



Nathan Copeland

GAIA GPS

"Static or Variable? Letting Users Set the Defaults"

IMIA Mapping Leaders Virtual Forum Series

Biography

Nathan Copeland joined Gaia GPS in 2016 and is currently focused on maintaining and improving Gaia GPS's catalog of map sources. Nathan has a deep background in modern mapping, and a lifelong love of the outdoors.

Speaking on September 23, 2020, 10:00 – 11:00 am EDT

Abstract

"Static or Variable? Letting Users Set the Defaults" — Over the years, Gaia GPS has curated a large catalog of map sources that range from detailed topographical maps with global coverage to specialized niche market maps to match the wide range of activities that Gaia GPS users enjoy, from thru-hiking to backcountry skiing, offroading, and even search and rescue.

Given hundreds of map sources to choose from, new users face the unique problem of choosing and configuring the maps that work best for their activity. Each sport lends itself to a different set of map sources, for example Motor Vehicle Use Maps for offroaders, and Avalanche Terrain for backcountry skiers.

To address this problem, users have the option to specify their preferred activities when entering the app for the first time. We then curate a custom set of default map sources based on their preferences.

With the customized defaults, users have a streamlined access to the map sources which enhance their use of Gaia GPS.

Expanding on this concept, we've enabled the ability to tag tracks with the activity performed. Gathering activity details for recorded tracks will enhance how trails can be discovered by other users.