THE NEXT EVOLUTION IN THE AIR FORCE WEB MAP VIEWER GEOBASE

ACC GeoBase is excited to announce the next evolution in the Air Force GeoBase Web Map Viewer. Modeled after popular consumer based web mapping applications, the new viewer has been designed to provide users with a simple yet intuitive web mapping experience. Users with access to the USAF Global Combat Support System (GCSS) Portal and any AF.mil network will have the ability to access the viewer. Areas of Interest (AOI) are powered by geospatial information covered by GeoBase.

The developers worked on streamlining the interface to put as much information onto the smallest pixel space possible. While designed to work with most modern web browsers, the viewer is optimized for Internet Explorer 7+ and Firefox 3.5+. The enhancements the mapping interface contains were incorporated based on suggestions from our user-base through Viewer Feedback. Some of the enhancements include a button-less interface, seamless panning, scroll-wheel zooming, intuitive search, and mark-up tools. The pages of this quarter's newsletter will take you on a virtual tour of the new functions the Air Force GeoBase Web Map Viewer will provide.

The purpose is to supply the user with knowledge of core functionality available in the application and the ability to make the most use of the tools. Find out the difference through a brief comparison between the former to the new viewer. Major changes of capabilities and functions will be highlighted throughout. Please tell us what you think of the changes, if you found the guidance helpful, or have questions. Please send an e-mail to acc.a7zg.igis@acc.af.mil with the subject line "New Viewer Feedback".

USER'S GUIDE

THE DIFFERENCE
A COMPARISON

The main advantage of the map viewer application redesign is access across operating systems. The above images show the difference between the former and new display, giving more viewing area for the user. The diagram identifies and gives a brief description of the main areas and major changes of the new Viewer's Map Display redesign. The new interface has five main functional areas (1) Header (2) Console, (3) Toolbar, (4) Map Display, and (5) Status Bar. The major changes users will experience are the new (6) Quick Search ability, (7) Manage Tab, and the relocated (8) Layers.

1 HEADER

- Atop the streamlined interface is a new header identifying the Air Force GeoBase Map Services.

2 CONSOLE

- A tabbed interface located to the left of the map display allows the user to select and view layers available from the CIP, select Area of Interest (AOI), and view results of features chosen on the map.

3 TOOLBAR

- Provides access to advanced tools available in the application.

4 MAP DISPLAY

- The new map display has been developed to give users the ability to change the display size for the optimal map viewing experience.

5 STATUS BAR

- located at the bottom of the map, the status bar displays the scale and real-time map coordinates providing several coordinate viewing options.

6 QUICK SEARCH BOX

- Located on the right of the header defaults to an address search. Complete with an auto-suggest list for owner name and parcel number. This tool allows the user to toggle between map layer searches to locate layer features quickly.

7 MANAGE TAB

- Provides two options to more advanced map management capabilities:
  - **Map Services** explore maps from other map servers.
  - **Markup Manager** View all saved markup collections on the server.

8 BACKGROUND MAP DATA

- The web mapping interface allows you to easily access commonly used background data. The display defaults to the "Road Map" data layer.

TOOLS & FUNCTIONS

The following pages offers more detailed information on Navigation, Tools, and Functions.

MAP NAVIGATION

Navigating the map in the new interface is powered by the use of the mouse, keyboard, or a combination of both. This section will point out the various abilities to navigate.

QUICK ZOOM

- Double-click on the mouse to zoom in or out by about 50 percent in width and height.

AREA ZOOM

- Hold the Shift key down, then hold the left mouse button down and drag on the map to draw a rectangle. The map will zoom in to the area of the rectangle.

MOUSE WHEEL ZOOM

- Zoom by scrolling or clicking on the center mouse wheel. Zoom in and out to any extend by scrolling the mouse wheel forward and back.
- With a click of the mouse wheel zoom in to 50 percent, If your mouse has that capability.

