

Google Maps Navigation soon to be available offline

June 9 2011, by Katie Gatto



(PhysOrg.com) -- [All About Phones](http://AllAboutPhones.com), a Dutch-based tech site has released information that implies that Google Maps Navigation will have an offline version before the end of the summer. The information, which is only a rumor at this point, may well be true, when you consider some

of the technological advances that make this possible.

The [Google Maps Navigation](#) app for Android received an update in December of 2010 that allows mobile devices to cache routes and the surrounding areas. In this update users can create and navigate a route without Internet connection, but users cannot currently enter a new destination and navigate to that location. An upgrade could allow for navigation without being in the WiFi zone.

This feature will also be introduced on a future Windows 7 phone. The direction system will be giving turn-by-turn directions with the help of the Nokia's Ovi Maps app. So, these could be a move towards negating a competitive edge on the part of Goggle.

If this system turns out to become a regular feature of smartphones, it could put a serious dent in the stand alone GPS unit market, since consumers are unlikely to shell out \$200 for something that they can get for free on their phone.

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