

Create KML or KMZ files for Google Maps

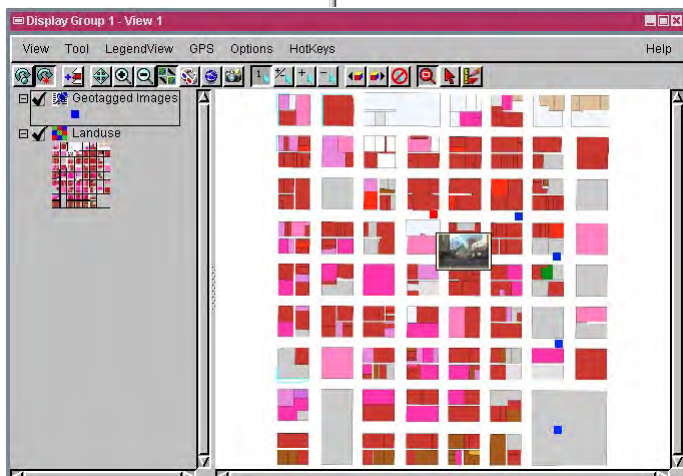
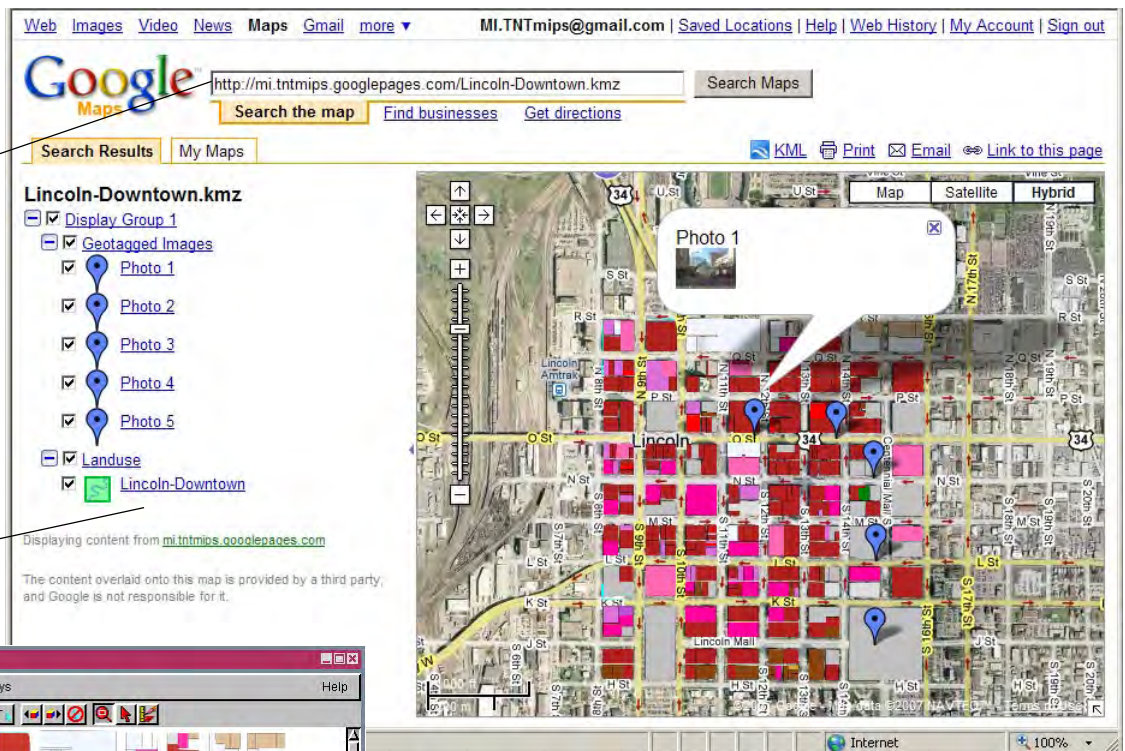
The KML or KMZ files created with TNTmips can be displayed in Google Maps as long as they are uploaded to a web site. You or anyone else can then display them by going to maps.google.com, typing in their URL, and clicking on the Search button. The KML or KMZ file specified by this URL is automatically displayed as an overlay to the normal Google Maps content. Since your layer is an overlay, an image will obscure the Google Map content unless it has a transparency set for it in a TNT product. The size of the KML or KMZ file for use in this fashion is limited to about 1MB thus limiting the size of an image overlay or collection of digital photos. There is also a limitation on the number of elements that can be returned. A KMZ file is a compressed KML file and when used as an overlay to Google Maps these size limitations apply to the uncompressed version of the KML file.

TNTmips provides you a variety of tools to create a KML or KMZ file from your linked geodata files and TNT objects, groups, and layouts. The Render to KML or KMZ feature in the Display process will create these files for all or part of your groups and layouts. Use the Export process to convert elements in a linked geometric file format or shape, CAD, or vector object into these Google formats. The Create Geotagged Image Database feature creates a pinmap layer that can be saved in these formats. You can find more information on creating KML files using various processes in TNTmips in the Technical Guides entitled *Export: Geometric Objects to KML*, and *Spatial Display: Render Raster Objects to KML*.

The URL of the KML or KMZ file can be copied from the website and pasted here.

In this example, KMZ file generated in the Display process of TNTmips is published on a sample website at <http://mi.tntmips.googlepages.com/>, which was created with Google Page Creator, a free product to create web pages using a gmail account.

The content of the group (illustration below) in TNTmips is displayed in Google Maps (illustration to the right)



The illustrations above show the KMZ file displayed in Google Maps. The KMZ file shown above was created using the Render to Google Earth KML feature in the Display Process of TNTmips. A group containing a raster layer showing the land use of Lincoln, NE downtown and a pinmap layer showing some pictures from the downtown in the form of image DataTips (illustrated to the left) was rendered to KML with KMZ compression. Note that the image DataTips created in TNTmips are retained in Google Maps. If you choose to create KML files without KMZ compression, you can still use Google Maps for viewing your KML files. However, it is recommended that you prefer KMZ format to KML since the links to images are not stored internally in the KML format as in KMZ. To get the desired results in Google Maps when using a KML file, you need to upload all linked images to your website along with the KML file.