the center of the map
- Map tilt Toggle whether google's aerals tilt when zoomed in. This tilting only happens in certain urban areas.
- Directions Displays instructions for getting directions.
- Full screen Open a new window and display Gmap4. Useful if you are seeing Gmap4 in a small iframe and want a larger view.
- About Display the Gmap4 version number.
- Recreation maps Go to the master web page that leads to many Gmap4 maps that display recreation-related GIS data. Some maps display GIS weather and disaster data.
- Property Line Maps Go to the Property Line Maps website - another service from the developer of Gmap4.
- Donate Open a new window and display the Gmap4 Donate page.

e. Search

Display any map on your screen and then click Menu ==> Search. You can search on (1) anything related to addresses including names of many settlements that no longer exist (2) many kinds of place names such as mountains, rivers, valleys and (3) coordinates using the WGS84 datum.

For searching on coordinates you can use most reasonable ways to write latitude longitude as

- Decimal degrees (dd.dddddd)
- Degrees and decimal minutes (dd mm.mmm)
- Degrees minutes seconds (dd mm ss)

If you search on UTM coordinates then note that Gmap4 uses **latitude bands** as part of UTM coordinates. The USA is in latitude bands R, S, T and U.

You can also search on MGRS and USNG coordinates.

If you search on any type of coordinate then (1) the coordinate format will be changed to match the format used in your search and (2) a grid will be displayed if you search on UTM, USNG or MGRS coordinates.

If you click “List” then you see all the results that Google generated in response to your search. If you click the gray button labeled “Search & Mark” or “Search”, then the map you see will be based on the **first item** in the list of results.

f. Geolocate yourself - Use the GPS in your smartphone/tablet

This is intended to be used on smartphone or tablet. Be sure you have first turned on the GPS in your device. To center the map where your location:

Click Menu ==> My location

The red circle that shows your approximate location on the map will now follow you as you move. For best results your mobile device needs a clear view of the sky in order to receive signals from the GPS satellites.

First do Menu ==> “UTM - USNG - LatLng” and pick the coordinate format you want. Then do Menu ==> “My location”.

Now touch the red location circle and the position of the center of that circle is displayed using the coordinate format you selected. The datum is always **WGS84**.

g. View the highest quality topographic maps for the USA

Zoom in or use the search feature.

Click the button (upper right corner) for changing the basemap and select “t4 Topo High”.

For more information about these high resolution topographic maps, please visit the [Gmap4 Help](#) page and download the pdf file “Overview”. Search that file (control F) on “CalTopo”.

h. Change the amount of hill shading

Click Menu ==> Hill shading.

This feature only applies to the high resolution USA topographic maps (“t4 Topo High”).

You can also use the “&hillshade=” link parameter to set the amount of hill shading the map will have when it opens on the screen. The default is 18.

i. View the highest quality topographic maps for Canada

Zoom in or use the search feature. Then use the button (upper right corner) for changing the basemap and select “t5 Canada”. These maps are all digital. They are not scans of paper maps.

The “t2 MyTopo” also displays topographic maps for Canada. These maps are medium resolution scans that were made from the paper maps.

j. Change the coordinate format

Click Menu ==> UTM - USNG - LatLng.

You will see a popup that lets you select from the following types of coordinates:

- Latitude longitude
 - decimal degrees (dd.dddddd)
 - degrees and decimal minutes (dd mm.mmm) <== **Popular for geocaching**
 - degrees minutes seconds (dd mm ss)
- UTM - Universal Transverse Mercator
- USNG - U.S. National Grid (Standard for federal search and rescue missions)
- MGRS - Military Grid Reference System

To see how to specify the coordinate type when you make a Gmap4 link, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Link Parameters”. Search that file (control F) on “&coord”.

k. Display a UTM grid, USNG or MGRS grid

Click Menu ==> UTM - USNG - LatLng.

Select UTM or USNG or MGRS.

Ability to display a USNG or MGRS grid.

l. Find out if the map you are looking at has any GIS overlay layers or GIS basemaps

Each map has two buttons. One button says “Menu”. The other button always displays the name of the current basemap. Click the basemap button.

Desktop/laptop: Two dropdown menus will appear. The “Overlay” menu shows the GIS overlays that can be turned on/off.

Mobile: After touching the basemap button, scroll down to the “Overlay” section.

All users: GIS overlay layers that are ‘on’ have a number. A layer with a higher number is ‘on top’ of any layer with a lower number. If a layer is ‘on’ and you want to move it to the top of the stack, turn it off and then turn it back on.

