# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
## Extension and Outreach

# Creating and Embedding Maps into a Webpage: Google My Maps

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University GIS Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series, "Essential ArcGIS Tutorial Series." The task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing specific tasks in GIS.
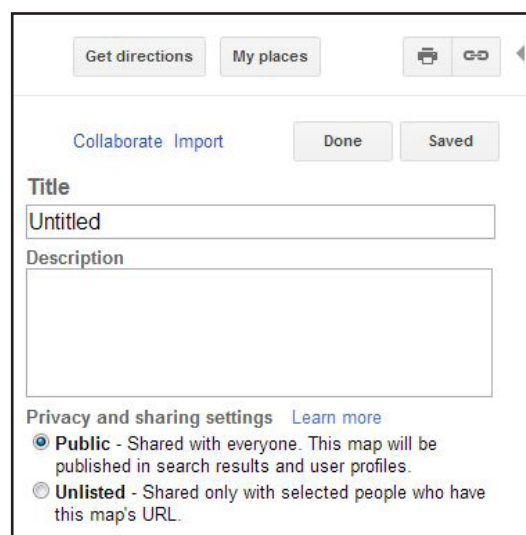
Embedding a custom Google map to a webpage is a fast and easy way to show map content on a website. *My Maps* can display a range of content such as places, lines or shapes and allows customization of placemarkers and line colors. This task sheet demonstrates creating a Google map that can be embedded into a webpage. The only requirement to make a custom Google map is a Gmail account.

## 1. Sign In to Google Maps

a. In a web browser, navigate to the Google Maps website at **www.maps.google.com**.

b. Sign in using your Gmail account information. Click **Sign In** after you are signed into your account. Click **My places** and click **Or create with classic My Maps**.

## 2. Adding Content to the Map

a. Fill in the title and description for the map using the text box and check **Public** under the **Privacy and sharing settings**. *Note: For the new Google Maps Engine maps see publication PM2082-13e.*

b. **Add a placemarker**. You can do this three ways:

- Right click on the map and choose **Add a placemark**.

- Use the **Add a placemark** tool located in the toolbar at the top of the map.

- Use the Google search bar to search for a place or location. Click on the placemarker and click **Save to map** and select the map you wish to save the placemarker to.

c. **Draw a line**. You can do this any of these three ways:

- Right click on the map and click **Draw a line**.

- Use the **Draw a line** tool located in the toolbar at the top of the map.

- Save directions as a line to the map. Click **Get directions** and fill in the destinations for **A** and **B** and click **GET DIRECTIONS**. At the bottom of the directions click **Save to My Maps** and select the map you want to save the directions to.
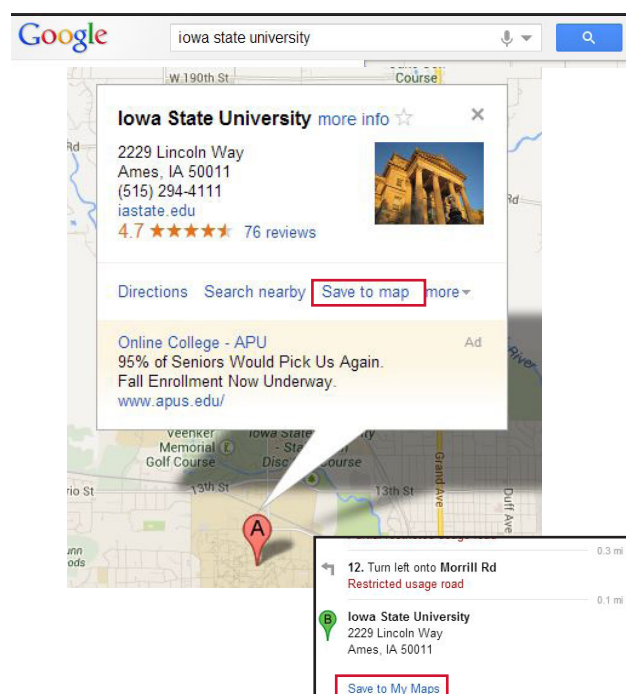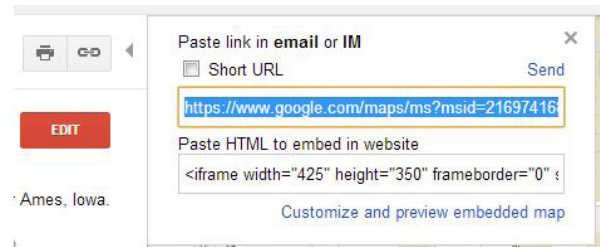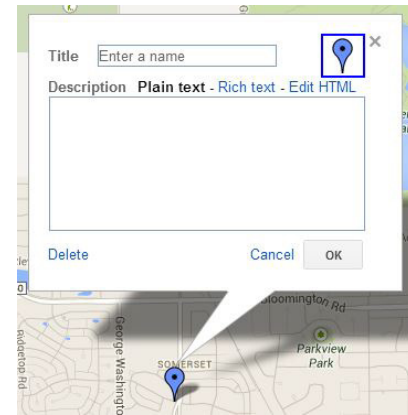
d. **Draw a shape**. You can do this one of two ways:

