

Google Earth Is Out of This World 从 Google 看地球

Imagine your computer just grew wings, and could now take you wherever you want to go. No, it's not a **plot** for a new movie. It's Google Earth, and it's amazing.

想象你的计算机长了一对翅膀，可以带领你遨游四方。不，这可不是某部新片的情节，而是神奇的 Google 地球软件！

The space around the Earth is full of satellites. Many of them have high-**resolution** cameras that have taken pictures of the planet's surface. Google **taps into** this huge reservoir of photos and **streams** it to your computer. When you start up the program, you'll see the planet surrounded by control **options** and information **readout**. Type in an address or **landmark**, or simply click on an area, and you can immediately **zoom** to that location. The process is extremely quick and **seamless** as you zoom in and out, or travel between locations. There are even controls to **tilt** the picture, giving a **slight** 3-D effect. Google Earth can also **superimpose** driving directions on the picture. Any information about restaurants, hotels, museums and parks can be displayed, **based on your settings**.

环绕地球外围的太空布满人造卫星，其中许多都装有拍摄地表照片的高解析相机。Google 从这个超级相片库中抓取照片，将其输送到计算机里。启动程序时，你会看到一个地球影像，四周有控制选项及信息。当你键入某个地址或地标，或者只要在任一区域点一下鼠标，就会立即出现该地点的影像。你可以选择拉近、推远画面，或在不同地点间移动，整个过程十分迅速流畅。甚至还有使影像倾斜的操纵装置，让它看起来有些许三维效果。Google 地球软件也可以把行车路线和相片重迭显示。它还能根据你的设定来显示餐厅、旅馆、博物馆、或是公园的信息。

The picture are not **real-time**, and you won't see any movement within the picture itself. Some of the pictures may even be several years old. But for most cities and landmarks, the results are amazing, as is the **level** of detail. **Navigating** with Google Earth is so much like flying that it may be the first **program** that requires seat belt when **in use**!

这些卫星图像并非实时，相片本身也没有任何动态信息，有些相片甚至是好几年前拍的。但对于大部份的城市和地标，其显示结果及精细度令人叹为观止！使用 Google 地球宛如遨游天际，它可能是第一个让你想在使用时系上安全带的软件！

-by Howard Weston

Vocabulary

zoom [zum] v. (用变焦距镜头) 将画面推近 (或拉远)

setting [`setɪŋ] n. 设定

navigate [`nævə, get] v. 导航

More Information

plot [plət] n. (小说, 戏剧等的) 情节

resolution [ˌrɛzəˈluʃən] n. 分辨率

tap into 接入; 利用

stream [stri:m] v. 流; 流动

option [ˈɒpʃən] n. 选择

readout [ˈri:d,aʊt] n. 资料解析

landmark [ˈlænd,mɑ:k] n. (显而易见的) 地标, 陆标

seamless [ˈsi:mli:s] adj. 无缝的; 流畅的

tilt [tɪlt] v. 使倾斜

slight [slɑ:t] adj. 轻微的

superimpose [ˌsupəˈɪmˌpəʊz] v. 把.....放置在上面重迭

base on 基于

real-time adj. 实时的; 即时处理的

level [ˈlɛv!] n. 程度

program [ˈprɒgræm] n. 【计算机】程序; 程序设计

in use 在使用中