

20 German cities on Street View

November 18 2010

(AP) -- Internet users can now take a virtual tour of 20 of Germany's largest cities on Google Inc.'s panoramic Street View program - but they won't always get a full view.

The Internet giant put 3-D images of Berlin, Hamburg, Munich and 17 other cities online Thursday, although some buildings were pixeled to respect privacy concerns.

Google's <u>Street View</u> plans prompted a surge of concern over privacy in Germany, with officials arguing <u>Google</u> could capture people in situations they want to keep private. More than 245,000 Germans requested that the pictures of their homes be blurred.

Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger cautioned Google in an interview with the daily Hannover Allgemeine Zeitung against "taking data protection lightly."

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Citation: 20 German cities on Street View (2010, November 18) retrieved 8 May 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2010-11-german-cities-street-view.html

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