

Solving a Common Problem in Google Earth

When using Google Earth, many of us prefer to look at images of the water captured when the water was really clear, so we can see bottom features better. This usually means using View>Historical Imagery to scroll back through older images to find the “best” one. When using this feature, a problem develops—the software drops some of the data when the user scrolls back on the bar.

Any waypoint or track saved in a conventional manner will include a time stamp, which becomes part of the data encrypted in Google Earth. This causes the scrolling bar in the Historical Imagery menu to see the waypoint a certain way, and apparently creates the problem we've observed. I'm not sure why the scroll bar drops older data; it isn't logical, but it does. The issue can be fixed, though doing so is somewhat tedious.

Use these directions to stop the issue.

First, open a Word document and Google Earth simultaneously.

Import your file into Google Earth and open the Historical Imagery slide bar using the View drop down menu.

Scroll back through time to see which waypoints and tracks drop over time.

Right click on a waypoint or track that's dropping and click on COPY.

PASTE the data into the Word Document.

You'll see a stream of code that looks like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<kml xmlns="http://www.opengis.net/kml/2.2" xmlns:gx="http://www.google.com/kml/ext/2.2"
xmlns:kml="http://www.opengis.net/kml/2.2" xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
<Document>
  <name>KmlFile</name>
  <StyleMap id="waypoint">
    <Pair>
      <key>normal</key>
      <styleUrl>#waypoint_n</styleUrl>
    </Pair>
    <Pair>
      <key>highlight</key>
      <styleUrl>#waypoint_h</styleUrl>
    </Pair>
  </StyleMap>
  <Style id="waypoint_h">
    <IconStyle>
      <scale>1.2</scale>
      <Icon>

      <href>https://maps.google.com/mapfiles/kml/pal4/icon61.png</href>
      </Icon>
    </IconStyle>
  </Style>
  <Style id="waypoint_n">
    <IconStyle>
      <Icon>
```

```
<href>https://maps.google.com/mapfiles/kml/pal4/icon61.png</href>
  </Icon>
  </IconStyle>
</Style>
<Placemark>
  <name>016</name>
  <TimeStamp><when>2014-08-30T23:09:47Z</when>
</TimeStamp>
  <styleUrl>#waypoint</styleUrl>
  <Point>
    <coordinates>-97.412716,27.290503,0</coordinates>
  </Point>
</Placemark>
</Document>
</kml>
```

Notice I bold-faced the critical part. This is the Time Stamp. Highlight this part and delete it. Then, highlight the entire code and COPY and PASTE it back into Google Earth. Best plan when pasting it back in is to paste it into a folder you've named specifically for these waypoints, like maybe "No TimeStamps." Export your folder of fixed waypoints and tracks out of the software and save on your computer to prevent losing them if Google Earth deletes your folder.

Once you do this to all the waypoints and tracks which Google Earth is dropping when you scroll back in time, you will have eliminated this problem for good!