

urbanexplore.london

Case Study

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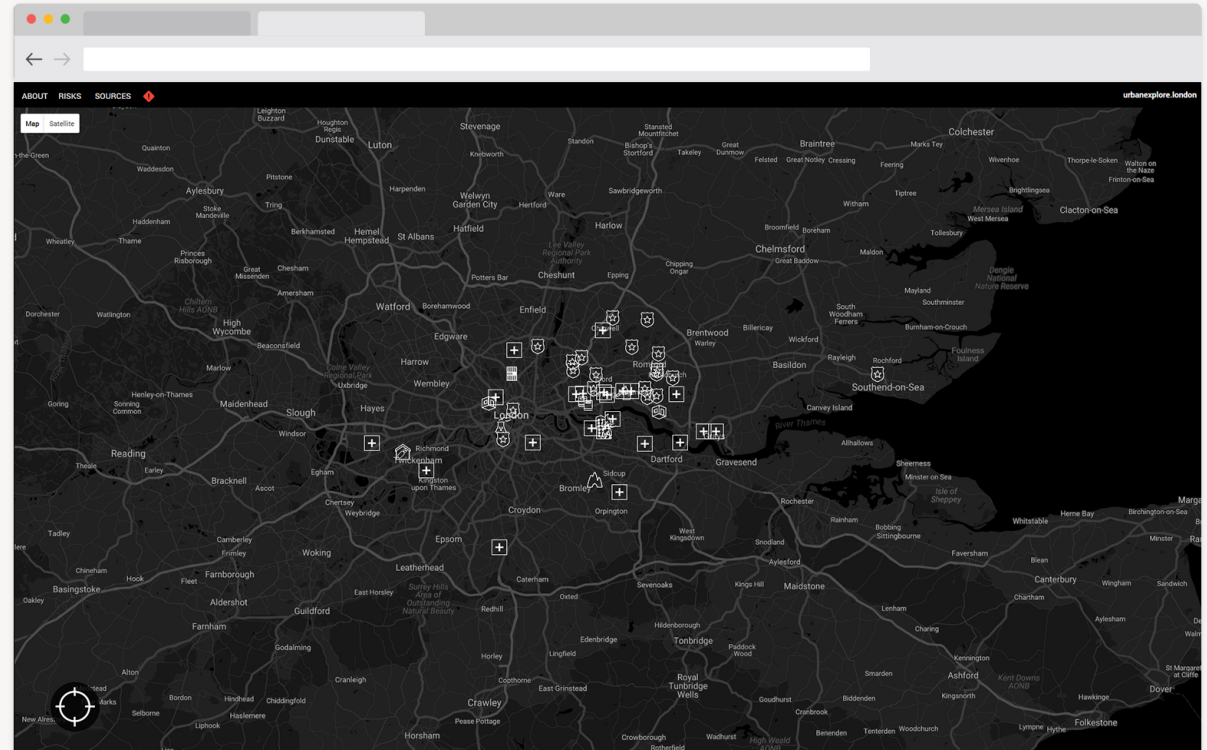
Problem & Ethics

Depending on how you view it London is a playground. Those who have realised this have turned this into a hobby, this is called Urban Exploration, the unearthing of the urban environment and abandoned man-made structures.

urbanexplore.london was simply made to offer the convenience of a web application, aggregating many locations acquired from a range of urban exploration websites and forums.

Those who are heavily interested in Urban Exploration often document their exploits and activities on online message boards, these are often hidden and thrive on their secrecy, mostly due to legal issues because in most cases urban exploration involves trespassing onto private property, which in turn presents a whole host of its own legal issues.

With the popularity of websites and applications such as UberEats, Deliveroo, Aliexpress and eBay, you don't need to sell a physical product to have a successful business, this was my main inspiration in making urbanexplorer, as it sourced data from many places and displaying them at once. Aggregation is happening all around us and those who execute well do it are becoming very successful.



Reasearch

Locations

Urban exploration works on a trust based model, there is no automatically aggregated data you must rely on people to scout out locations and verify it themselves.

I have created a excel spreadsheet that based on locations I have found from an amalgamation of urban exploration community websites.

