

'TOPDEUTSCHLAND' - TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS TO GO

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Nowadays nearly everybody expects to access cartographic data through the internet. Using this access method you don't need to care about collecting, updating and storing these data. However, if there is no access to the internet available the data won't be accessible as well. This might happen in case of a disaster like a serious flooding or it might be requested for example by intelligence services. To match these requirements the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy of Germany (BKG) has issued a cartographic product called "TopDeutschland".

This article describes briefly the functionality of "TopDeutschland".

The product "TopDeutschland" presents a collection of all authoritative topographic maps and a city map of Germany as well as a wide range of interactive components to analyse the data in an intuitive way.

BKG delivers the latest topographic maps produced by the federal states of Germany and BKG at a scale range from 1:25,000 till 1:1,000,000 with this product. The user has also access to a detailed city map at scale 1:20,000 which is licensed by MairDumont, a private cartographic publishing company.

Similar to web applications it is possible to navigate easily through the maps with zooming and panning as well as positioning the screen on a place or a coordinate. A graphical interface enables the user to collect its specific data which can be stored in a database. Moreover, there are a lot of graphic tools to create own thematic maps, for example by overlaying the maps with administrative boundaries. Finally, these maps can be exported and printed.

In order to search for settlements and postal addresses in Germany, a database with geographical names is included. All settlements are related to the administration area they lie in. The database for the addresses contains about 22 million entries pointing to the location of the buildings. The addresses come from different providers and were harmonised at BKG.

Height information is available from a digital elevation model with a resolution of 25 meters. It can be either displayed as hill shading, a hypsometric layer or a 3D anaglyph image. Not only for hikers the measurement of distances or areas as well as creating a cross-country tread might be of interest. Another interactive component allows the user to create flight simulations over Germany.

Last but not least, "TopDeutschland" has an interface for exchanging GPS tracks with a GPS receiver. If the receiver is connected it is possible to gather and show point or route information in real time.

"TopDeutschland" runs on a USB hard drive with a software called Geogrid®-Viewer of EADS Deutschland GmbH. The access to the data is independent from an internet access so it can be used for example within crisis management or in security authorities. Even people with no background in geoinformation have no problems to gather the information they need.

At the moment, "TopDeutschland" is available for government agencies of Germany only.