Also, to see if any additional GIS basemaps are available, look at the bottom of the list of basemaps. Names of basemaps that are built in to Gmap4 are shown in bold type. If additional GIS basemaps are available their names are shown in normal type.

m. View GIS overlay layers without any basemap

Change the basemap to “All white basemap”.

n. View attribute data for a GIS symbol

Click the GIS symbol.

Note: Usually you can doubleclick the map to center it at that spot. This feature is disabled on maps that can show GIS overlay layers. You will have to click-hold-drag the map to pan it.

Note: If the popup is on the screen then you cannot click below the popup. Clicks below the popup will be ignored.

o. Control whether the aerial photo tilts in certain urban areas

Click Menu ==> Tilt

This feature is provided by Google and is intended to only work if the map is displaying aerial photos that Google is hosting (Satellite or Hybrid). Also, this only works in certain urban and suburban areas and you have to be zoomed in a bunch before this feature will work. Note that the ‘tilted’ aerials are actually different photos than the aerials you see when tilt is ‘off’ and the aerial photo shows a more-or-less straight down view.

The tilt feature has been disabled when any of the following are true:

The My location feature is on

The map is displaying GIS data

The map is displaying a USNG, MGRS or UTM grid

Allowing the Google aerial to tilt makes the above features not work correctly therefore tilting of the Google aerial has been disabled when any of the above features are being used.

p. Get the coordinates for a feature on the map

Desktop/laptop users: Place the cursor on that feature and rightclick. The popup displays the coordinates for the place you clicked using the WGS84 datum. You will see latitude longitude (3 formats), UTM, MGRS and USNG (U.S. National Grid) coordinates.

Mobile users:

Tap the > symbol at the left edge of the screen.

Drag the crosshair that appears.

Then tap the crosshair.

The rightclick popup appears with all the same information that desktop/laptop users see. If this crosshair is not on the screen, then tap < to close this feature and then open it again.

q. Make a map-in-a-link, no data file needed

1. Click Menu ==> Draw and Save
2. Select “Waypoint and linepoint”
3. Click the map to make a line. The symbols are draggable (click-hold-drag).
4. Rightclick a few of the symbols and select “Edit this point”. Add a meaningful waypoint name and a descriptive comment. Save.
6. Rightclick any symbol and select “Gmap4 link - With description”

Paste that link into a browser address bar and open the map. Click any symbol to see the waypoint comment that you entered.

Mobile users: To access the “Edit” screen tap a point that you want to edit, select “Action menu” and then select “Edit this point”.

r. Display the current magnetic declination

To display the present-day magnetic declination for the center of the map, click Menu==>Declination. This feature works **worldwide**. The value displayed is the current predicted declination as produced by software from:

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/IAGA/vmod/igrf.html> combined with data from:

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag/WMM/back.shtml>

Thanks to NOAA staffer Manoj C. Nair for pointing me in the right direction.

Magnetic declination is always changing. If you compare the Gmap4 value to the declination stated on any printed map, you may be surprised to discover how out-of-date the declination on the map has become.

After you turn on the declination display then the value will automatically be updated as the center of the map changes. To turn off the declination display, click Menu==>Declination. If you print a map with Gmap4 you might want to first turn on the declination.

s. Get draggable directions

This feature was not working for awhile but has now been fixed and improved. There are now two ways to access the directions feature.

First, you can rightclick the map and then click one of the buttons at the bottom of the popup.

Second, mobile users can turn on geolocation (Menu ==> My location) then tap the location symbol then tap the directions button. The start of the trip will be your current location.

For more information about using the ‘Directions’ feature, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Using An Open Map”. Search that file (control F) on “directions”.

t. See more information doing things after the map opens

For more information about things you can do after the map opens on your screen, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Using An Open Map”.

3. Using parameters in a Gmap4 link

The way the map looks on your screen when it opens (map center, zoom level, basemap, etc) is determined by parameters that are part of the Gmap4 link.

a. Display the default map

The default map displays a world map. Enter this into your browser bar and press your enter key:
<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php>
Note that this link does not have any parameters.

b. Open the map at a specific latitude, longitude coordinate

Paste the following command into your browser bar, replace “latitude,longitude” with the latitude,longitude you wish to view, and press your enter key. The command should have **no spaces**. In North America the longitude has a **minus sign**.
<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?ll=latitude,longitude>

Here's Old Faithful, Yellowstone National Park

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?ll=44.461721,-110.832396&z=14&t=t2>

Here's an example that displays a map of Mount Rushmore:

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?ll=43.877015,-103.45087&t=t2>

c. Open the map at a specific UTM coordinate

Paste the following command into your browser bar, replace the underline with the UTM coordinate you wish to view, and press your enter key. The command should have **no spaces**. Be sure to include the UTM zone.

