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GIS Overview

Global AlertLink's GIS Mapping Services provide robust features which are completely integrated with the other components within the system.

The services focus on:

1. Notification Activation;
2. Incident Activation;
3. Situational Awareness; and
4. Intelligence.

This topic is quite extensive and goes into detail on how to use Global AlertLink's GIS Features. For additional information or questions, contact support@resolver.com.

Depending upon your purchased components, the features may vary.

Global AlertLink GIS Feature

Global AlertLink provides two separate mapping services: Advanced GIS and Standard GIS. Advanced GIS Mapping is accessed from the main navigation toolbar that is available from all Global AlertLink screens.

GIS Mapping Services

Global AlertLink supports OpenStreet, Bing, Google, and Google Premium as the base layer for GIS mapping. Due to restrictions with Google and Bing licensing terms, only one base map solution may be selected per implementation.

Data Objects

Latitude/longitude fields (lat/long) can be added to the following data objects within Global AlertLink:

- Contact Folder
- Resource Folder
- Contact Location (a contact may have multiple location records)
- Resource Location (a resource may have multiple location records)

Folder Data

To add lat/long data into a folder, hover your cursor over Admin, then click System Management. Select a folder to display its folder details and enter the information in the Latitude and Longitude fields.

Folder Details

Title:

Parent: ?

Latitude:

Longitude:

Contact/Resource Locations

You can enter lat/long data in contact and resource records by clicking the Locations tab. Latitude/longitude fields can be included in the import job for supported data objects. Geo encoding services are an optional service.

New Location

Location Type:

Is this the primary ☐
location:

Title:

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Country:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Add

Using GIS Data in GAL

The GIS service follows the security model within Global AlertLink. Users may only view data for which they have permission. A minimum of Read permission is required for data to be utilized within the GIS services.

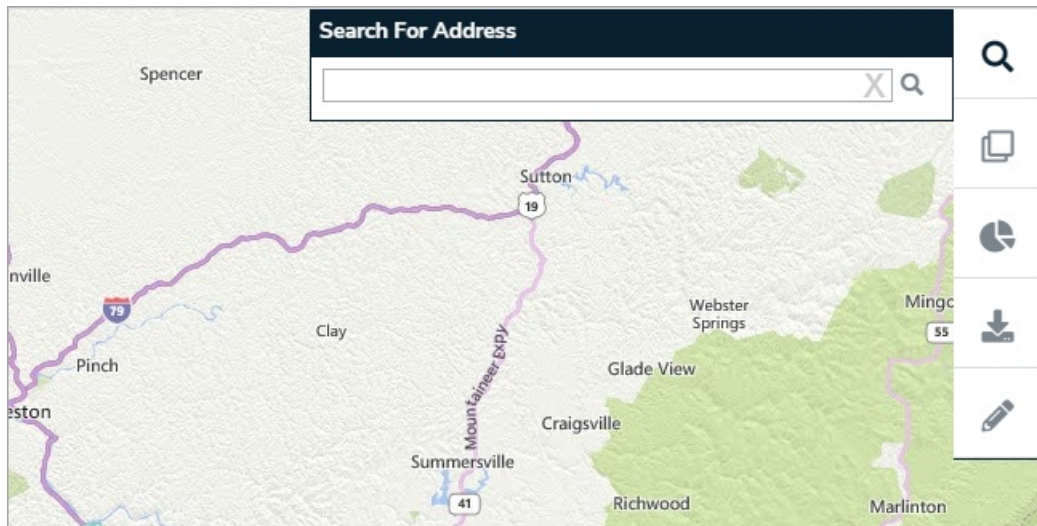
The Global AlertLink Advanced Mapping Services feature can be accessed from the main navigation bar on all GAL screens by clicking on the GIS link.

Advanced Mapping Services Basics

To access the GIS advanced mapping services, click GIS in the top navigation bar.

Search

To search for an address, click the magnifying glass icon and enter a combination of street address, city, state, and/or zip code. The search module will center and adjust the zoom of the map to accommodate the best approximate location found. For example, the user could enter "1600 Pennsylvania Ave.", "Boston, Massachusetts", or "25605" as search criteria.



Navigate

Click on this button to change the mouse pointer to a navigation control, allowing you to move the map by clicking and dragging.

The user can also zoom in/out by using the slide bar buttons located on the left side of the map. Directional buttons are also available to move east, west, north, south. A mouse with a mouse wheel will also zoom the map when in Navigation mode.



Drawing Tools

Click the pencil icon to access the drawing tools, which include Navigate, Draw A Circle, Draw A Polygon or Clear All Selections icon.

