

Making the Most of Your BlackBerry - Navigation

Charles Bennett - MBA, Principal Consultant, Triella

See the article *Basic BlackBerry Features* located at <http://www.triella.com/publications.html> for a primer on the features that come standard with a BlackBerry. This article describes a feature seldom used by BlackBerry users - the ability to download new software and capabilities to the unit.

Before we describe this feature in detail please note the following:

1. The use of this application will generally increase the amount of internet (data) time that your BlackBerry uses. If you are on a limited plan, you may wish to upgrade to an 'unlimited' plan so that you do not incur additional data charges.
2. This software package may be processing intensive. You may notice that your BlackBerry is sluggish when using this application. This does not affect the functionality of the unit but the performance may be affected.

With the caveats out of the way, let's explore one software package from Google...


The BlackBerry Navigator

Have you ever traveled somewhere that you are not used to and wished that you had a map of the area? Welcome to Google Local for the BlackBerry! This application can be downloaded over the internet by typing in the following URL on your BlackBerry device:

www.google.com/glm

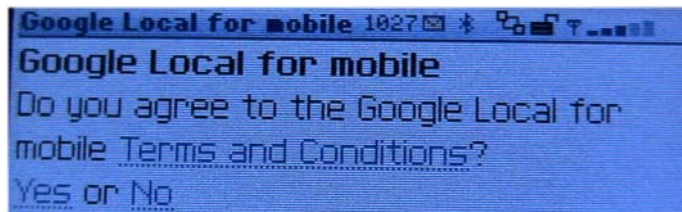
Note: You must have a colour BlackBerry to use this software

How to go to the URL

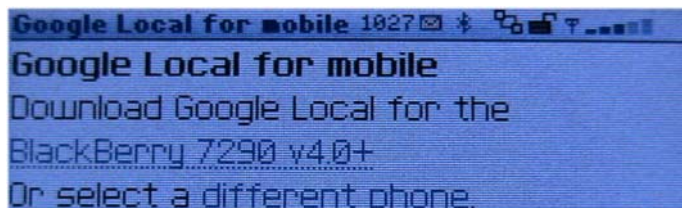
1. Load the BlackBerry Browser 
2. Push in the wheel and select Go To
3. After the letters http:// which appear on screen, type in the URL www.google.com/glm
4. Choose OK

How to Load Google Local

1. Once at the Web site, accept the Terms and Conditions as shown below:



2. After a few moments, Google will figure out the type of handheld you are using and prompt you to download the software as shown.

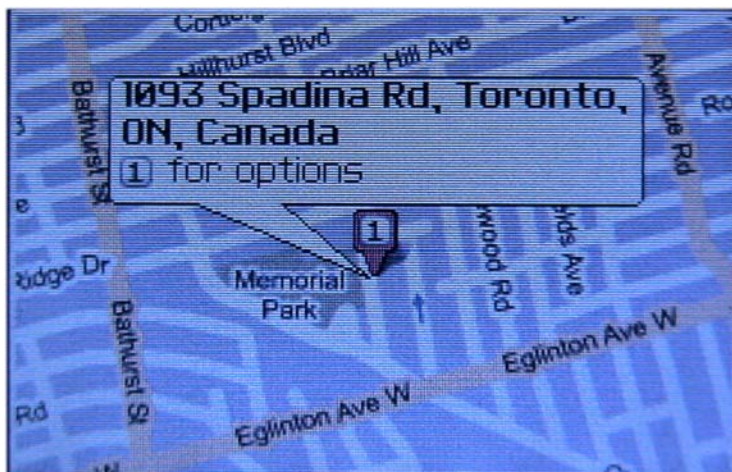


3. Follow the on screen instructions to download and install the software on your BlackBerry. Once installed, the icon below appears:



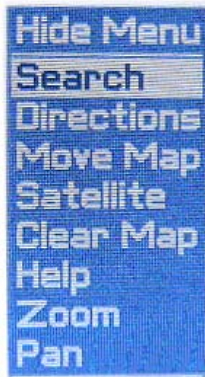
Using Google Local

Google local produces a very legible map on the small BlackBerry screen. Launch the application by selecting it from the icon in step 3 above. Illustrated below is a sample of the type of map produced:



In this case for the address 1093 Spadina Road in Toronto. Suppose you were travel to Mississauga to 315 Thrace Avenue, but you were not quite sure where that was. Here's how you could use the BlackBerry to assist you.

When you push the wheel in using Google Local, a menu is presented with the following choices:



Search - allows the entry of a Canadian or American address to be located.

Directions - Provides directions from point A to point B.

Move Map - Moves the map from one location to another from the locations that you have previously searched for.

Satellite - Use this to see a topographical view of the location.

Clear Map - Use this to clear any markers on the current map - such as the current location marker.

Help - Use this to find out how to use Google Local (but you don't really need it after reading this article!)

Zoom - Provides instructions on how to zoom. I zooms into the map and O zooms out. This function is useful when you get close to a location as it allows the smaller streets to be named and also shows which streets are one way.

Pan - Allows for panning and scrolling of the Map. The same functions can be achieved using the wheel. Turn the wheel clockwise to scroll south, counterclockwise to scroll north. Hold the ALT key and use the wheel to scroll east and west. As you scroll new portions of the map will be downloaded. You can also use U, J, H and K to pan the map.

Learn by Example

Let's assume that you want to get to 315 Thrace Avenue...

1. Select **Search** from the menu and press enter on the highlighted tag
Type a new search.
2. Type **315 Thrace Avenue, Mississauga, ON**
3. Select **Accept** from the menu to begin the search. In a few seconds bits of the map will start to appear. After about 15 seconds, the whole map should appear. The exact location will be marked with a pin with the number 1 on it. You can press 1 (one) at any time to return to this location.
4. Press I (eye) to zoom in. Notice the additional detail that is provided.

5. Select **Clear Map** to remove the nomenclature from the screen.
6. Select **Satellite** to see the topography of the area.
7. Select **O (letter O)** to zoom out.
8. Select **Map View** to return to the standard map.
9. Press **K** a few times to pan the map to the east. Then try **U**, **J** and **H** repeatedly so that you have completed moved from the area.
10. Select **Move Map** and go to the previous address.
11. Select **1** for Options. Select **Directions from here** and then enter your own home address using the format shown previously by pressing enter on the highlighted item **Type an address**.
12. A Route Overview will be presented showing the from and to locations, colour coded. Press **3** to Start Directions.
13. Press **3** again for the next waypoint. The screen will refresh with directions at each waypoint and the map will redraw at a suitable resolution as to allow you to travel to your destination.

The best way to learn about Google Local is to experiment with it. Enjoy!

Charles Bennett is the Principal Consultant of Triella, a technology consulting company specializing in providing technology audits, planning advice, project management and other CIO related services to small and medium sized firms. He can be reached at cbennett@triella.com or 416.269.4368. For additional articles, go to www.triella.com/publications.html.

© 2006, by Triella. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.