- Right click on the map and click **Draw a shape**.

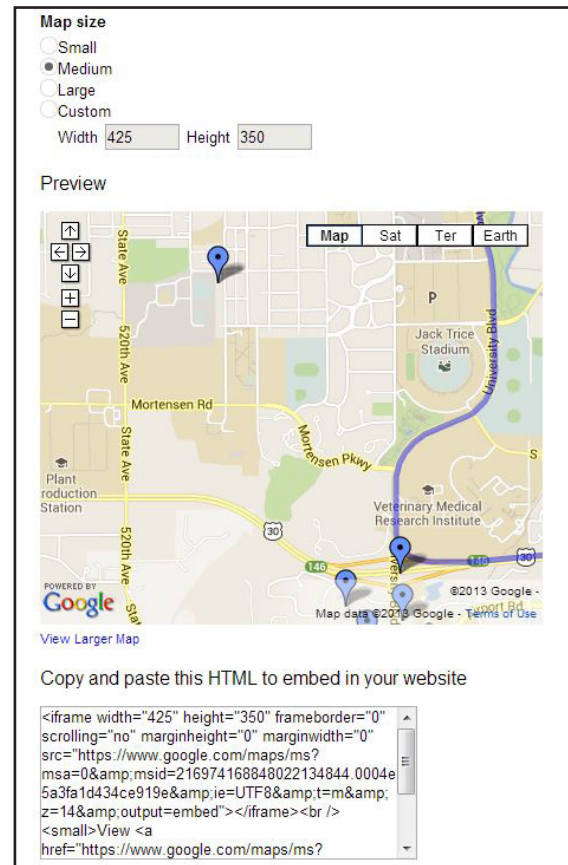- Use the **Draw a shape** tool located in the toolbar at the top of the map.

## 3. Editing Placemark, Line, and Shape

a. **Editing style**: Once a placemark, line or shape is added to the map, click on the graphic to open a pop-up window. To change the style click on the icon in the upper right hand corner of the pop-up window and choose from the available icons and options. For a line, choose style options for line color, width, and opacity. There is an additional setting option to snap the line to roads. For a shape, style options include line color, line width, line opacity, fill color and fill opacity.

b. **Moving**: To move a placemarker click and drag the marker. To move a line or shape, click and drag vertices. *Hint: You can't move a icon while the pop-up window is open.*

c. **Deleting**: To delete a marker click **Delete** in the left hand corner of the pop-up window.

d. Click **Done** when you are finished editing.

## 4. Customize, Preview and Embed Map

a. Open the Google Customize window to customize and preview the embedded map. Click on the **Link** icon and click on **Customize and preview embedded map** in the pop-up window. *Hint: If you see "this map cannot be embedded" check privacy settings (Step 2a) then click Help. This will bring you to a new page. Now click the back button in the window browser.*

b. Adjust the map size by using the predefined sizes small, medium or large or choose a custom width.

c. Copy the HTML iframe and paste it into your website. *Hint: The HTML code includes a hyphen link to a layer map. This can be removed by deleting the code after </iFrame>*

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