Sources

<https://www.28dayslater.co.uk/>

<http://www.subbrit.org.uk/>

<http://www.derelictlondon.com/>

<http://www.ukurbex.com/>

<http://urbex.org.uk/>

<http://www.uer.ca/locations/newlist.asp?n=1&statfilter=160&country=England&province=Greater%20London>

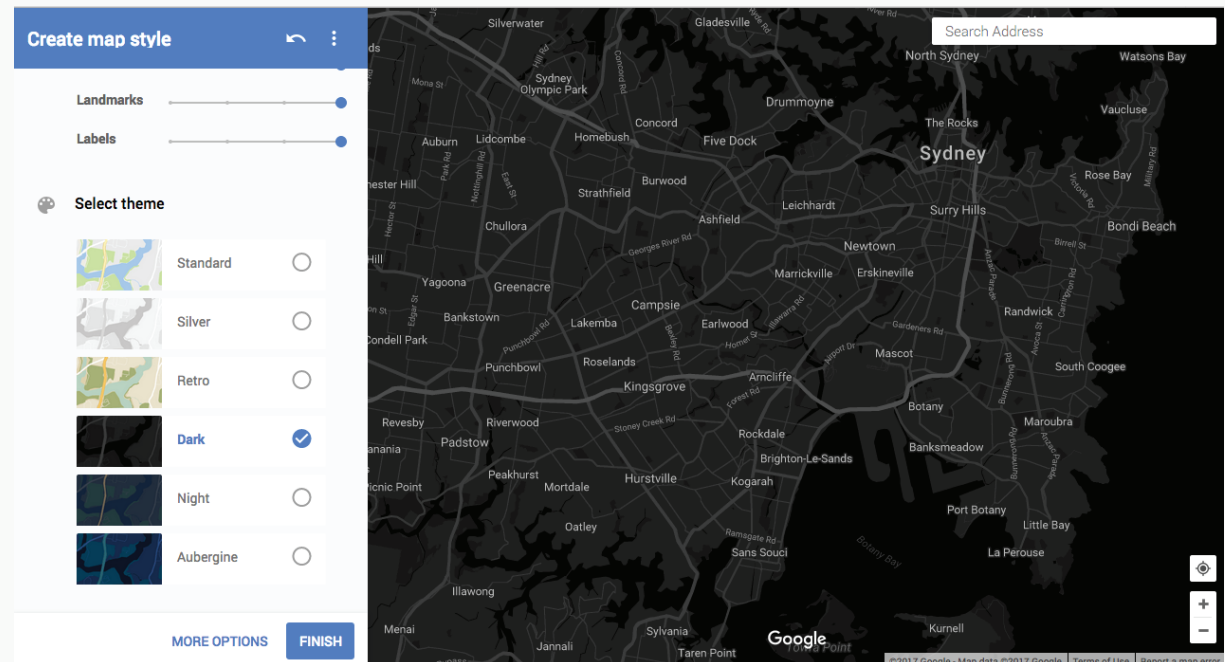


```
1 [{"Name": "West Park",
2   "Type": "Hospital",
3   "lat": 51.4574057,
4   "lng": -0.4368135},
5  {"Name": "Cane Hill Hospital",
6   "Type": "Hospital",
7   "lat": 51.313535,
8   "lng": -0.1541526},
9  {"Name": "Samaritan Hospital for Women",
10   "Type": "Hospital",
11   "lat": 51.5208067,
12   "lng": -0.1630125},
13  {"Name": "St Lukes Woodside Hospital",
14   "Type": "Hospital",
15   "lat": 51.5858413,
16   "lng": -0.1221692},
17  {"Name": "Queen Elizabeth Childrens Hospital",
18   "Type": "Hospital",
19   "lat": 51.4778003,
20   "lng": 0.0497604},
21  {"Name": "Walworth Road Sexual Health Clinic",
22   "Type": "Hospital",
23   "lat": 51.4906246,
24   "lng": 0.0966453},
25  {"Name": "North Middlesex University Hospital",
26   "Type": "Hospital",
27   "lat": 51.613122,
28   "lng": 0.0743406},
29  {"Name": "Camden Collective",
30   "Type": "Hospital",
31   "lat": 51.5289595,
32   "lng": 0.1384018}
```

