Mapping with a Google Fusion Table

A Google fusion table is essentially a spreadsheet on the web that can contain thousands of rows of data. Fusion tables can be linked to one another based on common columns, similar to what a database can do. Also, a column containing geographic information in a fusion table can be mapped. In this exercise you'll load a couple of Excel spreadsheets into fusion tables, and map them.

1 Open the **sustainable_cities.xls** spreadsheet. Notice it contains a list of city, state locations for cities in the U.S., and a "sustainability" ranking. This was a report from Popular Science magazine in 2008.

2 Go to the Google Fusion tables website: http://tables.googlelabs.com/ Click on "**CREATE A FUSION TABLE**" Login with your google account (if not logged in already).

This will launch the Import new table wizard. Click **Choose File**, and browse to the **sustainable_cities.xls** spreadsheet. Choose the spreadsheet, and click **OK**. Then click **Next**. The Import new table wizard will show a preview of your table. Click **Next** again, and **Finish**. Now you've created a fusion table with your data in it.

In the fusion table, click **Edit** > **Change columns**. Choose the **Location** column. Change the **Type** to **Location**, and click **Save**. The table will recognize locational data, and highlight it in yellow.

3 Click the red button (see arrow at right) and choose **Add Map**. Make sure Location is set your Location field, and your cities will be mapped. Next an interactive map of these locations will appear.

Now let's color the dots based on their sustainability ranking.

4 Click the "Change feature styles…" button.

5 In the Change map styles window, click on Buckets.

Specify:

- 4 buckets
- Column "Rank"
- And click the "use this range" link next to 1-50. Your screen should look like this:

Still within the Change map styles window, click "Automatic legend" which is the last choice on the left. Check the box next to "Show marker legend".

Click Save

Now your cities will be colored according to these data classifications, or "buckets".
Click the Heatmap option to see a density map of your data.

- The map and fusion table can be shared with others by clicking the Share button.
- The locations can be downloaded into a kml file by clicking File > Download.
- Google Fusion tables will also geocode addresses, parks, buildings – basically anything in the Google Maps database.

More tutorials on Google Fusion Tables:
http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/184641