

Re: Map Calibration Using Google Earth

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2006-08/msg00834.html>

- *From:* miso@xxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* 16 Aug 2006 22:07:12 -0700
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Happy Trails wrote:

On 27 Jul 2006 19:53:58 -0700, miso@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Happy Trails wrote:

Has anyone had good luck or bad luck doing this? I want to calibrate images of places far away before I go there.

Are there pitfalls to avoid about which one could be forewarned to save trouble upon arrival in the area mapped?

Thanks for any comments, pro or con.

– Tom

I'm not sure what you are trying to achieve.

I will explain.

I have a paper map of a place on the other side of the earth from where I am now.

I will go there in December.

I wish to draw a vector map using this paper map as a background image.

I will retire in this location, so I don't mind to invest some time in making some good maps of the area.

I am able to identify places on the paper map and find them fairly

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accurately on Google earth because I am familiar with the villages and street corners.

I want to know if anyone has experience of using known WGS84 co-ordinates, ie from a GPS receiver – tracks, realtime plotting, whatever, and placing those locations onto Google Earth and actually being exactly where they are supposed to be.

If the discrepancies are not too great – ie. mere handfuls of meters – then I will be able to prepare ahead of time my map and it will be very useful once I am there.

If however others have found that Google Earth appears to be hundreds of meters out on occasion, or in certain locales, then I will wait till I go there before squidging/distorting the paper map image into a correct calibration before doing all my drawing.

The software I would normally use to draw the lines and points for my vector map doesn't allow this distortion to take place on the lines and points – only on an overlaid image.

It is a lot of work to do the drawing, and although I would like to do it ahead of time, I would rather avoid having to do it twice.

Hence my desire to find out from others if the locations reported for places anyone has visited are actually quite precise – as good as gps can get them – or if they may possibly be far enough off to render my work somewhat useless.

Do you understand now?

– Tom

Well, not really. Once you get there, you can make a map using GPS readings. If this area is remote, I'd just use ExpertGPS since the old terraserver images are better than google earth in remote areas. However, I don't even know what country your mystery spot is located, so it is hard to give any good advice.

I have tried to make maps for off-road driving or hiking from terraserver images. You really can't tell the condition of the trails or road from sat images.

I know how to make overlays for google earth. I can make an overlay using a topo maps that you can overlay on google earth if that would help you judge the accuracy.

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