

Google™ – Room with a View: April 1, 2008

by John Durrett

Vice President, Computer Booters

Overview

You can do a lot using Google applications, and the good news is that all the ones that I will talk about in this paper are free. Everything I cover can be accessed by starting at Google's home page, <http://www.google.com>. So that is your starting point for this paper.



Google Search™

There are many types of searches that can be done using Google's search engines. I will only cover two: the general information search and the image search. Most of us have used the general web search engine, which is what you get if you type an entry into the search space on the Google home page and click on Google Search.

The second search is using Images. If you click on the word Images on the Google home page, and then enter text into the search box and hit Enter (the key on your keyboard), you will see a result showing thumbnail images of the search results. The following is the result of using Google's image search for "horse".



horse

Search Images

Search the

Moderate SafeSearch is on

New! [Google Image Labeler](#)

Images Showing: Results 1 - 18 of about 19,800,000 for horse [\[definition\]](#). (0.05)



Horse

635 x 449 - 117k - jpg
www.historyforkids.org



A video of your horse, ...
400 x 371 - 32k - jpg
www.petergray.org.uk



Swimming with horses on day 5 of
the ...
657 x 430 - 58k - jpg
www.horseriding.gr



Half horse - half zebra
450 x 397 - 27k - jpg
darisa.wordpress.com



photo of horse galloping on beach
1024 x 768 - 88k - jpg
hedweb.com

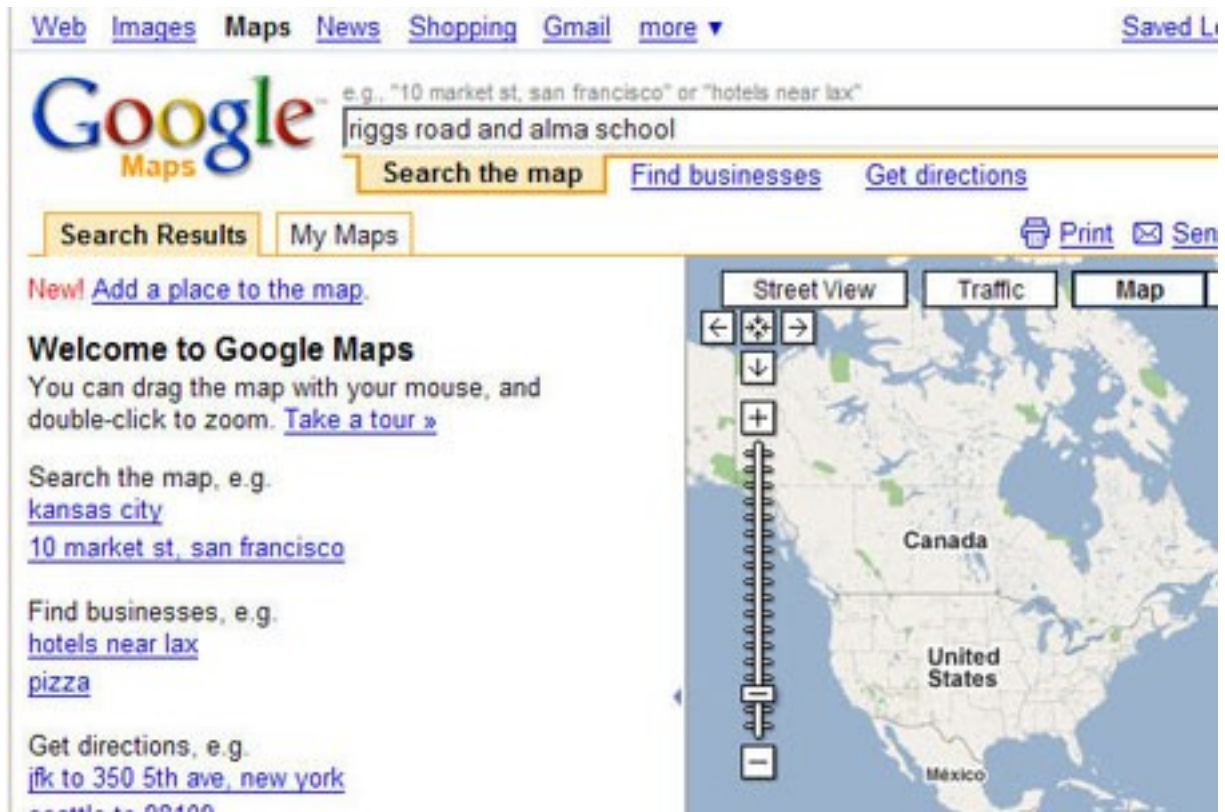


The Obligatory Yawning Horse by
= ...
800 x 533 - 108k
horsecomedym.com

To see more of any image and how it appears on its web page, just click on the thumbnail on the search result page.

Google Maps™

One of the functions I use most frequently is Google Maps. If you click on that link on the Google home page, you are taken to the Google Maps page. To find a location on the map, type the name of the location into the search form and click Search the map.



For more on how to use *Google Maps*, click on the link for *Take a tour*. One of *Google Maps* best features is the "from - to" feature. For example, if you enter "from Sun Lakes, AZ to Gallup, NM" in the map search form, you will not only get the road map highlighted to show how you could travel between these two places, but you get turn by turn instructions in the left column. This is particularly helpful if you need to print out or email these instructions to a friend (or even yourself). Tip: learn how to use *Google Maps* ability to click and drag on a route to change the route you want to take between cities. That comes in very handy.