IDENTIFY

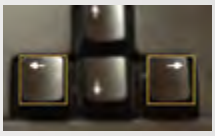
- Single Click on a visible map feature to identify the feature.

DRAG

- Drag the map display holding the Left Mouse button down and move the mouse to guide the map to display a new location.

ZOOM BAR

- Drag the gauge up or down to zoom in or out, click + to zoom in closer and - to zoom out, or click on the notches to navigate to the desired zoom extent.

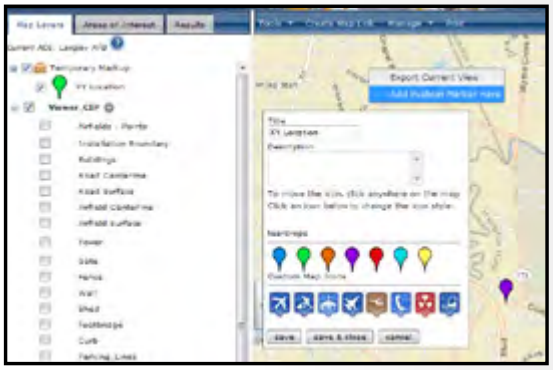


KEYBOARD

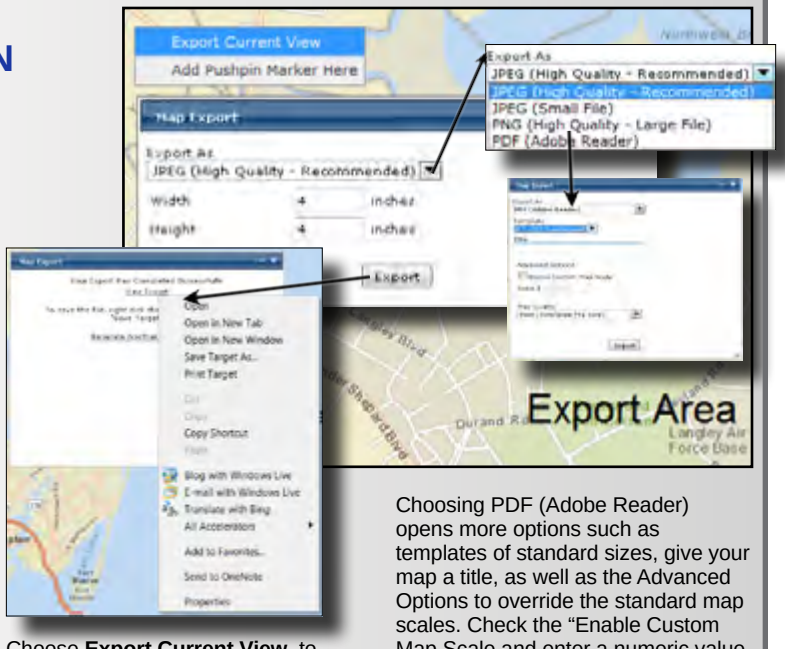
- Right Arrow: Click on the right keyboard arrow to go back one map extent.
- Left Arrow: Click on the left keyboard arrow to go forward one map extent.

EXPORT/ PUSH PIN

- Right Click the mouse to initiate the Export Current Map View or Add Pushpin Marker menu.



Choose **Add Pushpin Marker** to add colored pushpins and pushpin icons to identify various items on your map display. Add a title, description, and change the style of the pushpins to differentiate all items that is needing identification. Your map is saved to the right of the map display as a Temporary Markup, with the option "Save" to save and continue, save and close, or cancel.



Choose **Export Current View** to generate an image file to export. The Map Export dialogue box will appear, choose a file format from the "Export as" dropdown. Choose from High Quality - Recommended), JPEG (Small File), and PNG (High Quality - Large File) provides the ability to set the size by entering a value in the Height and Weight fields.

Choosing PDF (Adobe Reader) opens more options such as templates of standard sizes, give your map a title, as well as the Advanced Options to override the standard map scales. Check the "Enable Custom Map Scale and enter a numeric value in the Scale 1: field, give the map a title and choose the Map Quality from the dropdown to suit your purpose.

