Do We Really Need a Map?

Objectives

Describe the primary functions and features of a router.

Scenario

Using the Internet and Google Maps, located at http://maps.google.com, find a route between the capital city of your country and some other distant town, or between two places within your own city. Pay close attention to the driving or walking directions Google Maps suggests.

Notice that in many cases, Google Maps suggests more than one route between the two locations you chose. It also allows you to put additional constraints on the route, such as avoiding highways or tolls.

- Copy at least two route instructions supplied by Google Maps for this activity. Place your copies into a word processing document or in the space below and save it to use with the next step.

- Open the .pdf accompanying this modeling activity and complete it with a fellow student. Discuss the reflection questions listed on the .pdf and record your answers.

Be prepared to present your answers to the class.

Resources

- Internet connection
- Web browser
- Google Maps, http://maps.google.com/

Goggle Map Route

Space for first route instructions supplied by Google Maps.

Space for second route instructions supplied by Google Maps.

Reflection

1. What do the individual driving, or walking based on your criteria you input, and non-highway directions look like? What exact information do they contain? How do they relate to IP routing?

2. If Google Maps offered a set of different routes, what makes this route different from the first? Why would you choose one route over another?

3. What criteria can be used to evaluate the usefulness of a route?

4. Is it sensible to expect that a single route can be "the best one", i.e. meeting all various requirements? Justify your answer.

5. As a network administrator or developer, how could you use a network map, or routing table, in your daily network activities?

Page **2** of **2**