

Making Your Own Simple Mashup in Google Earth—a short outline

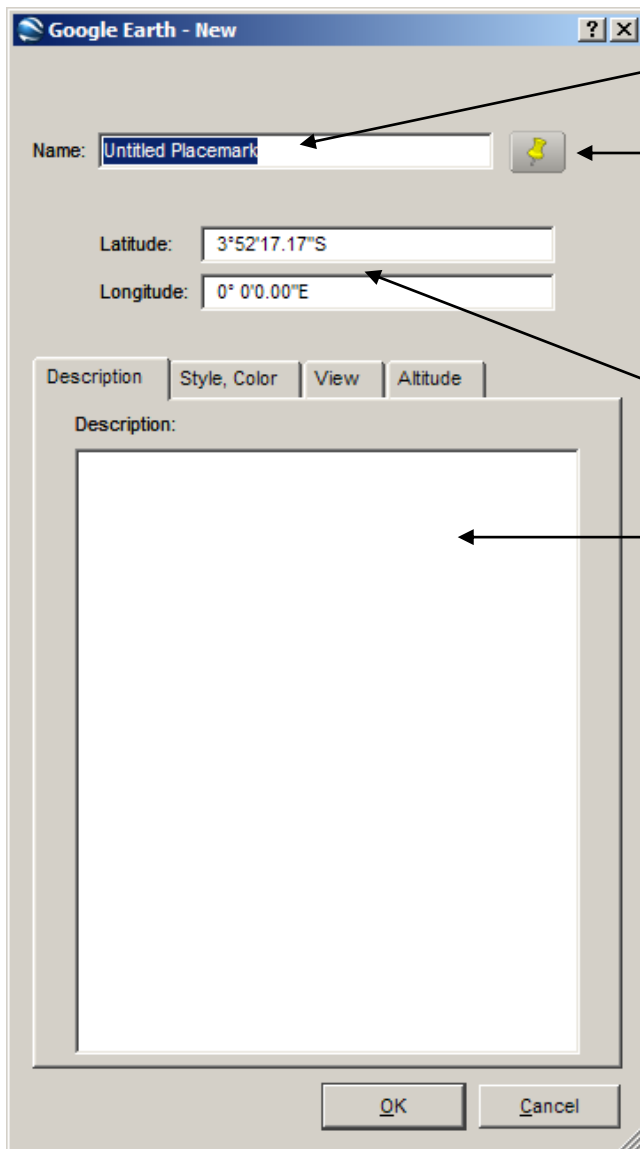
1. Open Google Earth

2. Navigate to the view you want a user to see

3. Select the *Add Placemark* icon:



4. You will get a popup like this (lat/long numbers will be different depending on where you are in the world):



Write a short, descriptive title.

Choose preferred icon by clicking on button just right of title line and selecting your preferred icon

With your mouse, move the icon (in yellow crosshairs) to where you want it located **OR** if you need the icon placed more precisely, type the coordinates of where you want the placemark to be located in the latitude and longitude boxes

The Description area allows you to write in both plain text and html. Add text, links, images, or Flash video as you want (see below for more info).

Adjust the view if needed, then click the view tab; select "Snapshot current view" if you want users to see this location exactly as you are seeing it; select Center in View if you want the placemark to appear in the center of the screen when clicked.

If you want an image or flash video in the balloon, you can use images either on your computer or on the internet. See below for some easy examples.

- To create a hyperlink, type this code into the description box:

`YOUR TEXT HERE.`

Ex. Costa Rica Program

- To use an image from the internet, type this code into the description box:

``

*Ex.: *

- To use an image from your computer:

``

*Ex. *

- To use a flash video from the internet, insert this code into the description box:

`<object width="425" height="344"><param name="movie" value="{TYPE COMPLTE URL FOR THE VIDEO HERE}"></param><param name="allowFullScreen" value="true"></param><embed src="{TYPE COMPLTE URL FOR THE VIDEO HERE}" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" allowfullscreen="true" width="425" height="344"></embed></object>`

Ex.: <object width="425" height="344"><param name="movie" value="http://www.youtube.com/v/8H0CFWkqImk&hl=en&fs=1"></param><param name="allowFullScreen" value="true"></param><embed src="http://www.youtube.com/v/8H0CFWkqImk&hl=en&fs=1" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" allowfullscreen="true" width="425" height="344"></embed></object>

Note: YouTube and other similar sites have an “embed” box or link somewhere on the page with the video. You can copy and paste this info directly into the *Description* box.

