

# Gary Gale

A self-professed geek and map addict, Gary has worked in the mapping and location space for over 20 years through a combination of luck and occasional good judgement. As Director of Global Community Programs for [HERE](#), formerly known as Nokia Location & Commerce, Gary helps people create, edit and make maps the world over.

Although based in London, where he lives with his family, Gary works from anywhere with the magic combination of good coffee, free Wi-Fi and somewhere to charge his laptop.

Before joining Nokia and HERE, Gary led Yahoo's UK Geo Technologies group, helping [Flickr](#) and Fire Eagle do location based services and even worked at the [European Space Agency](#), a job which really was rocket science.

Despite working on mapping strategies and global projects, Gary continues to keep coding, mainly on planes, as maintainer for the [Mapstraction](#) JavaScript mapping API and has been known to make the odd [WordPress plugin](#) or two. He also talks at [conferences](#) a lot.

Gary has been tweeting about maps as [@vicchi](#) since 2007, writing about maps at [www.vicchi.org](#) since 2001 and also makes the occasional map at [maps.geotastic.org](#).

A fellow of the [Royal Geographical Society](#), Gary sits on the Executive for the [AGI](#), the United Kingdom's Association for Geographic Information, is a founder of the [Location Forum](#), the co-founder of [WhereCamp EU](#) and conference chair of [W3G](#).