Draw a Circle

Click on this button to change the mouse pointer to a draw a circle control, allowing you to draw circles on the map. Position the cursor where you want the center of the circle to be, click, hold and drag the cursor to expand or contract the circle. When you release the mouse button, the circle will be completed.

Draw a Polygon

Click on this button to change the mouse pointer to a draw a polygon control, allowing you to draw a polygon on the map. Position the cursor where you want the first point to start, click, then move to the next point, click, then continue until you reach the final point of your polygon, at which time you double click to complete the polygon.

Note: Drawing shapes on the map without using any filtering with queries causes Global AlertLink to search for all contacts, contact folders, resources and resource folders located within the shaded areas. If you have drawn multiple polygons and circles, all of those areas will be searched. However, if you have multiple shaded areas and they overlap, the overlapping sections will not be searched. Also, large shaded areas spanning multiple hemispheres, half the globe, etc. is not recommended.

Show Queries

Click on the query icon and the user will be allowed to select custom form queries for Global AlertLink data. Any Global AlertLink object that has valid lat/long data returned in the selected queries will be displayed as colored dots on the GIS map. Click on the colored dot and all the fields included in the query will be displayed for that particular Global AlertLink data object. If there are multiple objects with the same lat/long values, when you click on the colored dot, we will only show the number of objects at that specific location. You may choose to display multiple queries at a time, each will be represented by a different color icon.

In the example below, a user selects GIS Query 1. Global AlertLink objects selected in that query are shown on the map as green dots.

Rolling the cursor over a green dot, displays the associated Global AlertLink object.



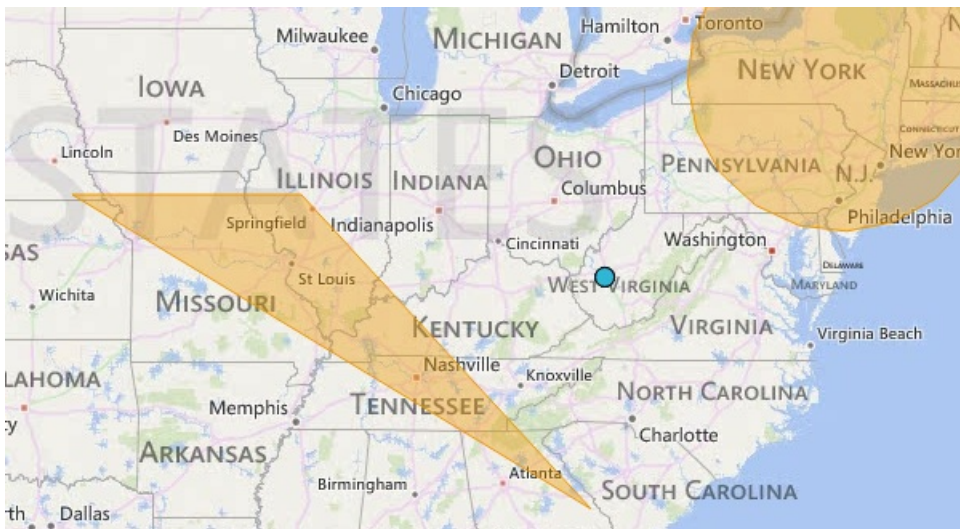
Note: The user has the capability to select multiple queries and draw multiple circles and polygons. If a user combines drawings and queries, only the GLOBAL ALERTLINK data objects selected by the queries that are within the shaded areas will be used. If queries are used and none of the drawings include any of the query data objects, no objects will be used. For example, the user could run a query that shows all their contacts/contact folders on the east coast, but if the user draws a circle around 3 cities (Boston, Washington, DC and Charlotte) only those contacts/contact folders would be used.



Polygon and query selection (no Global AlertLink data objects selected)



