Google Maps Plugins 2.2.1 for Address Book

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Donations Accepted

While these plugins are free, if you find them useful, please consider making a small donation to support further development. (Donations can be made through my website at http://www.briantoth.com/addressbook/.) Thank you.

To install:
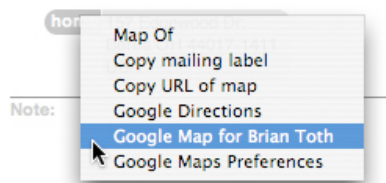
Copy the .bundle files to one of these locations on your computer:
A) /Library/Address Book Plug-Ins/
B) /Users/<Your Home>/Library/Address Book Plug-Ins/

Or, read the online installation instructions at http://www.briantoth.com/addressbook/.

To use:

Click on the label next to an address in Apple's Address Book and select an appropriate menu item. This version includes separate plugins for Google Maps and setting preferences for the plugin as well as getting Google Maps directions.

Please see the online instructions at http://www.briantoth.com/addressbook/ for more details.

Version History

2.2.1 (8/23/05)
- Fixed a bug that would cause Address Book to crash for certain addresses.
- Improved support for Japanese addresses that include a postal mark as part of the postal code.
- While UK and Canadian postal codes should only have one space in them, I added support for more than one.

2.2 (8/22/05)
- Japanese addresses now work properly in Google Maps. (At this time Google does not support Japanese directions.) There are new Preference options for Japanese addresses for ignoring the "Postal Code" and the "Further Divisions" fields, both of which Google Maps does not work with. This assumes that Japanese addresses are stored similar to how Apple stores theirs — which seems to make sense from what I've been told and read about Japanese addresses.
- Added the option to display a contact's phone numbers on the map in addition to their name.
- Improved detection of the country an address is from. This is important as it determines which Preferences get applied to your addresses and also determines which Google Maps domain is used when displaying the map. If your address does not have a postal code it goes by the formatting of the address in Address Book instead.
- Displays person or company icons next to names in Directions drop-down menus.
- Detects whether you display your contact names by last name first or first name first and displays Directions drop-down menus accordingly.
- Preferences option to sort by first or last name instead of just by first name for Directions drop-down menus.
- Better support for addresses with no name, what good an address is without a name, I don't know. =)
- No longer puts a comma between the State and ZIP Code for US addresses. The comma would cause rare problems with certain locations.
- Fixed a bug in 10.3.x where the Preferences may not take effect until the next launch of Address Book.
- Other interface adjustments and minor improvements.

2.1.1 (8/1/05)
- Fixed a bug that caused some user's Google Directions window from not appearing.

2.1 (7/31/05)
- Major improvement to address the "spinning beach ball" issue when loading Google Directions with a large number of Address Book cards. Google Directions window should load significantly faster.
- Google Directions now recognizes the preferences setup in Google Maps Preferences.
- Google Directions pop-up menus are now sorted alphabetically.
- Improved error handling for more informative logs when something goes wrong.
- Added support for duplicate Address Book entries in Panther for Google Directions.
- Improved support for Address Book cards with no names.

2.0 (7/28/05)
- Can now get directions between Address Book addresses or other addresses you type in.

- The plugins no longer disable themselves for unsupported countries. Google seems to be gradually adding support for more countries so this seems appropriate. Please do not ask for help for unsupported countries though. Thanks. =)
- Minor additions and tweaks such as better keyboard accessibility.

1.3.1 (6/20/05)
- Fixes a bug where the plugin may be grayed out for supported countries. Seems to have been caused by imported addresses, due to differences in country codes.

1.3 (6/20/05)
- Fixed a bug where the plugin would fail to load the web browser when combined with Apple Script Address Book plugins.
- Further character handling improvements. Properly handles common punctuation in name fields and addresses, such as &, #, etc.
- The plugin will now determine the location of an address either by postal code, or the country code stored for that address. Country codes are determined by the format of an address as specified in Address Book. (See Address Book's help for more information on address formats.) This means you no longer have to specify country fields in the preferences to make use of the postal code options.
- Based on the location of an address, the plugin will now use the correct Google domain (such as .com, .co.uk, or .ca). While I haven't seen a difference in service, Google Maps should display the proper country now if an address cannot be found.
- Preferences are now implemented as a separate plugin. This is for down the road when other plugins (such as Google Maps directions) may need to share the same data. There is still the option to keep the menu item hidden and out-of-the-way during normal use.
- Streamlined and improved the preferences. (Uses a different preferences file than the previous version.)
- The maps plugin will now disable itself for countries that Google Maps cannot lookup addressed for.

1.2 (6/10/05)
- Added customizable settings to overcome some of Google's quirks. Preferences can be accesses by holding down the Option key while clicking on the address' label.
- Can use Address Book person or company name as Google Map label.
- Filters apartment numbers.
- Filters periods in country abbreviations.
- Ignores Zip+4 Zip Codes.
- Option to use only postal codes for certain countries (such as the UK).
- Improved special character filtering (again) and URL encoding.

1.1 (6/6/05)
- Checks and removes line breaks, tabs, # signs, and other unsupported characters from addresses.
- Added comma separators for addresses. Required for some addresses to be found properly.
- May fix a case where some addresses would not load due to the presence of invisible characters or special characters in an address field. Otherwise gives a proper notification that it couldn't load instead of doing nothing. If this is the case, try retyping the address in Address Book.

1.0 (6/5/05)
- Initial release.

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