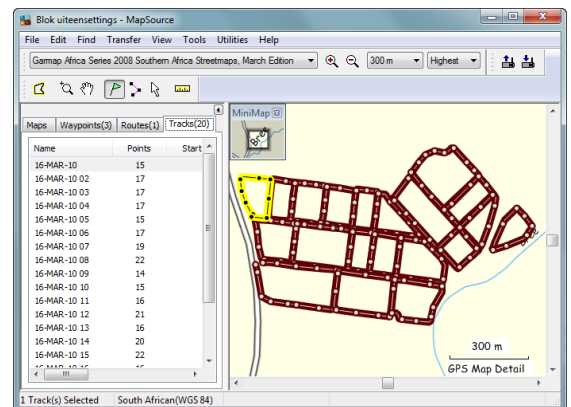


How to load GPS co-ordinates from Garmin MapSource into Model Maker and calculate an area

I have a lot of clients who use Model Maker as a design and drafting tool. Many of these clients also provide their data to their clients in various data formats like PDF, JPG and other image formats. Imagine if the same data you work in can be loaded into the viewer mode of Model Maker at the client's offices and that the client can use the same data to calculate distances and areas for himself?

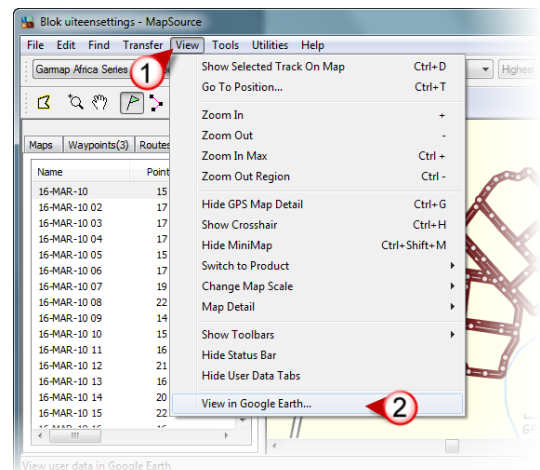
In this article I will explain how to load GPS survey data from GARMIN MapSource software into Model Maker (MM) via Google Earth (GE) and then to calculate a area.

Step 1: Load your survey data into MapSource (MS) like you normally would. Tracks and Waypoints will work perfectly!



Step 2: Click on View (1) then "View in Google Earth" (2). This will load the data into Google Earth, so you must have GE installed before you try this.

Tip: Get the latest Google Earth at this link: <http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html>



Step 3: In GE you will see the survey displayed. Locate the MapSource link in the "Places" page of the left toolbar, then right click (1) on the relevant data. In this instance I used Tracks as my survey data that came from MS. Click the "Save

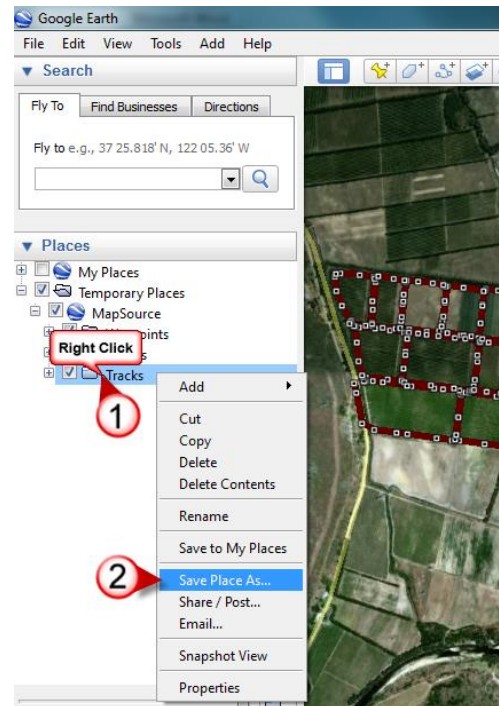
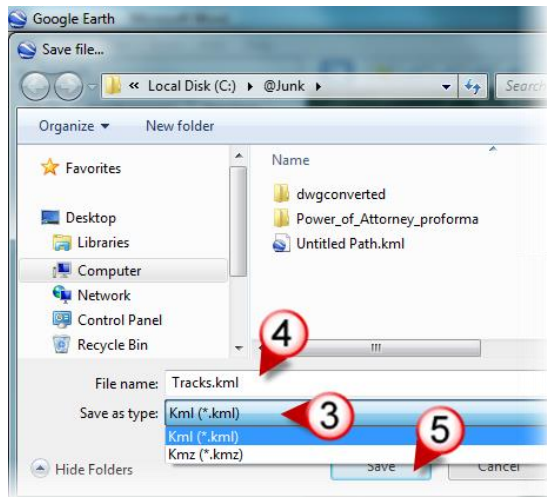
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Place As.." option (2), select the "Save as type" (3) KML not KMZ, type in a file name (4) and Save (5) the file in a suitable location.

