**Getting Started**

Everything here is written from the perspective of a Windows user. Steps and commands will be slightly different for other environments.

**Project Dependencies**

Install Python and Project Packages/Libraries

*Option A: Download and install the Anaconda Python distribution.*

Anaconda will come preloaded with *most* of the packages below.

<https://www.anaconda.com/products/individual>

*Option B: Install Python directly…*

<https://www.python.org/downloads/>

*And pip install these packages/libraries:*

time (sleep), subprocess, simplekml, threading, requests, json, re, os

Install Google Earth Pro

It’s free!

<https://www.google.com/earth/download/gep/agree.html?hl=en-GB>

**Clone / Fork the GitHub Repo**

<https://github.com/BenLaRock/Viz_Ext_Addrs/tree/master>

HTTPS and Git Bash option:

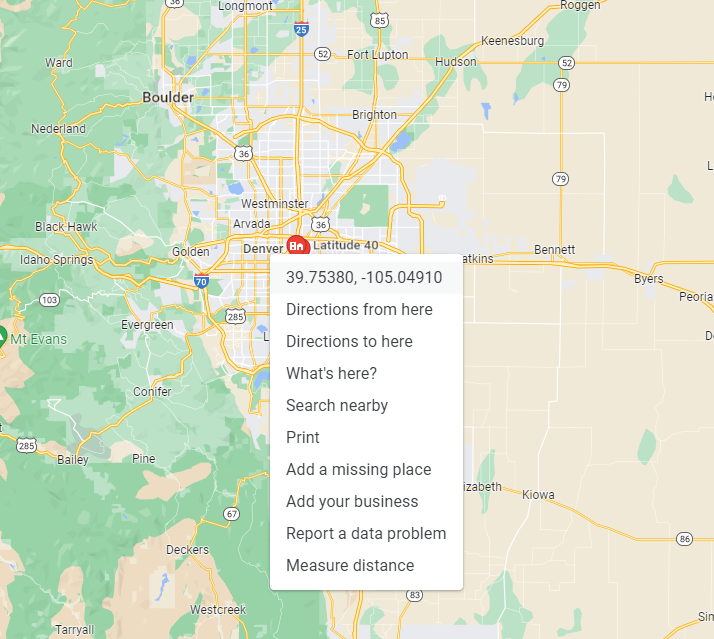
https://github.com/BenLaRock/Viz\_Ext\_Addrs.git

**Prepare the Script**

Add User Location Coordinates

If you don’t know your current location’s coordinates (decimal degrees) – and why would you? – the easiest way to do this is to go to Google Maps… <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Denver,+CO/>

And right click anywhere, then click on the first row of the pop up. This will be a latitude-longitude coordinate in decimal degrees. (The script currently only accepts decimal degrees).



Then update the ‘user\_loc’ variable in the script:

Text

Description automatically generated

Run the Script via Command Line

*Do this before you connect Google Earth to the KML for the first time as there won’t be a KML file for you to link to. Once you’ve run the script at least once, there will be a KML for you to go back and re-link to if necessary.*

Use either the Anaconda prompt or the Windows command prompt (cmd) and change directory to the local folder where you cloned the repo. Then type ‘**python viz\_ext\_addrs.py**’ (for Windows) to run the script:

Graphical user interface, text

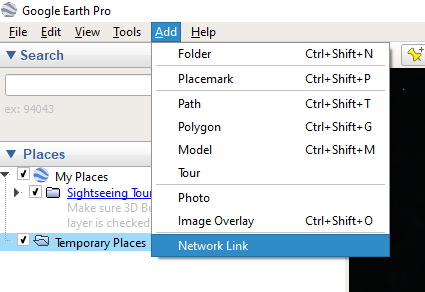
Description automatically generated

*If you installed your dependencies with Conda (‘conda install’) but tried to run the script with the Windows command prompt you’ll likely get a bunch of dependency errors, so make sure you use the appropriate command prompt.*

You can stop the script after that with ‘**q**’.

Link Google Earth to the KML

Open Google Earth and go to ‘Add’, then click ‘Network Link’:



Enter a name for the KML and browse to the directory where the KML you created above is stored (make sure to click the actual KML file). Then set ‘Time-Based Refresh’ to ‘Periodically’ for every ‘1 secs’ (the script iterates the Whois lookup every 5 seconds, so this is a good default to use). Then click ‘OK’:

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

*Personally, I would not check the ‘Fly to View on Refresh’ box or else Google Earth will jump around on every refresh - unless you want that.*

After that, you should see the simple KML we created above with just one point which is the user location you provided:

Map

Description automatically generated

Now you’re ready to use the script!

**Fire It Up**

Go back to the Anaconda prompt or Windows command prompt – change directory back to where the script is stored if needed – and run the script again with ‘**python viz\_ext\_addrs.py**’.

You should now see Google Earth immediately to start to refresh with new network connections:

Map

Description automatically generated

Map

Description automatically generated

**Closing Thoughts**

I’ve got some more work to do including getting this starter guide converted to a proper readme. I also cannot guarantee you won’t run into errors that I haven’t foreseen in my fledgling coding experience, so stay tuned as I develop this into a more robust capability.