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?utm=_____&t=t4

Here is an example showing the visitor's center at the Grand Canyon North Rim:

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?utm=12S,405335,4006664&t=t4>

Note that Gmap4 uses **latitude bands** as part of UTM coordinates. The USA is in latitude bands R, S, T and U.

d. Open the map at a specific USNG or MGRS grid box

Do not use the &ll (latitude longitude) parameter in your Gmap4 link. Instead, use the &usng or &mgrs parameter. If you are working with USNG coordinates then use an underline character instead of a space. For example:

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?usng=12T_WQ_1_2

Here are a couple more examples of valid values for these parameters:

&usng=12T_WQ_13671_23042

&mgrs=11SKB7203281025

Also, if you do not use the &z (zoom) parameter in your Gmap4 link then the map will automatically be zoomed based on the size of the grid boxes that will be displayed.

e. Open the map at your location and set coordinates to USNG

If you are **in the USA** and open the following link with the browser on a smartphone, tablet or other mobile device, then the following link will (1) start Gmap4, (2) center the map at your location, (3) set USNG as the coordinate format and (4) display the high resolution topographic maps. The red circle showing your location will follow you as you move. If you touch the location symbol then **your position will be displayed in USNG coordinates**. (**Tip**: You can edit the link to specify a different coordinate format or you can change the coordinate format **on-the-fly** by doing Menu ==> UTM - USNG - LatLng.)

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?mylocation=on&coord=usng&t=t4>

If you are **not in the USA**, then here is a good link to use since it uses UTM coordinates and displays a version of Open Street Map that works worldwide.

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?mylocation=on&coord=utm&t=t8>

f. Open the map with the search window open

Include &search=on in the link.

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?search=on>

g. Open the map with one marker on the map

Paste the following command into your browser bar and replace “latitude,longitude” with the latitude,longitude where you want the marker to appear. Remember, do not let any spaces sneak into the command and in North America the longitude must have a minus sign.

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?ll=latitude,longitude&t=t2&z=14&symbol=pr>

Your map will have a red paddle.

This link opens the map centered near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Note the two minus signs in the ll parameter.

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?ll=-22.065278,-43.198242&z=6&t=h&symbol=pr>

To obtain the latitude/longitude first find that spot with Gmap4. Perhaps the Menu=>Search feature will be helpful. Then point the cursor to that spot and right-click. Copy the latitude/longitude displayed at the top of the popup that appears.

For more information about the allowable values for the &symbol parameter, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Link Parameters”. Search that file (control F) on “&symbol”.

h. Open the map at a location outside of the USA and Canada

Everything works exactly the same with only one exception. You will not see the “t4 Topo High” topographic maps for locations outside of the USA and Canada. Here is a map showing the 2010 Tour de France route on the Google aerial:

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?t=h&q=http://paris.thover.com/images/blog/tdf/2010/tdf2010.kml>

i. Open the map with GIS data displayed

For plenty of example maps and plain language instructions, please see:

GIS Viewer page:

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4-arcgis-layers-on-google-maps.html>

GIS Help page:

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4_gis_help.html

Even if you only look at the example maps on these pages, you likely will see something that you find **fascinating**.

j. Change a long Gmap4 link that displays GIS data into a short link

Make a text file that specifies the GIS data you want Gmap4 to display. Then make a short Gmap4 link to display that text file. For more information, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Delimited Data” and search that file (control f) for “rest=”.

k. Get a Gmap4 link to reproduce the map on your screen

Click Menu ==> Link to this map.

If you paste that link into a second browser tab/window then you will see the exact same map view that you see in your first browser tab/window.

A Gmap4 link can include around a dozen different parameters. When you click Menu ==> “Link to this map” the link you see will always include the ll, t and z parameters. However, additional parameters will only appear if they are not set to their default values.