Google Maps also offers views of the local *Traffic* flow when you click on the *Traffic* icon. Just be sure to click on that icon to turn off the flow graphics before you start any other *Google Maps* functions. The maps work, but they can look a little messy. Just clear the function first. You can also view a *Satellite* map or a *Terrain* map, by clicking on those icons on the map page. One of the latest features is *Street View*. Try this option to see the many images *Google* has obtained of streets in your city or neighborhood. You get a driver's eye view as if you are driving down the streets.

Gmail™

Get it, get it, get it! It is free, and everyone should have a web based email capability. *Google's Gmail* is excellent and offers many features, including a spam blocker that works. Click on the *Gmail* link on the *Google* home page to start your sign up for a *Gmail* email address. Just complete

Google is a registered Trademark of *Google, Inc* and is used here for instructional purposes only

the forms, and you will get your new Gmail set up. You access your Gmail online using any web browser (Internet Explorer or Firefox works well with Gmail).

The image shows a screenshot of the Gmail sign-up page. At the top left is the Gmail logo with 'by Google' and 'BETA' below it. To the right is a blue header bar with the text 'Welcome to Gmail'. Below the header, there is a red text box that says 'If you have a Gmail account, then sign in here'. Underneath this is the heading 'A Google approach to email.' followed by a paragraph describing Gmail as a new kind of webmail. Below the paragraph are three features: 'Less spam' (with a red 'no' symbol), 'Mobile access' (with a mobile phone icon), and 'Lots of space' (with a storage icon). To the right of these features is a sign-in form titled 'Sign in to Gmail with your Google Account'. The form has fields for 'Username:' and 'Password:', a checkbox for 'Remember me on this computer.', and a 'Sign in' button. Below the form is a link that says 'I cannot access my account'. At the bottom of the page, there is a blue footer bar with copyright information and links for 'Gmail for Organizations', 'Gmail Blog', 'Terms', and 'Help'. Two red arrows point from text boxes to the sign-in form and the 'Create an account' button. One arrow points from the text 'First timers; read about Gmail' to the 'About Gmail' link. Another arrow points from the text 'Then create a Gmail account' to the 'Create an account' button.

Welcome to Gmail

If you have a Gmail account, then sign in here

A Google approach to email.

