

OpenStreetMap: Every Line Ever

Every version of every linear feature that ever existed
in the OpenStreetMap database from November 2005 to June 2012

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Map CC-BY-SA 2013, Alan McConchie

Data CC-BY-SA 2012, OpenStreetMap contributors

More information:

graphspace.com/every-line-every-point

github.com/almcon/every-line-every-point

OpenStreetMap (OSM) is a crowdsourced map of the world, created and edited collaboratively by hundreds of thousands of volunteers since its founding in 2004. *OpenStreetMap: Every Line Ever* uses historical OSM data to visualize how the project has grown and evolved over time.

This map starts from a simple premise: draw every version of every linear feature present in the OpenStreetMap database, even if those features have been subsequently deleted. Each line is drawn at 1% opacity, such that areas where multiple linear features are present or where multiple versions of a single feature exist, the lines will accumulate to produce a darker and darker mark. The result produces a map that is strikingly familiar and readable: freeways appear more prominent than city streets, which are in turn darker and more visible than alleyways. However, this hierarchy is not derived from any attributes associated with those features; rather, the hierarchy emerges naturally through the cumulative traces of OSM contributors modifying and refining the map over time.