Wiki City Rome: Digitally Mapping the Urban Environment in Real Time

Imagine [Google Maps](http://www.google.com), but overlayed with layers of digital information, from cell phone usage to GPS activity - anonymously aggregated and available to the public. Starting today, [Wiki City Rome](http://www.wikicityrome.com) is displaying just such data on one of the busiest urban centers in the world.

An [MIT SENSEable City Laboratory](http://senseable.mit.edu) project, Wiki City Rome seeks to create a "Real Time Rome" from various data sources. The net result: a composite and continually updating data image of the city displayed on top of a map of Rome. Shown above: a concept sketch (left) and cell phone activity around a Madonna concert (right).
Having just gone live, Wiki City Rome maps are currently being displayed around Rome on huge billboards during the city’s Notte Bianca festival. It both reflects and reacts to the movements of the Roman population. The data being displayed is perhaps not terribly impressive, yet anyway, but the idea is quite compelling.

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Posted: September 8th, 2007 under Google, Web 2.0, Urbanism, Urban.
Comments: 4
Comment from Al Ebaster
Time: September 9, 2007, 6:41 am

Incredible stuff — and a little scary, I have to admit.

Comment from Web Urbanist
Time: September 9, 2007, 1:47 pm

They actually took great pains to anonymize the entire process. As soon as data is acquired it is effectively 'mixed in' with the rest of the information being accumulated. Other background material on the project seems to suggest that privacy was a primary concern - which makes a great deal of sense given the nature of the project!

Pingback from Wiki City Rome « The Memory Leak
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[…] City Rome Web Urbanist has an interesting post on Wiki City Rome. I find the data a bit too live, would be more interesting to heatmaps that change more slowly, [...]