

Technology V10/S3: Google Maps




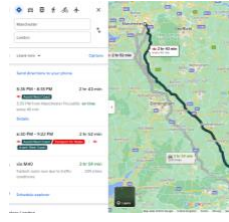

Google Maps is an application that helps users navigate in real time. It was created 17 years ago in 2005 and has undergone many updates since. Google Maps provides a variety of features that help the user commute more efficiently, including public transit information and traffic conditions. As of 2020, around 1 billion people use Google Maps every month. Google Maps can be used from a phone, computer, or tablet. As long as you have internet access, Google Maps can determine your location.

How are all of these maps made? Google employs people to navigate streets and alleys while wearing 360° camera gear. The images captured by these drivers are uploaded to Google and combined to make comprehensive maps. These cameras can be placed on top of cars or worn as a bookbag.



Some criticisms of Google Maps include concerns over privacy and who can access information. One of the early fears was that terrorists could use satellite imagery to plan attacks. There was also a concern about people’s faces unknowingly being caught by these 360° cameras and uploaded onto the application. Users also note that many of the application's features are disabled when privacy features are activated. These concerns were put to the side as people saw more benefits than cons to using the application.

Some of Google Maps’ Helpful Features

| Satellite Imagery | Traffic Conditions | Street View | Trip Planning | Immersive View |
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