Visualisation

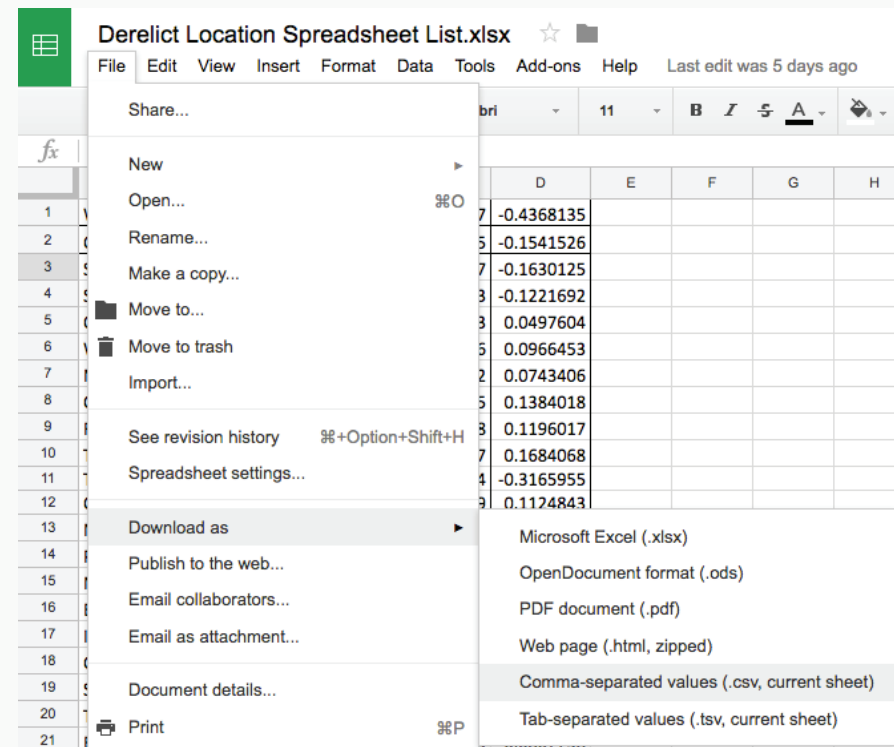
Google Maps

I have used the Google maps API as a map to work with, we then managed to style the map, and then using the location data from my reasearch I can, plot out a location with an icon and manipulate it.



Visualising Data

Now that we have gathered a decent amount of location data and presented it in a spreadsheet, the next step is to export that data into a working JSON file for us to manipulate with the Google Maps API, the easiest way of doing this is exporting the file into a .csv (comma separated values) file and then converting that into the JSON file we can work with.



Step 5: Generate output

Choose Conversion Type:

CSV To JSON

CSV To Keyed JSON

CSV To JSON Array

CSV To JSON Column Array

Result Data:

```
{
  "West Park": "",
  "Hospital": "Fire Station",
  "51.4574057": null,
  "-0.4368135": null
},
{
  "West Park": "",
  "Hospital": "Fire Station",
  "51.4574057": null,
```

Save your result:

convertcsv

.json

Download Result

EOL:

CRLF

Visualising Data

Now we can manipulate this data with the Google Maps API.

```
$.getJSON('locations.json', function( data ){
    console.log(data)
    var positionList = [];
    for(var i = 0; i < data.length; i++){
        var ll = new google.maps.LatLng( data[i].lat, data[i].lon );
        positionList.push( ll );
    }
    var path = new google.maps.Polyline({
        map: map,
        path: positionList,
        strokeColour: 'green',
        strokeWeight: 5
    });
});
```

```
769     },
770     {
771         "West Park": "",
772         "Hospital": "Public Library",
773         "51.4574057": null,
774         "-0.4368135": null
775     },
776     {
777         "West Park": "",
778         "Hospital": "Public Library",
779         "51.4574057": null,
780         "-0.4368135": null
781     },
782     {
```