

AJAX TECHNOLOGY AND GOOGLE MAPS API SERVICES IN WEB CARTOGRAPHY

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Abstract

The expansion of Internet technology has significantly influenced the development of cartography and maps visualization techniques, imposing Web cartography as a primary cartographic medium nowadays. Multimedia Web maps designed by combining spatial data and documents with photo, video and audio contents are no longer the privilege of professional cartographers. In addition to basics of Internet cartography, this paper deals with the Internet impact to the development of Web applications designed for visualization of geospatial data. Googl's map service is particularly important issue in this process. Google Maps have the great significance for the development of Web cartography. They were introduced in year 2005, much later than MapQuest, however, with similar initial concept based on the streets mapping. Google Maps have introduced a new concept in terms of interactivity. The system is based on Ajax (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML) technology, which involves a new way of communication between the client and server, with the possibility of setting additional information on the map, and significant improvement in maps manipulation. Besides, Google has allowed developers free access to their code by API (Application Programming Interface). API contains a set of routines and functions that can be accessed by developers using a script programming languages such as JavaScript, PHP, etc. Today, Google Maps API application based on Ajax technology as standard Web service, facilitate users with publication interactive Web of maps, thus opening new possibilities in relation to the classical analogue maps. In this paper theoretical and applicable aspects of Google Maps API and KML formats of spatial data are examined on the case study area in Serbia.

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