



GMaps Plugin component- BETA 1.0
User Guide



Gmaps Plugin Introduction

Centigon Solutions GMaps Plugin component for Xcelsius® 2008 combines robust mapping technology with interactive data visualization. Using the powerful Google Maps™ API, the GMaps Plugin empowers end users to pan, zoom, and select data points within an interactive mapping interface. The current version of the plugin component, Beta 1, introduces core Google Maps features to Xcelsius.

The GMaps Plugin component is a container that connects directly to the Google Maps™ API inside of Xcelsius®. The current beta version allows designers to display data points within the map interface based on longitude/latitude. Each data point can display HTML formatted text and provide selector capabilities using a position insertion method. To ensure proper configuration of properties and deployment, follow the usage instructions currently available in the user guide.

More Information

If you have any questions about this document please contact Centigon Solutions support at:

support@centigonsolutions.com

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Google Maps™ is a trademark of Google Inc.

Install Requirements

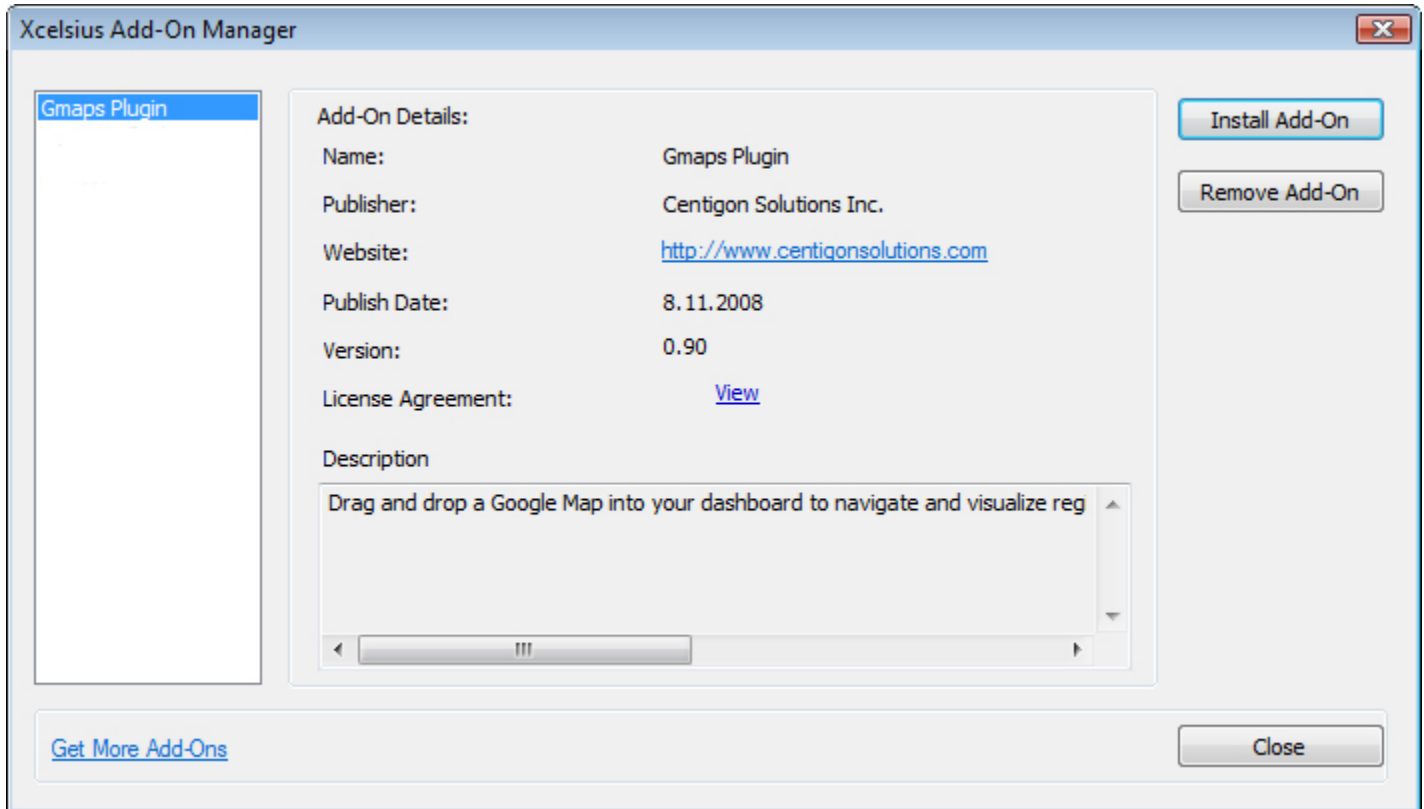
Client Requirements

Xcelsius 2008 Service Pack 1
Xcelsius Addon Manager (Included with SP1 Install)
.NET 2.0
Adobe Flash player 9
Google Maps API Key

Install Disk Space

2 MB

Installation



1. Open Xcelsius 2008 Service Pack 1 or higher.
2. Click File>Manage Add-Ons
3. Click on Install Add-On.
4. Navigate and to the downloaded Gmaps Plugin.xlsx file.
5. Close the Add-On Manager
6. Re-open Xcelsius 2008 to access Gmaps Plugin in the Maps folder.