Once you are ready to export your map, click the Export button, this will open another dialogue box. Click "View Export" to view the exported map image in a new browser, to save the image, Right Click on the "View Export" link, choose "Save Target As".

MAP DISPLAY VIEWING

The new streamlined interface gives users a greater map display to maximum the mapping experience. Consolidating the tools and functional areas into five key sections of the map viewer. This section will act as a guide to assist users with maneuvering the new map interface to identify the functional areas and tools in detail. The redesigned areas are the Header, Console, Toolbar, Map Display, and Status Bar.

1 FULL VIEW

One new function of the application is the ability to expand the map view to various extents of your browser. Maximize Map button located above the Zoom Bar gives users the ability to view the map display to the full extent of your browser with a click of your mouse. The view can be reduced back by clicking the button again.

2 CLOSE WEST PANE

can extend your map view to the vertical extents of your screen by clicking the < and the Console is extracted and out of view. Leaving the Header and Toolbar accessible. Clicking > brings the Console back into view.

3 RESIZE PANE

Hover over the line dividing the Console and Map Display activates dual arrows. Click and drag the line left or right to adjust both the Console and Map Display to the size you choose.

4 SWIPE

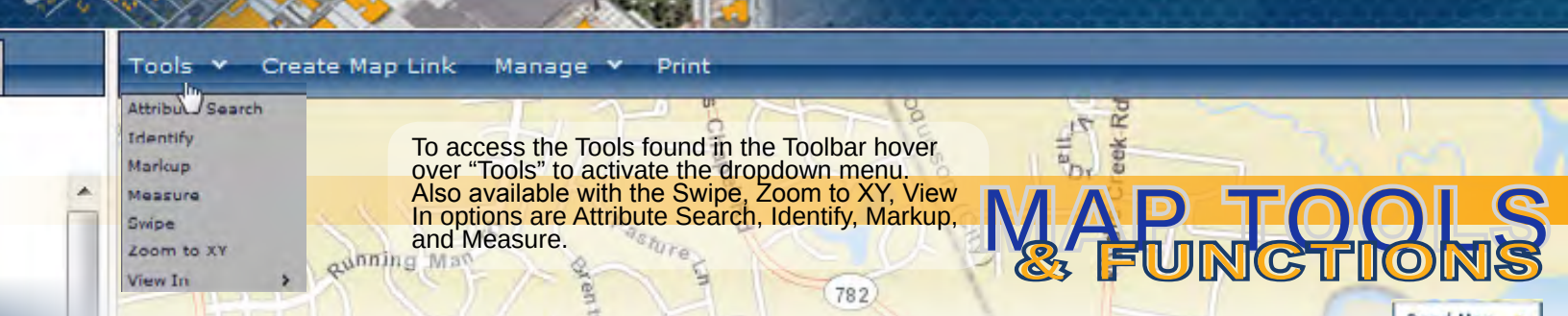
Accessible from the Tools dropdown on the Toolbar, this tool is useful to view the map in a dual view. Users can determine changes that may be visible on two background datasets. The Swipe toolbar will appear under the Tools with Horizontal or Vertical options and Resources to choose. This allows users to quickly toggle the between two background layers with a “swipe” of your mouse in a side to side or up and down motion. Select which view you want to compare from the Resources dropdown menu. Continue utilizing the navigation tools pan and zoom by holding down the ctrl key with the Swipe tool still open.

5 VIEW IN >

Gives users the choice to view the current displayed mapping area in either Google or Microsoft Bing Maps in a new browser. Also located in the Tools dropdown menu, with options to choose from Google’s; Roads, Aerials, Hybrid, or Earth mode and Microsoft Bing’s; Roads, Aerials, Hybrid, or Bird’s Eye modes.