Any spaces in the link are changed to "%20" which is one form of computer-speak for the space character. This change is made so Gmap4 links will work correctly with email and forum software that cannot handle links that include spaces.

l. Get a Gmap4 link that will open the map centered at any spot on the screen

Rightclick the map anywhere. Look at the popup that appears and click the button “Link to this spot”. Search this file on “rightclick” to see how mobile users can do a simulated rightclick.

m. Get a Gmap4 link that will open the map centered at your location

Mobile users: Turn on the geolocation feature (Menu ==> My location). After the map centers at your position, then tap the symbol at the center of the screen. A popup will appear that shows your coordinates (in the current coordinate format) and some buttons. Tap the button labeled “Link to this spot”.

If someone is meeting you at your position, then you could email or text that link to them. They could open that map link on their phone and the map will display a red paddle at your position. The person meeting you could then turn on Gmap4's geolocation feature (Menu ==> My location). Now the map on **their phone** has (1) a stationary symbol showing your position and (2) a moving symbol showing their position as they travel to your position.

n. See more information about Gmap4 link parameters

For more information about the link parameters that Gmap4 understands and their allowable values, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file "Link Parameters".

4. Using Gmap4 to display GPX, TPO, KML, KMZ, MyPlaces & text files

a. Display a file that is hosted on a website

This one is topping the list of under-utilized features. Are you researching a trip to a new area? Spend a little time searching for a data file that you can display with Gmap4. Also governmental bodies of all kinds have data files online that Gmap4 can display. You might be surprised at what you find.

Gmap4 can read and display data from the following types of files:

- KML/kml files
- KMZ/kmz files
- GPX/gpx files
- TPO/tpo files
- Maps made with regular Google maps
- TXT/txt delimited text files (Gmap4 format)

1. Try a Google search for what you want. For example: california kml hiking files
2. Click one of the hits. For example:
`http://www.meetup.com/takeahikesd/files/`
3. Point to a KML or KMZ or GPX file ==> Right click ==> Copy the link
4. Paste the link over the underline in the following command:
`https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q=_____`
5. Copy the entire command, paste it into your browser bar, hit enter.

Example from the above Meetup site. This map shows a hike on part of the Pacific Crest Trail.
[https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q=https://files.meetup.com/252280/Kitchen Creek Hike.kmz](https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q=https://files.meetup.com/252280/Kitchen%20Creek%20Hike.kmz)

Since there is no ll or z parameter in the above link, Gmap4 will automatically center and zoom the map such that all of the data in the file is on the screen. If your data file is quite large it might take a few seconds for your map to appear.

The default basemap that appears is the Google Terrain map. If the map is for part of the USA and you want the screen to show the high resolution topographic map when the map opens, then add this parameter “&t=t4” to the Gmap4 link that you paste into the browser bar.

If you want more control over how your map initially appears, then please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Link Parameters”.

Example using a KML file:

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?t=t4&q=https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4/helpfile/Stafford_Creek.kml

Note: Gmap4 cannot display data files residing on your local hard drive. A data file must be online somewhere before it can be displayed by Gmap4. Google will host your data files for free on Google Sites. For more information about using Google Sites, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Working With Files”. Search that file (control F) on “Google Sites”.

No spaces: When you are naming your folders/directories/files, use an underscore character instead of a space.

The [Gmap4 Help page](#) and has a pdf file titled “Using An Open Map” that shows you various things you can do with the map after it is open on your screen.

b. Display a file that is hosted on Google Sites

Anyone can upload files to this free service. Google provides a “download” link for each file. Here is an example download link:

https://sites.google.com/site/gmap4files/p/helpfile/County_Line_trail.kml?attredirects=0&d=1

Delete the “?” and everything that follows. The download link for the file now looks like:

https://sites.google.com/site/gmap4files/p/helpfile/County_Line_trail.kml

Replace the underline with the link you copied:

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q=_____

You should now have the following Gmap4 link:

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q=https://sites.google.com/site/gmap4files/p/helpfile/County_Line_trail.kml

Copy the above line (with the link to the KML/KMZ/GPX/TPO file) and paste it into a browser bar.

c. Display multiple KML/KMZ files on one map

Make a text file that contains the http links that point to the KML and/or KMZ files. Then make a Gmap4 link to display that text file. One Gmap4 map can display a maximum of five KML/KMZ files. For more information, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Delimited Data” and review the table of contents for “KMZ”.

d. Display a map made with regular Google maps

Using regular Google maps, you can either make a map from scratch or you can ‘import’ a KML file from your local hard drive.

Google assigns a unique file id code to each MyPlaces map. If you know the file id code then you can use Gmap4 to look at any MyPlaces map anyone has made.

Starting in late summer 2014, Google made big changes to Google maps. Each map you make with regular Google maps is still assigned a unique id code. That code is now known as the “**mid**” value. (It used to be called “msid”.)