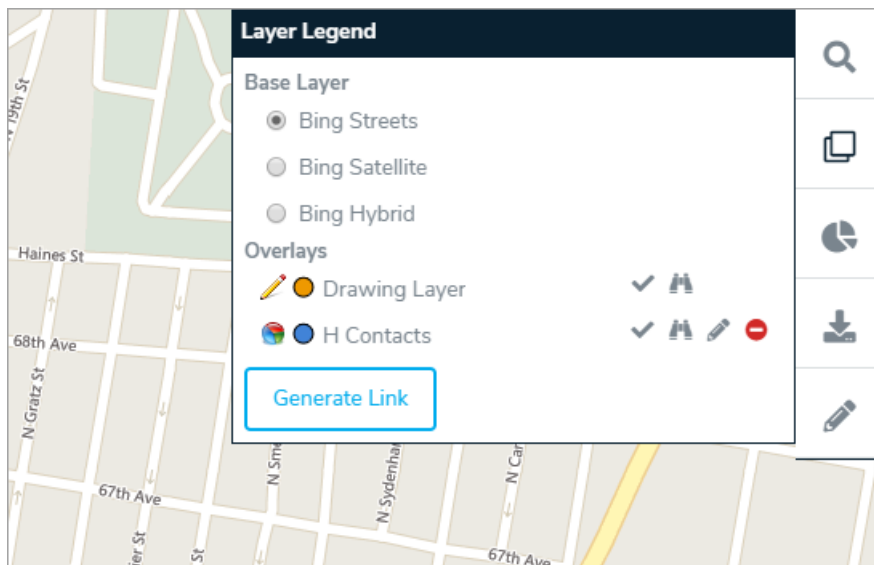
Circle and query selection (only Global AlertLink objects in shaded area selected)



Multiple query selections, circle and polygon (only Global AlertLink data objects in polygon selected)

Show Layer Legend

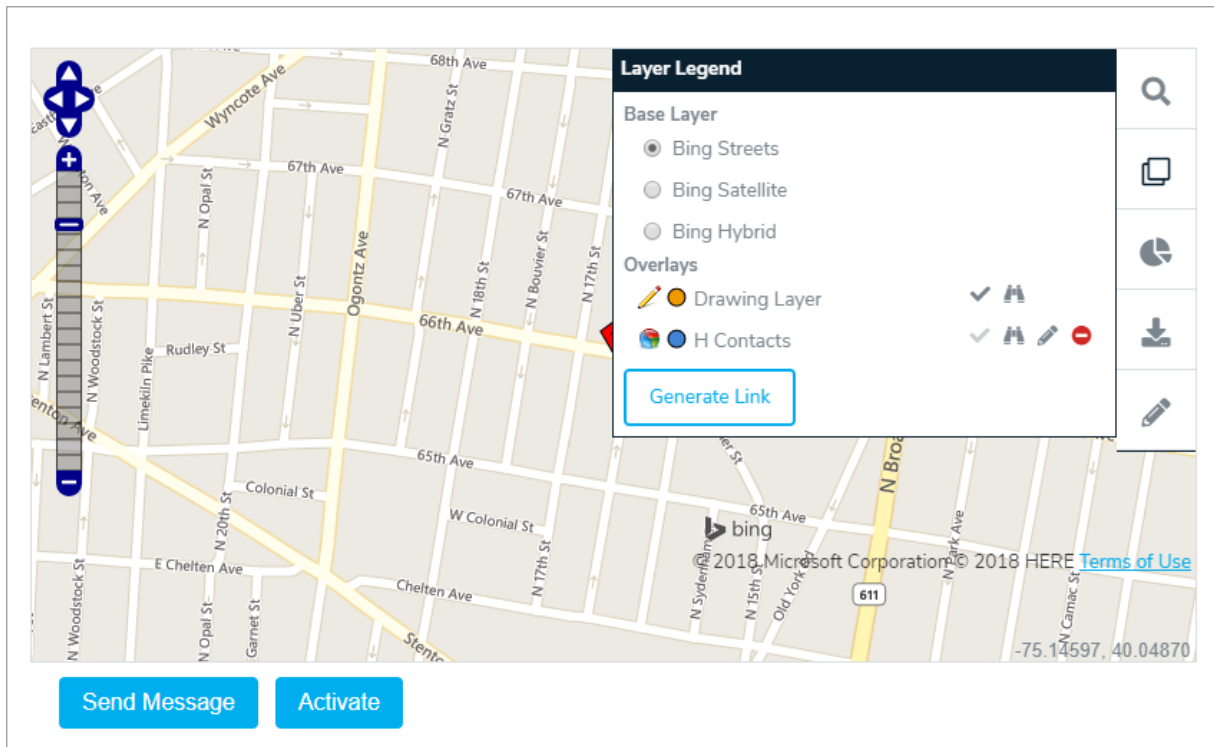
Click on this icon to see all layers available in the GIS system. The user has the option to deselect any layer by clicking the checkmark. This removes that selection layer and may change what Global AlertLink data objects will be used. If the user clicks on the Show/Hide layer binoculars icon, that selection layer is hidden from the map display, however, there will not be any changes to the Global AlertLink data objects used. Lastly, by clicking the Delete button, that query's Global AlertLink data objects will not be used.



