

Re: Gpx files without time records?

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+ Jack Erbes <jackerbes@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>:

The preloaded cards have map files that are unlocked to the microSD cards unique serial number, that is how they prevent people from making copies of them. So that map image file will not work on any other card.

I have one of those preloaded cards. When the file system on the card got trashed for some reason, I just reformatted it and copied back the map files, that I had prudently copied to disk. The maps worked fine afterwards. From this I conclude that there is no other magic to this locking business than having the correct serial number on the card, and having the requisite files on it. It appears that one file is the actual map data, while another small file contains the key data needed to unlock the map. There was also a directory full of voice data that I didn't bother to copy back, since my device doesn't do voice.

If there is some free space on the card, you may be able to use that to accumulate the *.gpx files I described above. But it might be a good idea to ask your Garmin dealer if it is alright to write to the free space on the preloaded cards.

By all means, do ask. But if my experience is anything to go by, it's no problem except for a small risk of trashing the file system and having to copy the map data back on the card. So I'd advice taking a backup. (Never mind that the backup is worthless on any other device.)

Generally, at least for North American products, it is much cheaper to buy the mapping data on CD or DVD and upload the map images yourself. Was that not the case for your mapping?

In my case, it was because I don't own a Windows computer and don't want to own one. Still waiting for Garmin's long overdue Mac support.

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– It is undesirable to believe a proposition
when there is no ground whatsoever for supposing it is true.

— Bertrand Russell

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