The owner of the regular Google map can obtain the unique id code for the map by (1) starting Google Maps, (2) displaying the map, (3) clicking the “Share” button in the upper right of the screen, (4) copying the link that appears, (5) paste that link into Notepad, and (6) copy just the mid value from that link.

Here is a typical link for a regular Google map. The unique id code is underlined:

<https://google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=zf8JTV911VgY.k4nldpam2Qzs>

Paste that id code over the underline in the following link:

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q=mymap,_____

Copy the above link (with the file’s id code) and then paste it into a browser bar.

Example:

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q=mymap,zf8JTV911VgY.k4nldpam2Qzs&t=t4>

e. Display a file and a USNG grid

The basic link to do this is:

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?coord=usng&q=_____

Replace the underline with the fill http link to your file.

f. Importance of the “refresh” link parameter

This only matters if you have displayed a GPX or TPO file with Gmap4, then made changes to the file and want to re-display the file along with your changes. You need to tell Gmap4 that you have changed your file. You do this by making a Gmap4 link that includes the parameter &refresh=1. You only need to use this parameter **one time** after you change your file.

g. Display a file with a ‘?’ in the link for that file

Sometimes you will see a link for a file that includes a question mark. For example, below is a link for a KML file. Note that this file link includes a ‘?’ character. This link will return a KML file with data showing locations in Minnesota where the public has ‘walk in’ hunting access:

```
http://maps1.dnr.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/mapserv60?map=WIA_MAPFILE&mode=nquery&qlayer=wia_polys&qformat=kml
```

Gmap4 can now display many (but not all) data files that include a ‘?’ in the link for that data file. The file must be hosted on a site that does not require any kind of login in order to view files. You can test this type of file link by pasting the file link into your browser bar and hitting enter. If you are asked if you want to save the file, then most likely Gmap4 will be able to display that file.

Note: If the link for the data file includes a ‘?’ character, then the **q= parameter must come last** when you build the Gmap4 link.

The following Gmap4 link will display the Minnesota ‘walk in’ hunting map. The map will open with a view that is zoomed in on a portion of the data. Note that there are four link parameters that tell Gmap4 how to display the data file and the **last one is the ‘q’ parameter**.

```
https://mappingsupport.com/p/beta/gmap4\_817.php?ll=45.376335,-95.205377&t=t3&z=12&q=https://maps1.dnr.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/mapserv60?map=WIA\_MAPFILE&mode=nquery&qlayer=wia\_polys&qformat=kml
```

h. View the content of a file that Gmap4 can display

Maybe you saw a cool feature on someone’s Gmap4 map and you want to learn how to do the same thing with your own maps. You can download any file that Gmap4 displays and look at its contents.

GPX and KML files

1. Copy the link to the file, paste it into a browser bar and hit enter.
2. Save the file to your harddrive
3. Open the file with [Notepad++](#) (**not** the windows ‘notepad’) or a similar editor

TPO files

This is a proprietary file format that is owned by National Geographic. You need the right version of the !TOPO software in order to open and look at the content of these files.

Google MyPlaces maps

These maps have q parameters that look like

q=mymap,1OpyF5LzlLnFQPDijp-V9nnDHp1w

This part 1OpyF5LzlLnFQPDijp-V9nnDHp1w is a unique identifier called “mid” that Google assigns to each MyPlaces map.

1. Copy the mid value from the Gmap4 link
2. Copy the following link and replace the underline with the msid value you copied
https://google.com/maps/d/kml?mid=_____
3. Paste this link into a browser bar and hit enter.
4. Save the file to your harddrive. It will be a KML or KMZ file.
5. If it is a KMZ file you will need to unzip it into a KML file.
6. Open the file with Notepad++ (**not** the windows ‘notepad’) or a similar editor

KMZ files

A KMZ file is a KML file that has been compressed.

1. Copy the link to the file, paste it into a browser bar and hit enter.
2. Save the file to your harddrive
3. Change the file extension to zip
4. Unzip the file
3. Open the unzipped KML file with Notepad++ (**not** the windows ‘notepad’) or a similar editor

Delimited text files

You can recognize these files since the file extension in the Gmap4 link is ‘txt’.

