Introduction

The Google Map service started to charge users in July 2018. It is no longer a free service for HikCentral and the Hikvision Lens Selection tool. This affects not only Hikvision, but also third-party VMS or design tools. However, it is still possible to apply for an API key and receive USD $200/month credit toward use of the service. For most, this should be enough to cover usage. This document explains how to apply for a key, link the billing to your credit card, and set usage limit notifications to avoid being charged.

New Google Maps Pricing

On July 16, 2018, Google implemented a new pricing policy for Google Maps main functions (search location or show address), which requires a billing account to activate a Google Maps API key.

**NOTE:** Google provides $200 per month free credit for Google Maps API key use, which should be more than adequate for most users.

Please check Google pricing policies before adding a billing account:

- [https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/pricing/](https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/pricing/)
- [https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/pricing/sheet/](https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/pricing/sheet/)

To use the Google Map functions and accept the pricing policy, continue with the following steps to create a Google Maps API key to use with HikCentral and the Hikvision Lens Selection tool.

Configuration Process

- **Generate a New Google Maps API Key**

  If you do not have a Maps JavaScript API key, follow the steps below. If you already have a Google Maps JavaScript API key, you can use it for HikCentral (see page 12) and/or the Lens Selection Tool (see page 13).

  1. Go to the Google Maps API Key page at [https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/](https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/).
  2. Click **Sign In**.
Figure 1, Google Maps Platform Home Page

Figure 2, Sign In
3. Click **GET STARTED** to enter the Enable Google Maps Platform (1. Pick products below) page.
4. Check both the Maps and the Places checkboxes, and click **CONTINUE** to go to the **Enable Google Maps Platform (2. Select a project)** page.

5. Use the pull-down menu to choose one of the following selections:
   - **Create a new project** – Highlight and click to start a new project, and type in a project name
   - **“Project Name”** – Highlight and click an existing project.

6. Click **NEXT** to display the **Enable billing for project “Project Name”** window.
7. Click **CREATE BILLING ACCOUNT** to display the **Step 1 of 2** billing signup page.

8. Use pull-down menu to select your country.

9. Check the **I have read and agree...** checkbox.

10. (Optional) Check the “Yes” or “No” **Email Updates** radio boxes as desired.
11. Click **Agree and Continue** to display **Step 2 of 2** billing signup page.

12. Use pull-down menu to select an existing **Payments Profile** or create a new one.

13. Click **START MY FREE TRIAL** to display the Enable Google Maps Platform window.
14. Click NEXT to display the You’re all set! window. Note and secure YOUR API KEY.

15. Click DONE to display the Welcome window.

16. Click GOT IT to display the “Project Name” Overview window.
17. Click **Go to Maps billing report** to display the **Billing page**.

18. Click **Budgets & alerts** to display the **Budgets & alerts** pop-up window.
19. Click **Create budget** to display the **Set budget** page.

![Create budget page](image1.png)

**Figure 16, Create Budget Page**

20. **(Optional)** Use the **Set budget** page to notify you when you reach the $200 in free monthly credit.

- **Budget name** – Input a name for this budget
- **Project or billing account** – Use the pull-down menu to select the billing account that you previously defined

- **Budget amount**
  - Use the pull-down menu to select *Specified amount*
  - Set the *Specified amount* to less than $200 (there is $200 in free monthly credit)

- **Cost after credit** – Leave unchecked

- **Set budget alerts** – Leave blank

- **Connect a Pub/Sub topic to this budget** – Leave unchecked

21. Click **Save**.

- **Upgrade from the One Year Free Account to a Paid Account**

  The initial free account provides $300 in credit over a 12 month period. We recommend upgrading immediately to a paid account, which provides $200 in credit per month (this is more than enough for the average user).

1. Go to [https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/](https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/).

   ![Welcome to Google Maps Platform Home Page](image)

   **Figure 17, Welcome to Google Maps Platform Home Page**

2. Click **Console** in upper right corner to display the **Project Overview** page.
3. Click the **Free Trial Status (gift box)** icon on the top right corner toolbar to display the **UPGRADE** button.

4. Click **UPGRADE** to display the **Upgrade your account** pop-up window.
5. Click **UPGRADE** to upgrade to a paid account (you will continue to receive your $300 in Free Trial credits for the first year in addition to $200 in credit each month).

**Inputting the API Key URL into HikCentral**

1. Go to HikCentral Web Client > System > Map.

2. Enable the **GIS Map** function and copy the following URL to the **GIS Map API URL** field:

   ```
   https://maps.googleapis.com/maps/api/js?key=YOUR_API_KEY
   ```

![Figure 22, HikCentral GIS Map Settings](image)

3. Click **Save**.

4. Confirm that Google Maps works on HikCentral.

![Figure 23, HikCentral Web Client](image)
Inputting the API Key into the Lens Selection Tool

1. Start the Hikvision Lens Selection Tool.
2. Click on Update Key to display the Key pop-up window.
3. Input your Google Maps API key.
4. Click OK.

Figure 24, Lens Selection Tool