

## Blog Export: Rasmus' Toys Page, <http://toys.lerdorf.com/>

Sunday, March 5, 2006

### Get your geo plugin here

PHP 5, JSON from pecl cvs, Map Tile API and the Yui Connection Manager.

Toss them in a bag and shake and you get something like this. Enter a city name, or even a pseudo-name like Philly or SFO and hit return. Each time you enter a new name you will get a map tile for that city.

It's not all that fancy, but it sure is easy to do:

33 lines total which includes about 6 lines of PHP which consists mostly of building the URL to the map tile service. Then the Javascript which has a callback function to read the form values and make the backend GET request and a simple function to take the JSON response and add the map tile to the document. And finally the actual HTML form.

With a slight tweak you can change it to make a nice geocode lookup field.

So, fire up your text editors and start writing some plugins for blog and forum packages and perhaps image gallery applications as well.

Posted by Rasmus in PHP at 15:50

Cool! But why the PHP deserialization and JSON reserialization?

Am I missing something or can you switch to `format=json` and switch to a straight `echo file_get_contents($src);` instead?  
Anonymous on Mar 8 2006, 16:51

Because there is no `output=json` for the maps API ;(  
Anonymous on Mar 8 2006, 17:23

I didn't check the docs, but this seems to work for me:

`http://api.local.yahoo.com/MapsService/V1/mapImage?appid=rlerdorf&location=SFO&output=json&image_width=300&image_height=300&zoom=7`  
Anonymous on Mar 8 2006, 18:21

When I try it with "Vienna" I get a flood of JavaScript errors. The output of the post to `/php/ymap/yajax.php` is:

```
Warning:
file_get_contents(http://api.local.yahoo.com/MapsService/V1/mapImage?appid=rlerdorf&location=vienna&output=php&image_width=300&image_height=300&zoom=7) [function.file-get-contents]: failed to open stream: HTTP request failed!
HTTP/1.1 400 Bad Request
in /var/www/lerdorf.com/php/ymap/yajax.php on line 7
false
```

and then it tries to post again and again and ...  
Anonymous on Mar 8 2006, 19:00

True, but if you check:

`http://developer.yahoo.net/maps/rest/V1/mapImage.html`

and

`http://developer.yahoo.net/maps/rest/V1/geocode.html`

You will see that this is not documented, so relying on it at this point would be a bad idea. But yes, you are right, you could pass the

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json straight through, of course.

Anonymous on Mar 8 2006, 19:55

Yeah, I skipped error checking to keep the example short.

Anonymous on Mar 8 2006, 20:30

Hum... I'll let McManus know his docs are out of date. :)

Anonymous on Mar 9 2006, 00:55