Properties Sheet Overview

General Tab

API Key- Enter a Google API key to display the Google Map. The API key designates the domain where the SWF will ultimately reside. Running a SWF from any computer or server that is not assigned to the API key results in a red “Debug” message within the map user interface.

Sign up for a Google Maps key

<http://code.google.com/apis/maps/signup.html>

Default Map Type- Select a default map type to modify the map aesthetics. Map types include Map, Satellite, and Terrain.

Map Data- Define the location and label associated with each data point using two contiguous columns.

01. The first column should be formatted in a comma separated longitude/latitude syntax that controls where icons is plotted within the map. The current beta version does not support Geocoding, which converts addresses to Long/Lat.

02. The second column should contain labels for each data point. These labels can be formatted as HTML text, which provides complete control over type face, color, alignment, and other elements using HTML code.

Zoom Coordinates- The map will automatically center itself to a Zoom Coordinate. Like Map Data, the Zoom Coordinate must be structured as Long/Lat.

Destination- GMaps supports the Position insertion type. As a data point is selected on a map, its position is inserted into a single cell.

Zoom Level- Define the default zoom level when the Google Map is first initialized within the SWF. As the Zoom Coordinate changes, the map will revert to the Zoom Level.

The screenshot shows the 'General' tab of a properties sheet. At the top, there are two tabs: 'General' (selected) and 'Information'. Below the tabs, the 'API Key' field is an empty text box. The 'Map Data' field is an empty text box with a small map icon to its right. The 'Zoom Coordinates' field contains the text '37.509726,-97.119141' and has a map icon to its right. The 'Insertion Type: Position' label is followed by a 'Destination' field containing the number '0' and a map icon. The 'Default Map Type' is a dropdown menu currently set to 'Terrain'. At the bottom, the 'Zoom Level' is represented by a horizontal slider with a triangular handle positioned at approximately the second tick mark from the left.

Properties Sheet Overview

Information Tab

*All elements on the Information tab require an internet connection.


Help- Online documentation and support contact information.

Tutorials- Online tutorials, articles, and white papers for all available components,.

Available Components- A real time list of all available components from Centigon Solutions. Selecting any component from the list box will launch a browser that navigates to component specific information.

Send this Component to a Friend- Share information about this component with other colleagues who use Xcelsius. Enter you friend's e-mail address, and Centigon Solutions will send collateral information and trial download instructions to the recipient.

Information



Links

Help

Tutorials

Templates

Available Components

Background Builder

Dynamic Sort

Send this component to a friend

Email

Using the Gmaps Plugin

01. Obtain a Google Maps API key

<http://code.google.com/apis/maps/signup.html>

The GMaps Plugin will not successfully connect to the Google Maps API without a valid API Key.

02. Convert locations to longitude, latitude

Gmaps Plugin beta 1 does not include geocoding conversion. All locations must be converted to comma separated Long/Lat values.

(Los Angeles = -118.245027213204, 34.0532912204055)

03. Add a GMaps Plugin component to the canvas.

The Google Map requires an internet connection to successfully connect to the Google Map API. By default the GMaps interface is blank, and only accessible from the Object Browser.

4. Enter the Google Map API Key

04. Stretch the Google Map size

The beta 1 version has a default size of 0, meaning that the component will need to be stretched from the handler to visualize the Google Map interface.

06. Select a default map type

07. Bind Map Source Data

Map source data must be structured in 2 contiguous columns. Bind two columns as Map Source based on the following specifications.

- The first column must contain the Long/Lat data points converted in Step 2.
- The second column should contain the display data. Display data can be formatted as HTML, providing tremendous flexibility in styles and layout.

08. Bind the Zoom Coordinates

Zoom coordinates can be utilized as a static point but can also be modified dynamically during runtime to pan to a specific location.

08. Bind the Destination Cell

As end users select data points, the relative position in the Map Source data is inserted into a single cell.

09. Previewing the Google Map plugin Component

The GMaps component will successfully connect to the Google Maps API, and will display a red "Debug Mode" label. Until the SWF is published to the same domain associated with the Google Maps API key, the debug message will remain.



Sample Long,Lat Code for Los Angeles
-118.245027213204, 34.0532912204055

Sample HTML Code

Title
Value 1
Value 2