Send a Message from GIS

From the Global AlertLink GIS Mapping Services display, users have the option to send message or activate Plans using the Global AlertLink data objects selected in the drawing layers and query reports. Remember, the GIS Service follows the security model within Global AlertLink. If a user is not authorized to send message or does not have authority to the Global AlertLink data objects required to activate plans, add contacts, share contacts, and share resources the user will see an "Unauthorized!" error message.

1. To send a message or activate a plan from GIS, select a query report and/or draw a circle/polygon to get contact records.



2. Click Send Message to display the Review Map Selection screen. The contact in the Map Selection Results will be shared into a dynamic group contact folder. The name of the folder will default to Map Selection Day-Month-Year. The user can rename this folder if desired.
3. Click Send Message to [compose a new message](#).

Activate a Plan from GIS

1. To activate a plan from GIS, draw a circle and/or polygon on the map.
2. Click Activate.
3. At this point, the user will be presented with the Map Selection screen. Contacts/contact folders, resources/resource folders that will be shared into the plan are displayed. Contacts/contact folders are shared into a dynamic group contact folder. The name of the folder will default to Map Selection Day-Month-Year. The user can rename this folder if desired. The user must select which plan they want to use and will be allowed to select which contact and resource folders in the plan the Global AlertLink data objects will be shared into during activation.
4. The User selects GIS Activation and the contact and resource folder associated with that plan.
5. Click the Activate icon, the plan will be activated and an event will be created.

New GIS Features in Version 7.9

The Ability to Load, Save, and Manage External GIS Layers in GAL

We have added the ability for users to load, save, and manage unlimited external GIS layers

used by a variety of GIS and mapping applications to display geospatial data on two-dimensional maps. The formats supported by GAL include KeyHole Markup Language (KML), Keyhole Markup Language Zipped (KMZ), GeoJSON, and GeoRSS. GAL does not supply any default external GIS layers. The user needs to locate and test individual layers for their applicability and usability. For example, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provide National Weather Data in KML/KMZ formats ().

New privileges have been added to Roles to enable a user to edit and delete external GIS layers when using GIS Mapping.

Role Details

Title:

Parent:  [Choose Role](#)

Privileges:

☐ Global Administrator	☐ Send Message	☐ View Prefix Name
☐ View First Name	☐ View Middle Initial	☐ View Last Name
☐ View Suffix Name	☐ View Full Name	☐ View Site
☐ View Department	☐ View Title	☐ View Organization
☐ View Address Line 1	☐ View Address Line 2	☐ View City
☐ View State	☐ View Zipcode	☐ View Country
☐ View Notes	☐ View Alt-Contact Name	☐ View Alt-Contact Phone
☐ View Alt-Contact Relation	☐ View Contact Method	☐ View Support Passphrase
☐ Custom Form Designer	☐ Latitude/Longitude	☐ View Customer ID
☐ View Dept ID	☐ View Reports To	☐ View Time Zone
☐ View Business Unit ID	☐ Edit GIS Layer	☐ Delete GIS Layer

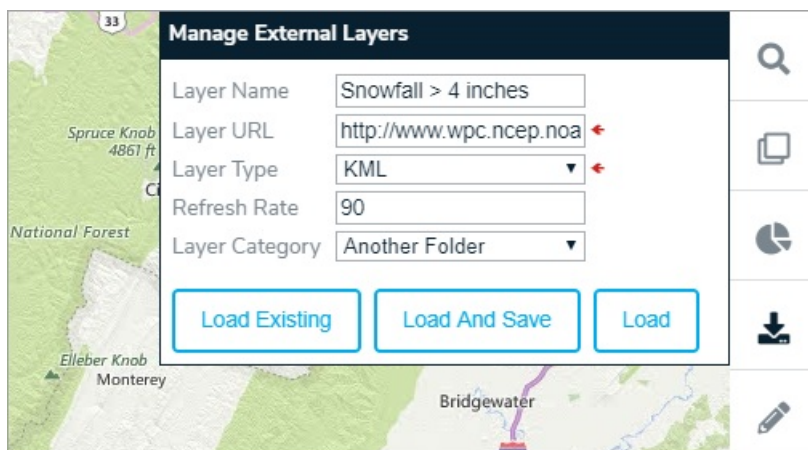
Users can also add GIS layer categories in their referential data to help manage their GIS external layers. External layers can be saved into specific categories for easy retrieval when using Mapping Services.

