

# Site Mapper

Version 1.9 Help. Updated July 2021

## About

Site Mapper can be used to create and export multiple maps based on an "site" index (parent) table. You can create any number of maps, from just a few to 1000s. The site index layer can be a point, line or polygon layer. Maps can be exported to JPGs, PNGs, or PDFs. You can choose the PDF driver or output image resolution.

Site Mapper - Batch Printing Tool

Template Tindow

Export mapper or layout: 

Layout

Select template window: 

MAP-XXXX-X

Select the Mapper or Layout window which will be used as a template for the individual "site" maps. This template window will then be cloned to produce the individual site maps.

Sites Layer

Site Layer: 

- Select Layer -

Add each site as new query layer in mapper: ☐

Use the style override and label properties of parent site layer (selected above) for the new child site layer: ☐

Turn off the parent layer (selected above): ☒

Select the "parent" site layer (from the Mapper or Layout specified above) which includes the "child" records which will be used to generate each new map. Set the option to add each "child" site as a layer in each new map. The child site layer will be added at the same position in the layer order as the parent layer. Set the option to replicate the style override symbology and label properties for the child layer as the parent layer.

Map Pan and Zoom Settings

Change site map extent to: 

Centroid

Enter zoom width: 

5

 Km. Current zoom: ☐

Specify how you want to change the map extent relative to each "child" site. Pan map to the centroid, full extent (for polygons/plines) or don't change at all.

Output Settings

Char column for export filename (must be unique):  ProperCase: ☐

Create JPG: ☐ Create ☐

Img. resolution: 

96 dpi

Create PDF: ☐

PDF driver: 

MapInfo PDF Printer Driver

Output folder: 

C:\Users\ribushk\Documents

Specify which column from the site table to use to generate the output file name (the column must contain unique values so unique files are generated).

Specify the file types to be exported. For JPG and PNG, you can also specify the image resolution. For PDF, you can specify the PDF Driver. Specify the folder where the output files will be saved.

To add values from any column in the site table on the layout as text (such as the map title), add an empty text frame on to the layout and then include the column number in the NAME for the text frame. The column number must be in the format "<COL#>", where # is the column number (note "<COL#>" is case sensitive). For example the text frame name could be "State of <COL5> Map" and the text frame will be updated to "State of New York Map" if column 5 contains the value "New York". Note the text frame name is modified by right clicking on the frame and selecting Frame Properties. Make sure the empty text frame is large enough to accommodate the full text.

☒ Close cloned mapper or layout window after exporting. Recommended if you are generating a large number of maps. Untick if you want to keep the windows open.

OK

Close

Add delay before closing: 

1 secs

?

## How to use Site Mapper

Firstly, you'll need to first create a **template** map which will be used to generate the individual maps. The template can be either a Mapper window or Layout window (Layout windows must contain a single Mapper frame). The mapper must also contain the index site layer (however this can be turned off) and should also contain any other background layers required. If using a Layout window as the template, then you can also include layout frames such as title text, north arrow, images (e.g. logos) and legend items for the map.

Next click on the **Site Mapper** button on the **Handy Tools** ribbon.

In the first dropdown list, select whether to use a Mapper window or Layout window. In the next dropdown list, choose the template window you have created.

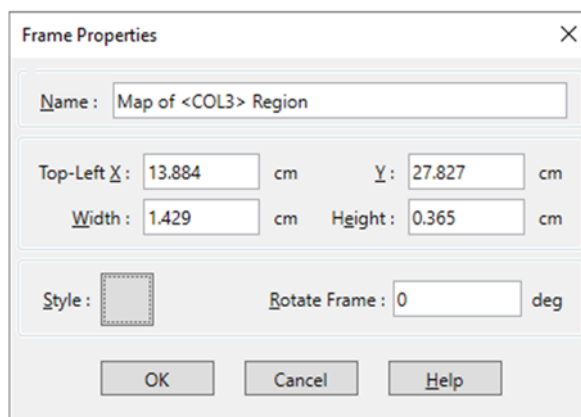
Next specify the index site layer ("parent" layer). For example, you may have a site table with 150 suburb boundaries. The site table must have at least one column with unique values (e.g. the suburb name). This unique column value will be used to create the output file names.

Now, choose whether to add each site record (e.g. each individual suburb area) as a new query layer ("child" layer) in the mapper. Doing this will allow the site feature (e.g. suburb boundary) to be highlighted on the map. You can choose whether to use the same style override symbology and label properties for the child layer as has been specified for the parent layer. The child layer will also be added to the new map in the same position in the layer order as the parent layer. If you have not already turned off the parent layer, you can set the tool to turn it off.

Next specify how you want the tool to set the extents of the output maps. You can have the tool pan or zoom the map to the child layer. The tool can pan the map to the centroid of each site and keep the current zoom or change the zoom to a specified value. If the child layer contains polygons or polylines as sites, the tool can zoom the map to the full extent of each site object (e.g. zoom to the extent of each suburb boundary). Alternatively, the tool can keep the current map extent (for example, you have a map of an entire country and you want to create individual maps which highlights each state/province in the country without changing the original extent).

Now specify the output settings. Choose the column name (must contain unique values) which will be used to generate the output file names (e.g. suburb names). This can be converted to proper case if required. Choose the output format and output folder path. For JPG/PNG files, you can set the output resolution. For PDF files, you can choose between the MapInfo PDF driver, Microsoft Print to PDF or Adobe Acrobat driver (if installed). At this time, these drivers are hardcoded in the MapBasic code, but can be changed by editing the code.

If using a Layout window as the template, you can set whether to update one or more text frames on the layout window (such as the map title). As well as the title text, the Layout window could include text frames with site statistics or details. Right click on the empty text frames and name them with text which includes the column reference in the format "<COL#>". For example, "Map of <COL1> Region", "Population size: <COL2>", etc. Note the column reference (<COL#>) is case sensitive. Make sure the empty text frame is large enough to accommodate the full updated text string. You can set the text style and font size for each empty text frame.



The screenshot shows the 'Frame Properties' dialog box with the following settings:

- Name:** Map of <COL3> Region
- Top-Left X:** 13.884 cm
- Y:** 27.827 cm
- Width:** 1.429 cm
- Height:** 0.365 cm
- Style:** (represented by a small square icon)
- Rotate Frame:** 0 deg

Buttons at the bottom: OK, Cancel, Help.

Lastly, set whether to close each cloned Mapper/Layout window after exporting or keep it open in the session. If you are creating a small number of site maps, then leaving the windows open is okay. This allows you to inspect and alter the site maps in MapInfo and save them as a Workspace. However, if you are creating many site maps and you don't close the windows, then the tool may start to run slowly as it adds more and more windows to the session.

There is an option at the end to add a short delay (e.g. 2 seconds) before closing each cloned map, this is to allow the PDF driver time to finish exporting the map. This appears to have been an issue in the past, where the tool may crash part way through batch printing.

### **Troubleshooting**

There is a known issue where dynamic labels which have been included in the template do not get printed in the output files. This issue was fixed in MapInfo version 17.0.3 (2019).