

User Guide

Purpose: To provide information for someone who wishes to download the software, install it, test it and then use it. It should only assume such knowledge as is necessary to use the product. It is not intended to provide information for people wishing to extend MapBuilder

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Introduction

MapBuilder is an open source project allowing you to easily add dynamic maps and information from many other sources to your web site.

This guide will explain how you can install and configure MapBuilder components to present maps on your web pages. Various MapBuilder configurations will be explained together with ideas on how to include them with the layout of a web page. The target audience for this tutorial is those tasked with implementing an application in HTML and have a basic understanding of HTML, CSS, XML and JavaScript, if you need more information on HTML, CSS, XML and JavaScript then these can be found elsewhere on the Internet.

Using MapBuilder, Web designers can concentrate on the presentation and usability using HTML with simple links to the MapBuilder JavaScript code using HTML element IDs, with additional presentation information provided using CSS and XSL. The content and style of the maps themselves will often be defined using Web Map Context documents although the modular design framework allows MapBuilder to work with many other document types.

MapBuilder implements a framework for dynamic web page content from XML documents using AJAX (which is shorthand for Asynchronous JavaScript + XML). MapBuilder consists of a JavaScript library that implements the Model-View-Controller (MVC) design pattern. These objects (the model, the view and the controller) are configured using the MapBuilder configuration file. The schema of this XML configuration file is derived from RDF and is fully described later in this document.

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