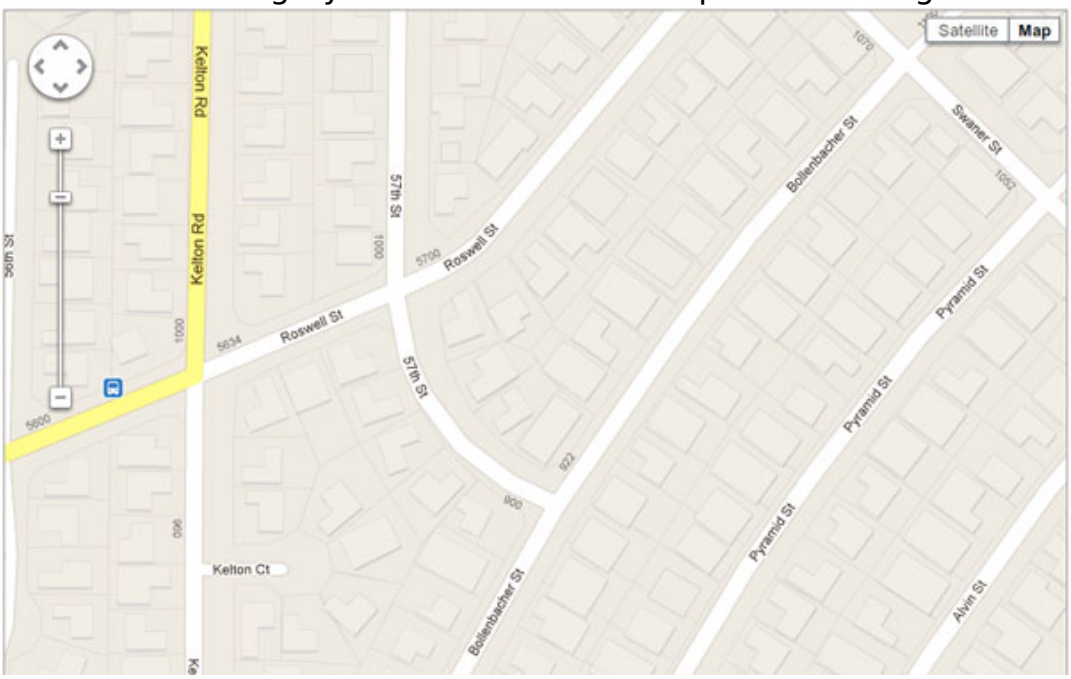
Google Maps Gets 25 Million New Building Footprints

The new building footprints have been created by a computer, which processed actual aerial imagery and rendered the shapes of buildings in the maps.



We're not sure if it's because of the Apple Maps [1] debacle [1], or if it's just business as usual, but Google has lately been releasing [2] updates [3] to Google Maps like there's no tomorrow. The latest update brings 25 million new building footprints to Google Maps, making Google's map offering even more detailed and comprehensive.

Users can help out and fix inaccurate building footprints in Google Map Maker, as well as assign businesses to existing buildings or even draw the entire building footprints themselves.

While this new addition is just one detail in Google Maps, it shows how difficult [4] building a detailed map of the world is. To add a feature such as building footprints, first you need to acquire the imagery, and then you need to develop (or purchase companies that have developed) the technology that can save many thousands of man-hours. After all that, you still need users to help you perfect the final product.

Read More [5]

October 19, 2012

Source URL (retrieved on *03/09/2014 - 10:55pm*):
http://www.wirelessdesignmag.com/news/2012/10/google-maps-gets-25-million-new-building-footprints?qt-most_popular=0

Links:
[1] http://mashable.com/follow/topics/apple-maps/
[2] http://mashable.com/2012/09/26/google-underwater-street-views/
[3] http://mashable.com/2012/10/11/google-biggest-street-view-update/
[4] http://mashable.com/2012/10/11/apple-maps-schmidt/
[5] http://mashable.com/2012/10/19/google-maps-25-million-building-footprints/