Arrowsmith blog

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« Terrestrial Laser Scanning data for Landers 1992 earthquake fault scarp: DEM analysis
Information on Baja California earthquake, April 4, 2010 »

Google Elevation service released

This looks really interesting and an indicator of where things will go for the future and how we interact with spatial data. A simple test for the elevation for Potsdam Germany where I am is:

http://maps.google.com/maps/api/elevation/xml?locations=52.3969639,13.0586&sensor=false

gives me

OK 52.3969639 13.0586000 34.3767281

What is even a bit sweeter is the profile capability. Let's say you want to pull a profile out along a line. All you have to provide is the end points and the number of samples along the profile. Here in Potsdam, for example, there are some small hills and if we go from the top of one to the nearby lake, we do this:

http://maps.google.com/maps/api/elevation/xml?path=52.3831040,13.0015810|52.381851,13.022992&samples=10&sensor=false

My Chrome browser can interpret the XML, so it appears simply as:

OK 52.3831040 13.0015810 63.7304535 52.3829650 13.0039601 54.4977150 52.3828259 13.0063391 44.3334160 52.3826868 13.0087181 41.6851616 52.3825476 13.011

Every third number is the elevation and what is nice is the interpolation to sample along the profile 10 times.

Check it out at: http://code.google.com/apis/maps/documentation/elevation/

thanks to http://slashgeo.org/ and http://fuzzytolerance.info/news/google-releases-elevation-web-service/

This entry was posted on Wednesday, March 24th, 2010 at 7:17 am and is filed under General commentary, LiDAR. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

3 Responses to "Google Elevation service released"

1. *ccrosby@sdsc.edu* Says:
   March 24th, 2010 at 8:26 am e

   The USGS has had a similar service available for quite awhile (page was last updated in 2005): http://gisdata.usgs.net/XMLWebServices/TNM_Elevation_Service.php

   Since Google sources their elevation data primarily from the NED, I expect that the results should be similar between both. The USGS "getAllElevation" function is cool because it returns elevations from all NED layers for a given lat./long. Being able to submit a profile to the Google service is nice.

   -cc

2. *fakyrcom@gmail.com* Says:
   August 23rd, 2010 at 2:36 am e

   Is cool because it returns elevations from all NED layers for a given lat./long.

3. *mikedolken@yahoo.co.uk* Says:
   February 6th, 2011 at 12:30 pm e

   The blog is absolutely fantastic! Lots of great information and inspiration,I would like to thank you for your efforts, I have integrated your weblog to my bookmarks, we got it which we all need! thanks a lot.
   I willcome back within the future. I wish to encourage you to continue that wonderful work, have a wonderful day!

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