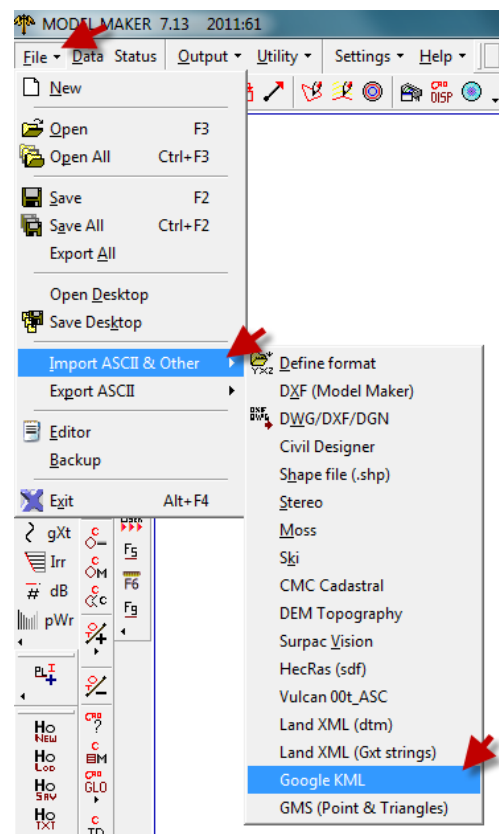
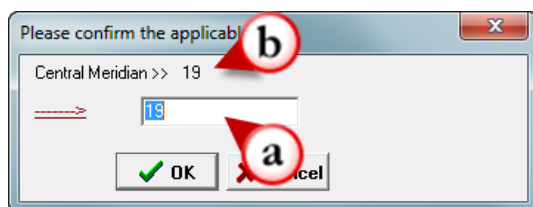
Tip: Do not be alarmed if the survey does not fit the GE photo background exactly as GE is not always as accurate as a survey.



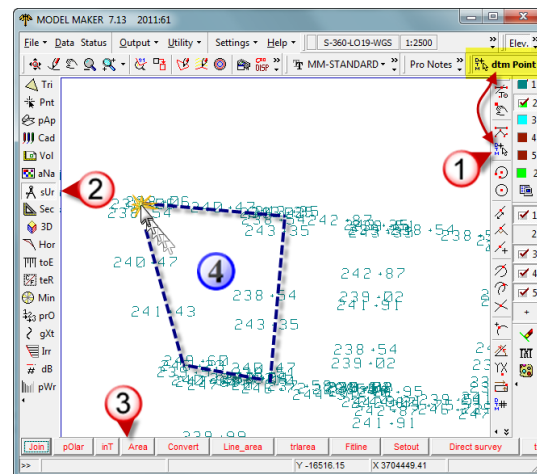
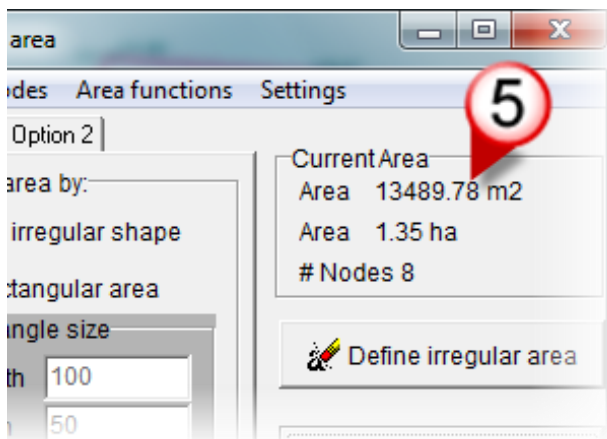
Step 4:

Now all that remains is to open the KML file in MM using File > Import ASCII and other > Google KML

When the file is loaded into MM, MM will inspect the KML data and if the central meridian (CM) setting of the KML file is different to that of MM, a dialog will prompt the user to enter the applicable CM value. It is advisable to make the MM CM value (a) the same as the KML file CM value (b).



Step 5: To calculate an area in MM, Set the snap mode to DTM points (1), select the Survey functions on the left main menu (2), Area (3) and define the area perimeter (4) to calculate an area.



Tip: Download the latest Model Maker Demo program from www.modelmaker.co.za and use the DEMO version to access some of the functionality provided in the software for free.