6 ZOOM TO XY

Found in the Tools dropdown menu allows you to navigate to specific point on the map. Select from the options of Decimal Degrees, Degrees/Minutes/Seconds, native map units, or UTM coordinates and enter the values in the appropriate boxes, and click Go. The map will re-center to that specific location, place a pushpin on the map, and save the pushpin into the markup collection. Edit the XY Location Summary window by clicking the “edit” link located at the bottom of the summary box to modify the description. The “Dimensions” link will display geometric details of the shape. The “What’s Nearby” link will run a geographic proximity search.



To access the Tools found in the Toolbar hover over "Tools" to activate the dropdown menu. Also available with the Swipe, Zoom to XY, View In options are Attribute Search, Identify, Markup, and Measure.

MAP TOOLS & FUNCTIONS

Attribute Search

The Attribute Search tool offers a Basic and Advanced search mode which can be used to perform searches on attributes in layers.

Basic Mode

Choose a Resource: Viewer Recreation or Viewer CIP from the dropdown. Choose a layer from the Layers dropdown. Once that is selected The Attributes and Value dropdowns will appear. Make your selections and click the Search button.

Advanced Mode

Choose a Resource: Viewer Recreation or Viewer CIP from the dropdown. Choose a layer from the Layers dropdown; this will open multiple attributes to search.

Identify

View map feature attributes with the Identify tool. This can be done by selecting Custom Shape, Point, and Buffer in the Identify Tool. Type in the Radius value and choose feet, meters, or miles. Choose from a list of layers in the dropdown menu.

Custom Shape: The Custom Shape option allows users to draw a custom shape (polygon) by clicking areas on the map. A single click places a vertex (corner) on the map. The shape of an area is defined with each mouse click placing multiple vertices (corners). Customize the polygon shape further by adding, moving, and deleting vertices. Click and drag a shaded vertex box to move it. Click a hollow vertex box to create and place a new vertex. To delete a vertex, place the pointer over a shaded vertex box and press the delete key.

Point: The point tool sets a pixel tolerance on the buffer so that you can adjust the accuracy of your mouse clicks on the map.

Buffer: The buffer tool allows you to enter a predefined buffer distance when querying the map.

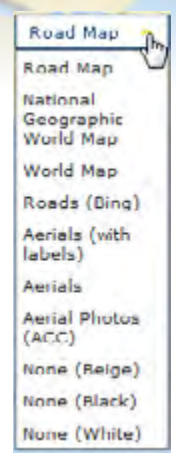
Markup

Gives the User the ability to mark the current view with Lines, Polygon, Icon, Freehand, Arrow, Rectangle, Buffer, as well as with Text. The Markup tool is used to create geographically referenced and/or feature-linked graphics and text which can be displayed on the map at varying scales. Markup items are a permanent part of the current map session and will be visible when you print or export a map.

To use the tool, select from one of the eight choices on the Markup toolbar (see the above image). After selecting a Markup tool, specific instructions for how to use the tool can be viewed by clicking on the "? Toggle Help" button.

Backgrounds

By default the web mapping interface opens with "Aerials" background data layer. A list of more Background data layer options can be accessed through the dropdown menu to the right of the map defaulted to Aerials.



Quick Identify

Single Click on map features to display basic information in a feature window. The information will identify the object, the common name, and other helpful information. The window also links to dimensions of the geometry selected for more information.

What's Nearby By by default all layers that are available to the tool. Search specific layers in the map in the "Find: All Visible" field located at the top of the feature window. Click on the arrow to restrict the search to a specific layer. Select from a list of available layers in the dropdown menu to filter your search.

Save the geometry by clicking the briefcase symbol located to the right of the "What's Nearby" link. The selected feature will be saved to a markup collection.

Narrow your search to a radius in the next field "Within:" allows users to specify a radius in a measurement of feet around the map feature. By leaving the box empty or entering a value of "0" will return all features that are adjacent to the selected property in the results tab. Entering in a value greater than "0" in the field will produce a buffer polygon drawn around the selected feature on the screen. All features that touch this buffer area will be returned in the results tab. Clicking the "Save Buffer" will save the buffer to Markup.