Gmail is a new kind of webmail, built on the idea that email can be more intuitive, efficient, and useful. And maybe even fun. After all, Gmail has:

- Less spam**
Keep unwanted messages out of your inbox with Google's innovative technology
- Mobile access**
Read Gmail on your mobile phone by pointing your phone's web browser to <http://gmail.com/app>. [Learn more](#)
- Lots of space**
Over 6582.220932 megabytes (and counting) of free storage so you'll never need to delete another message.

Sign in to Gmail with your Google Account

Username:

Password:

Remember me on this computer.

[I cannot access my account](#)

First timers; read about Gmail

Then create a Gmail account

New to Gmail? It's free and easy.

[About Gmail](#) [New features!](#)

©2008 Google - [Gmail for Organizations](#) - [Gmail Blog](#) - [Terms](#) - [Help](#)

The first time through you can read About Gmail using the link on the page. Then click on Create an account to start the sign-up process. The most important thing about signing up for Gmail is that you can use your new username and password for any other Google program that requires access (like Picasa Web Albums™ or Blogger™). And that is key to using many of these programs.

Picasa™


Picasa is a free digital photo processing program from Google. It contains a cataloging capability that scans your computer to find all your pictures and an editing capability to clean up your photos. To access this program from the Google home page, click on the "more" link on the right to get the drop-down menu and then click on the "Photos" link. Then click on "Picasa" to download the program.

Google is a registered Trademark of Google, Inc and is used here for instructional purposes only



Picasa™ Web Albums **Fast and easy photo sharing from Google**

Just added! Try our new photo search.



Post photos and videos online in seconds
One-click web upload directly from [Picasa](#), or add photos using a web browser or [your Mac](#).

Share photos with friends and family
Share albums exclusively with friend albums public and share with the Pi. **Click here to get to Picasa download page**

View and save your friends' photos
Keep track of your favorite people and see when they add something new. Download friends' albums too.

Enjoy photos at their best
See big photos, scroll through them quickly, rotate and zoom. Have fun with captions and comments.

[Sign Up!](#) [Learn More »](#)

Sign in to Picasa Web Albums with your **Google Account**

Email:

Password:

Remember me on this computer.

[I cannot access my account](#)

Don't have a Google Account?

[Create a new Google Account](#)

This takes you to the Picasa software download page, where you can click on the Try Picasa Now icon to get the software. Download it and save it to your hard drive.

Home | About Picasa | Help

from Google

New for Mac & Windows! Picasa Web Albums

Find, organize and share your photos.

Picasa is a free software download from Google that helps you:

- Locate and organize all the photos on your computer.
- Edit and add effects to your photos with a few simple clicks.
- Share your photos with others through email, prints, and [on the web](#): it's fast, easy and free.

Take your photos further with Picasa from Google. [Learn more](#)

[Get Google Pack](#)
Windows XP/Vista only
The fast, easy way to get Picasa and more

Google's photo organizer, Picasa
Try Picasa for the first time or upgrade now.

Try Picasa Now

New! [Version 2.7](#) with better RAW support.
For Windows 2000/XP/Vista
[Linux version now on Google Labs](#)

Click to download Picasa

Find the program and double click it to install it on your computer. After the program starts, it catalogs all the images on your computer. So don't be surprised if this takes a while. This is normal and to be expected. Use the Help file to read more about how to use Picasa to shape up your pictures. The program is very straight forward and simple to use. One of the great features of Picasa is the Web Albums capability of the program. If you first select some pictures by clicking on them in the Library (catalog) portion of the program, and then click on the Web Album icon at the bottom of the screen, you can upload your pictures to the Internet on Picasa Web Albums. Then you can then notify your friends/relatives of your albums so they can view them online.