Referential Data Management

Select Type

CATEGORY
COUNTRY
CUSTOM
DEPARTMENT
GEO LOCATION
GIS LAYERS
INTERRUPTION LEVEL
MIME TYPE
ORGANIZATION TYPE
PASSWORD QUESTION
PREFIX
RELATIONSHIP TYPE
RESOURCE PRIORITY
RESOURCE TYPE
REVIEW TYPE
SEVERITY LEVEL
SITE
STATE OR PROVINCE
SUFFIX
SYSTEM

A new button has been added in order to load new or existing external GIS layers. Clicking this button allows the user to specify the URL for the layer, (e.g. this is the URL for areas where snowfall is predicted to be over 4 inches. For example, http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/kml/winwx/Day1_psnw_gt_04inches.kml).

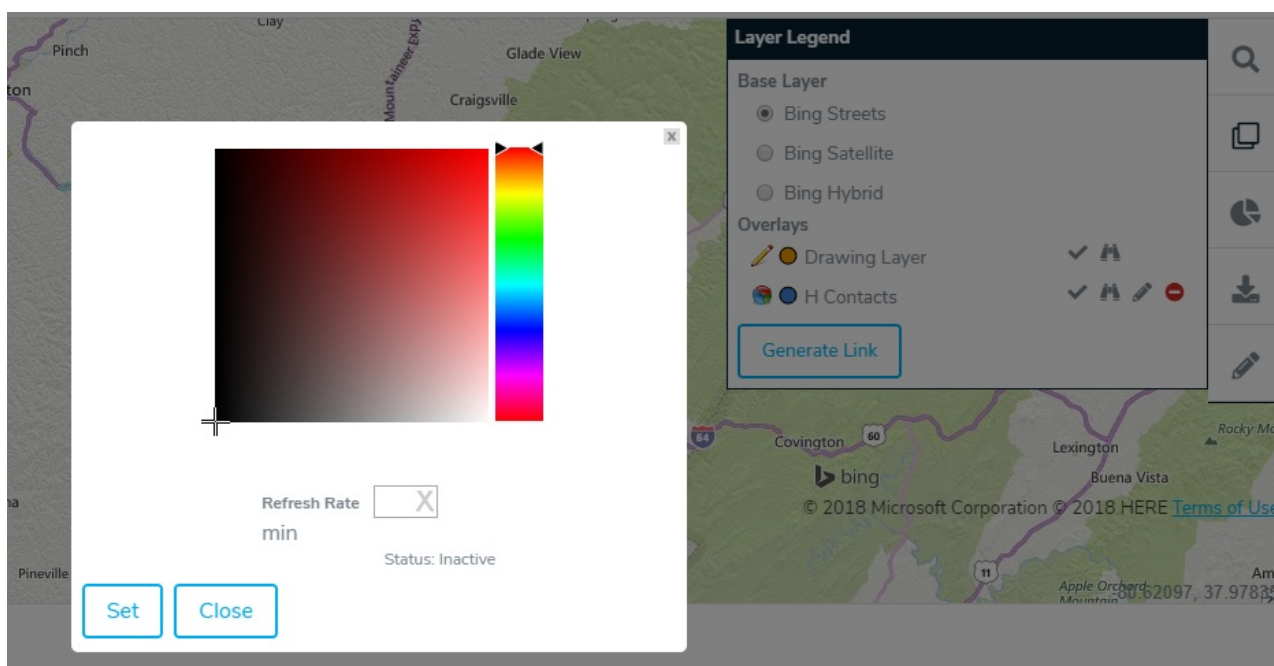


When you load external layers, you may get the message, "Unable to Load Layer". This indicates that the layer has syntax errors and we cannot load it on the map. This is particularly true for KMZ files that contain multiple KML files. If the KMZ file contains 100 KML files and 1 of them contain syntax errors, the other 99 will not load.

The Ability to Customize the Appearance of Query Layers on the Map

When a user adds a query to GIS (see above for detailed instructions on how to do this), the application adds a query layer to the map, much in the same way it adds an external GIS layer. Remember, these custom form queries must return lat/long data from GAL. Queries without lat/long can be selected but they will not display any results on the map.

By clicking on the Layer Legend button highlighted, the user can see all of the layers currently active on the map. By clicking on the Edit button, the user can change the refresh intervals for query and GIS layers, or the user can change the color of the query results on the map.



Note: Drawing circles and polygons around a query cluster bubble may not necessarily return the same number of objects in the bubble. Remember, quantities in the cluster bubble are determined by the distance between objects and your configuration settings unlike the drawing layer.

If you have any questions regarding GAL GIS Mapping Services, please feel free to contact a member of the Global AlertLink team at support@resolver.com.

