

Wikidata & maps: a two-way street

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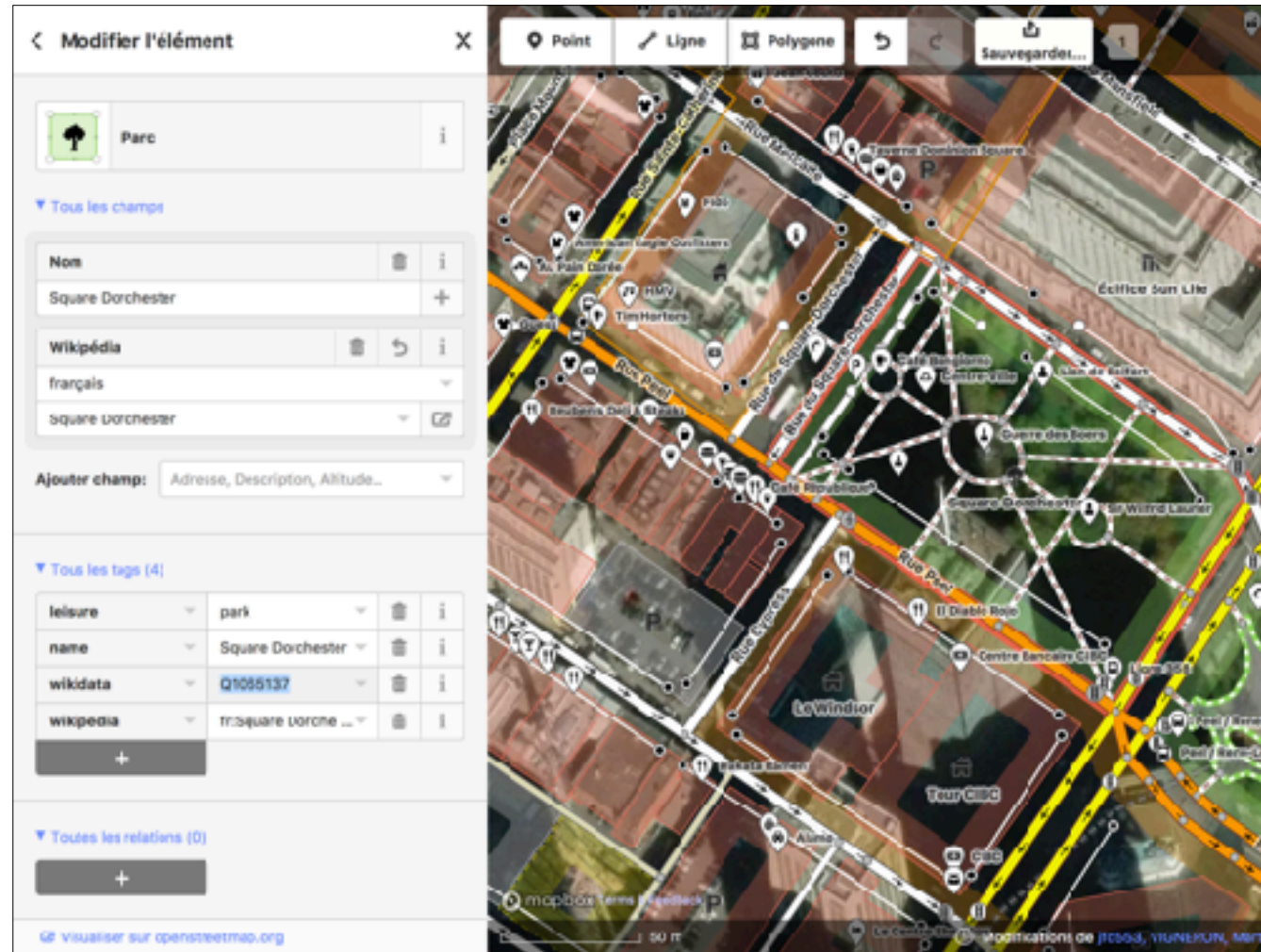


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Hi, Wikidata and maps are a two-way street. I'm Minh Nguyen from Mapbox, which is using Wikidata with OpenStreetMap and giving back to both.



OpenStreetMap is the worldwide infrastructure map built on a wiki model.



At the hackathon at Wikimania 2015, we built Wikidata support into OSM's most popular mapping software. Since then, we've worked with the community to tag 750k features with a QID, including about half a million human settlements.

Using Wikidata

- Translated map labels
<https://github.com/amishas157/lookup-osm-wikidata>
- Show important landmarks
- Geocoder: QIDs of places and landmarks
- Detect vandalism in OSM



Bright map © OSM contributors
Taginfo map data © OSM contributors

At Mapbox, we're using Wikidata in our OpenStreetMap-based maps for the Web, mobile, gaming, and connected car platforms. Wikidata provides translated labels. It helps us decide which landmarks and buildings are important enough to show at a given zoom level (by counting sitelinks or considering "instance of" properties). Our geocoder also includes a QID in every search result for a place or landmark. All this makes Wikidata more accessible to a wider array of applications. At the OSM data level, an item's statements are core to our countervandalism tools.

Contributing to Wikidata



Wikidata (CC0) + overpass map (data © OSM contributors)
Vandalized Mapbox Streets map (data © OSM contributors)

- 100,000 place labels
https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/User:Planemad_mapbox/World_places_translation_project
- Detect Wikidata vandalism
- Tools for Wikidata editors

We're also giving back to the Wikidata project by importing translated labels for human settlement items – 100,000 so far. After some minor cases where end users have figured out how to vandalize the map through Wikidata, we're exploring tools for automatically detecting label vandalism. We're also working on tools to help Wikidata editors make better use of OSM data, such as this user script called "overpass" that embeds an OSM map into Wikidata item pages.

Our experience with the Wikidata project has been positive. We appreciate how open the Wikidata project has been to imported data, which can be a contrast with other open data projects. There remains work to do in terms of improving import efficiency and vandalism detection, but the future is bright.