Blogger™

Google Blogger is an excellent way to have your own place to put up comments and pictures on the web. You can create your very own blog, and publish whatever you want. All blogs are public, so you can send the link to all your friends. A blog is a great way to show your pictures when you want to say more than just the title and location where you took the shot. You can write to your heart's content on a blog. To create your own blog, start on the Google home page and click on that "more" link on the right. Then click on the "even more" link at the bottom of the drop down menu. That leads you to a new web page with a very long list of Google's unique applications/services. Find the

Google is a registered Trademark of Google, Inc and is used here for instructional purposes only

link for Blogger in the right column and click on that to start your application for your own personal blog.



Once you have your own blog, you can easily upload photos to it from your computer or use your online Picasa Web Album to get your pictures into your blog.

Google Earth™

One of Google's most significant accomplishments is Google Earth. This is an absolutely amazing piece of software. You will find it from the Google home page through "more" > "even more" and looking for Google Earth in the left column. Follow the links to the Download page. Download and install the software on your computer.

Download
Google Earth (Free)

Learn more

- [KML Gallery](#)
- [Google Earth Community](#)
- [View 3D Buildings](#)
- [Product comparison](#)
- [Build 3D Models](#)
- [Google Pack](#)
- [FAQ](#)

New! [Explore sky in Google Earth](#)

Click to download Google Earth

Google Earth | Free

They have some excellent tutorials that will show you how to operate the program. To see them, open the program and select the Help menu. Then click on Tutorials on the drop down menu.

The first tutorial, "Navigating on the Earth", will show you how to get around in Google Earth. Review that first. Then go out and explore the world. It is awesome. Check the tutorial "Marking locations" so you can personalize your version of Google Earth.

Google Earth

Search Google Earth User Guide

Search

Google Earth Tutorials

About Google Earth Tutorials

New! [Watch video tutorials](#) (English only).

This set of tutorials can help you understand how to use the include:

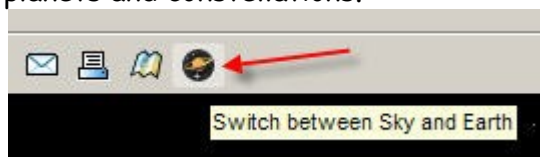
- [Navigating on the Earth](#)
- [Searching for locations and businesses](#)
- [Marking locations](#)
- [Obtaining coordinates](#) (video, English only)
- [Using Sky](#) (video)
- [Geotagging photos using Picasa](#) (video, English only)
- [Making movies in Google Earth Pro and EC](#)
- [Importing addresses in Google Earth Pro and EC](#)

Navigating on the Earth and Geotagging are excellent tutorials

After you have navigated around the world for a while, it will be time to start linking your Picasa pictures to places on the Earth. See the tutorial video "Geotagging photos using Picasa" to see how this can be done. You will be able to create thumbnails of your personal photos on Google Earth at the locations where you took the pictures. You can add comments about those pictures, and send the photo location links to all your friends. Then they can see both your photos and where you took them. It doesn't get much better than that.

Google Sky™

When you have Google Earth open, if you click on the Sky icon at the top of the page, you can switch to a view of the stars, planets and constellations.



It is amazing that Google has packed so much into one program. This is for all the astronomers out there.

Google Flight Simulator™

One fun element that is buried within Google Earth is the Google Flight Simulator. To access it you must have Google Earth open, and then type Ctrl + Alt + A on your keyboard (and no, it doesn't have to be a capital "A"). This key combination will open Google Flight Simulator, where you can fly either a jet aircraft or a propeller aircraft. Trust me, start with the propeller aircraft until you learn how to fly this simulator. To uncover the flight controls, select Help from the simulator menu. The simulator uses keyboard combinations to control things like throttle, elevator, ailerons, etc. After you learn some fundamentals, it is fun to fly from one of the many airports that Google has coded into the Google Flight Simulator.

Google™ Cheat Sheets

Data Doctors recently posted a link to a pdf file that lists all kinds of Google goods and services. I will include their link to [Google Cheat Sheets](#). It is a nice summary of the current Google activities.

Google™ - Room with a View

As you have seen, Google has plenty of room for services, and it offers some great views. Enjoy!

jcdurrett@gmail.com