1. Copy the link to the file, paste it into a browser bar and hit enter.
2. If the contents of the file appear on your screen then copy all the content and paste it into Notepad++ (**not** the windows ‘notepad’) or a similar editor.
Note - If this file contains any HTML and/or CSS, then you might not be seeing the real source code yet. If you suspect this might be the case then you need to tell your browser to display the real source code. In Firefox 7 you do this by clicking Tools ==> Web developer ==> Page source. To see the real source code in IE8 click View ==> Source.
3. If a dialog box appears on your screen instead of the file contents, then save the file to your harddrive and then open it with Notepad++ (**not** the windows ‘notepad’) or a similar editor.

i. See more information about working with files

For more information about viewing files with Gmap4, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Displaying and Making Files”.

5. Make files that you can display with Gmap4

a. Try map-in-a-link, no data file needed

If you are making a map to show friends or to post in a forum give Gmap4's map-in-a-link feature a try. Since your data is part of the Gmap4 link, you do not have to mess with putting a data file online. Search this file for "map-in-a-link".

b. Use Gmap4 to make GPX files

Almost all Gmap4 features, including this one, also work on most smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices. Mobile users can save the GPX file by choosing
Reminder: Gmap4 runs in your browser and the browser has to be online.

1. Zoom in to your area of interest
2. Set the map view you want
3. Click Menu ==> Draw and Save
4. Select Waypoint and linepoint.
5. Click a few spots on the map. Distance in miles and kilometers is reported in the lower right corner.
6. Right click any point (**Mobile user: See below**)
7. Click "Download GPX file"
8. **Right click** the link to the GPX file and save it on your harddrive
9. Load the GPX file into your GPS

Mobile user:

6. Tap any point and then select "Action menu"
7. Select "GPX file display"
8. Copy the contents of the GPX file
9. Email those contents to yourself.

Each click you make on the map sets a draggable (click-hold-drag) symbol.

For more information about this feature please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file "Using An Open Map". Search that file (control F) on "Make a custom map with Gmap4".

c. Use Gmap4 to make delimited text files

Follow the same instructions for making a GPX file (see the above section). When it is time to save your file rightclick any point symbol and then select "delimited file display" or "delimited file download".

After saving that text file on your harddrive you can open it with an editor and change line width, line color or make other adjustments if you are so inclined.

d. Use Google Maps to make KML files

You can use Google Maps to make a map. Your map can have lines and/or markers. There are two different ways that you can use Gmap4 to look at a map that you made with Google Maps. Your first option is to get the unique ID that Google assigned to the map and tell Gmap4 to display the map using that unique ID. Please search this file (control F) for the section titled “You want to look at a Google MyPlaces map”.

Alternatively, you can use Google Maps to make a KML file. Using Google **Maps** to make a KML file works fine:

1. Use the “MyPlaces” feature of Google maps to make your map
2. Click “Save”
3. Click the Google map ‘link’ button (just left of the map) and copy the link
4. Paste the link into a browser bar
5. Add this additional link parameter to the end of the link: &output=kml
6. Hit enter and save the KML file

If your browser asks if you want to save the KML file then great - do so.

But instead if Google Earth tries to start then you may wish to go into your browser's file associations and turn that behavior off for KML files. In Firefox these associations are found under Tools ==> Options ==> Applications.

Finally, put your KML file online and display it with Gmap4 by entering this in your browser bar:

https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?q=_____

You need to replace the underline with the actual http link that points to wherever you placed your KML file online.

e. Use Google Earth to make KML files

Using Google **Earth** to make a KML file works fine:

1. Click path icon
2. Do **not** close the dialog popup
3. Draw your path
4. Go to the popup and adjust Name, Description and Style/Color
5. Click OK
6. Select your path in left sidebar
7. File ==> Save ==> Save place as ==> Save as type - select KML
8. Replace each space in the file name with an underscore: _
9. Save the KML file
10. Place your file online
11. Launch gmap4 and tell it where to find your file

f. See more information about making files

For more information about making files, please visit the [Gmap4 Help page](#) and download the pdf file “Displaying and Making Files”.

6. Printing maps

a. How to print maps

If your browser does not let you print, then use Firefox.

In the Firefox menu bar, click File ==> Print preview. A new window will open with menu choices across the top. Choose landscape. Adjust the scale so the map nicely fits the screen. Print.

b. Orient a printed map so it points to true north

Turn on the declination display and then print the map using the Print Preview feature of your browser. If you have trouble printing, try Firefox. The left and right edge of the printed map point to true north. Set the declination on your compass, place the edge of your compass along the left or right edge of the printed map and orient the map in the normal manner.

Need help? See: https://www.ehow.com/how_1774_orient-map.html