



Google It

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Google Maps – Part III

Google versus Microsoft

I use Microsoft Streets & Trips as my gold standard for folks who have to drive as part of their jobs. MS www.live.com – Maps is a superior, free, Internet mapping product for this audience, compared to other free Internet mapping services.

The Google satellite images have heavy copyright restrictions that make them difficult to print and save. So, even if you plot your driving directions, using the hybrid satellite map feature, Google will print it out as a plain road map.

On the other hand, Microsoft uses satellite images from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), an agency within the Department of the Interior. The satellite maps print out on command.

On the *third* hand, Google seems to be much more helpful with mapping needs outside of the United States, especially Europe.

Both products require you sign in to access all of their features. However, Microsoft has far more tools and options.

Both products have solid help features.

See page 2 for a brief visual comparison. I used satellite views of typical federal employee housing. You know, beachfront property, tennis courts, swimming pools and the usual amenities.

Penny Wise and Pound Foolish

Management should install a copy of Microsoft Streets & Trips on the computers of all employees who have to drive as part of their job duties. The last time I researched this, we used our personal cars for about 90 million reimbursable miles a year, at considerable personal expense.

Employees can order MS Streets & Trips – 2006 for \$25.97 under the Employee Purchase Program but are prohibited from installing it on their agency computers. I would think we could get a corporate license for MS Streets & Trips for about \$10 per user.

Instead, we have to use the less than optimum web based services to get directions and other information.

However, anyone in Washington with any common sense should realize MS Streets & Trips would pay for itself in saved time. (I know, I know.)

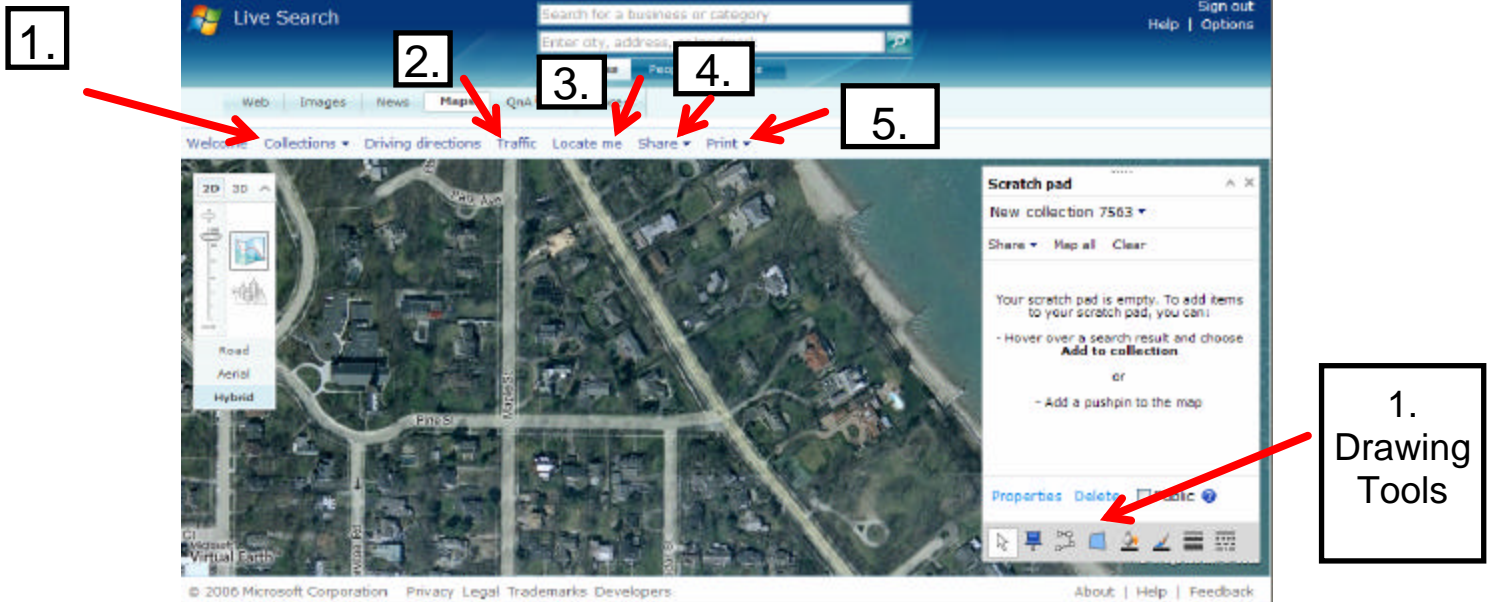
Some of the pins and plaques for length of service were cancelled to save de minimis amounts within a 100,000-employee workforce. You are welcome High Commanders. Please try and get it right this time.

Next month: I have to drill down some more into *Google Maps*.

If you have any tips or suggestions feel free to send them to me at: nteumlp@gmail.com

MS Live Search (www.live.com) and Google Maps (www.google.com)

1. Collections: Add Pushpin, Title, Save. See the Drawing Tools.
2. Traffic: Current traffic information.
3. Locate me: Sometimes things are so strange at work you want to verify that you are still in the right quadrant of the galaxy. But, you need to use your home computer.
4. Share: Email map link along with Scratch pad information. Outstanding!
5. Print: Several print options within Custom print.



1. Print: No options except to add a note.
2. Email: Email the link to the current map.
3. Link to this page: Right click, Copy shortcut and paste the URL into a document. The URL stands for "Uniform Resource Locator." I think of it as the web address since I am not geeky enough to explain it correctly.

