

Mapping on OSM

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Discussion: <http://forum.locusmap.eu/viewtopic.php?f=40&t=2748>



This page is obsolete and will be re-worked soon

Locus allows to use great vector maps with map data from OpenStreetMap. As OSM is an open project everybody can improve the map quality. This How-To is not meant to cover all the details for mapping on OSM, but it should help you, to get a step into it. It's quite easy to put roads, tracks, house numbers and POIs on the map. OSM really made some great work to help new users getting started. And you - as a Locus user - can be one of them!!!

What do you get for mapping on OSM? Nothing! Yes, correct, NOTHING!!! Nobody gets anything. No Money! No fame! No honor!

So why should you do this? Because you are using maps with data that has been collected by other volunteer around the world. It's just the good feeling to help someone else and say thanks by giving something back to the community.

But enough talking now, time to get started!

Mapping without mapping

Yes, correct. You can even help without doing a lot of work. Locus offers direct support for OpenStreetBugs: <http://openstreetbugs.schokokeys.org/>

Open Street Bugs



OpenStreetBugs is a very easy service. No registration needed. Just click on the map and tell there what is missing. You can do this from Locus by going to the "Main Menu", click on "Functions" and choose "OpenStreetBugs". Now you should see the screen on the right.

It is pretty self-explanatory:

- Under "visibility" you can toggle to display bugs.
- To report a bug, you can choose the location and add the description to let other mappers know, what is wrong.

So next time you are walking, cycling or driving around something, that is missing on your vector map, simply submit a bug on OpenStreetBugs and maybe somebody will care about it sooner or later. Remember, this is not a service. It might take some time until any volunteer has a look on it.

Open Street Bugs - Perfect Example



That screen on the left is a perfect example, how this could work.

- Somebody reports what is missing or wrong.
- Some time later a voluntary cares about the problem.

As you see on the timelines, this might really take some time. If you want to make changes faster, you could do it yourself!!! So why not dive deeper in that matter?

You probably noticed that it wasn't hard to improve map data on OSM that way. It's not harder to do mapping by yourself. If you are interested, you can keep on reading...

And who knows, maybe one day you can solve the problem from another person! :)

Mapping

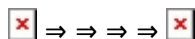
When it comes to mapping by yourself, you need to have an account on OpenStreetMap.org:
<http://www.openstreetmap.org/>

Registration is free and takes just a minute. After registration, you can go directly to your place and hit the “edit” button. But, it is always a good idea to have some recorded tracks from missing roads in your Locus directory. That way, it is easier to map high quality data. For better understanding you can have a look at these very detailed tutorials on YouTube. It is a three part series, which covers and explains almost all aspects for mapping on OSM:

1. Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8qKaL9IGjk>
2. Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXDWxGUp8N0>
3. Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRqn-S9maL0>

So far so good - This wouldn't be an article on the “Locus knowledge base” without mentioning a word how Locus can help you on this task.

Send your track to your OSM profile



After recording a track with unmapped roads, simply go to “Data → Tracks → Chosen Category”, click on the track you've just recorded and hit export. On first time use, you will need to go through a simple authentication process. Enter the login data from <http://www.openstreetmap.org/> and go ahead.

Now, Locus sends your track directly to the GPS traces in your OSM account. You can choose them to map the missing roads. This can't be done more easily!

Sometimes it takes a while until OSM servers have processed your upload. Please be patient.

Map editing

Now that you have your track in your OSM account, you can go right ahead and edit the map. Use “Potlach 2”, so you don't have to install anything on your computer. But feel free to use any of the other editing options. “Potlach 2” is just easy to start with. So I recommend this. But “JOSM” is way more powerful.

I hope you have watched and understood some tutorials, because I will not explain here, how you use these tools. There are really better places to learn more details about OSM.

So simply do the following:

1. Upload tracks from Locus
2. Display them on the map
3. Draw new roads

If you have problems or questions with something on OSM, ask them! ;)

There are really nice people willing to help you out with your problem. There are also support forums and you can even find and contact mappers around you. Give it a try!!!

Appendix

When you once got used to the vector maps in Locus and enjoyed their good quality, please share some of your time, to give something back. It's a Win-Win-Win-Win-Win-situation.

For further information about the OSM project, please visit these sites:

- http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Main_Page
- http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Beginners%27_guide
- <http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/About>

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