- A few common html codes:

`Bold Text`

`<i>Italic Text</i>`

`
` line break

`<center>` centers what follows this `</center>`

`<left>` left justifies what follows this `</left>`

For example, an image from a website of your vacation and a supporting link could be created in a balloon with this code typed within the *Description* box:

```
<left>  
<b>Hi mom!</b>  
<br>  
</left>  
<center>  
  
<br>  
<i>A friendly garter snake in Costa Rica.</i>  
<br>
```

And it would look like this (see balloon to right):

My Vacation

Hi mom!

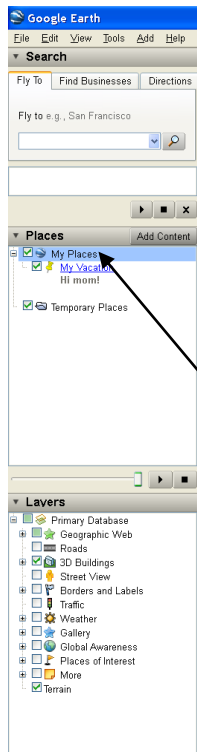


A friendly garter snake in Costa Rica.

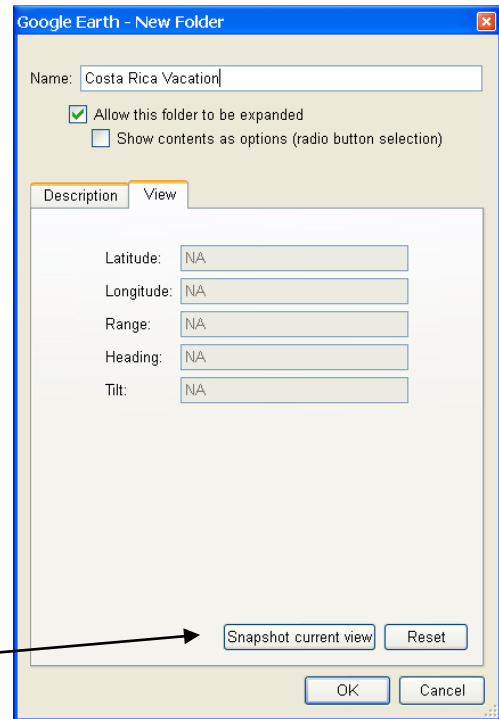
Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)

5. Save the file for sharing:

After you have created as many balloons as you want, you can either link them in a linear fashion in a tour (see the Tour Tutorial for how to do this) or leave them as a placemark cloud for the viewer to explore as they wish. Either way, you will still need to collect the placemarks, save them to a folder, and export them as a kml or kmz file.



To do this, right click “My Places” and Select Add → Folder. Provide a title, and either select OK or go to the View Tab if you want Google Earth to open in a certain viewpoint when someone opens your file. To do this, you can navigate the view window until it provides the view you’d like, and then click *Snapshot current view*.



A new folder with your title will appear in the Places menu; to move your balloons into the folder, simply drag and drop the ones you want to share. Once all the

balloons you want to share are in the same folder, right click the folder title and select *Save Place As*. You can save your collection as a kml file or a kmz file; the latter is simply a compressed version of a kml file and is useful if you are including a lot of high-resolution images or multimedia (i.e., files you may have uploaded from your computer).

If you want to test out how it would look for someone you might send it to (the file can be emailed or copied or shared just like any other files), either unselect the folder (so that the placemarks all disappear) or right click the folder title and select *Delete Contents* to remove your folder. Close Google Earth, navigate to where you saved your file, and double click the file to load it and Google Earth at the same time. This (more or less) will be how others will first see your mashup after opening your kml or kmz file.

Further reading: an excellent introduction to mashups in education is *Power of the Mashup* by Boss and Krauss, published in the August 2007 (Vol 35, No. 1) issue of **Learning and Leading with Technology**.

http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Publications/LL/LLIssues/Volume_35_2007_2008_/AugustNo1/35112b.pdf

Have fun, and get mashing!

A screen shot from NOPSN's Dungeness Snow Study Google Earth Mashup, located at: <http://pcnasa.ctc.edu/files/NOSPN%20Snow%20Study.kmz>

