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1. Why/what is QGIS?

- QGIS is freeware software that is used to edit spatial information and compose graphical maps.
- QGIS uses shapefiles to draw the political boundaries of countries, states, provinces, prefectures, etc.
- You hold the copy write for the maps you compose in this software (some shapefiles are not free, however)

2. What do I need to use QGIS to draw linguistic maps (of China)?

- Windows, Mac, or Linux
- Sometimes the internet (if you use OpenStreetMaps)
- A mouse
- MS Word (better yet is Photoshop)

3. How do I get all this stuff on my computer?

- Download QGIS from http://qgis.com
- Install OpenStreetMaps plugin (Menu → Manage and Install Plugins → OpenLayers Plugin)
- Download ShapeFiles from GADM (www.gadm.org)
  o By country (in terms of international customs)
  o Whole world (county and/or prefectural level)

4. Layering

In the demo from the conference talk, the lefthand side included the browser and layers panel. If these do not appear in your view you can add these panels by selecting them from the "View" tab under "Panels"

IMPORTANT: You will need to make multiple copies of the shapefiles, as deleted/modified features (administrative divisions, datapoints, added bodies of water) from layers are saved

5. Exporting a picture of what you are seeing

Click "Project" then "Save as image". Make a note of the scale at the bottom of the screen. This is the scale for the exported image based on the number pixels for the width and height; this scale may not accurately reflect the size of the image as inserted in a word document (under "Size" when right-clicking an image in Word, you can see the difference between the absolute and relative size). I suggest including more in the view screen than you will want, and then crop the image.

6. Suggested MS Word settings

Note that you will probably not want to use the default labeling feature for QGIS, especially if you want Chinese characters/tone marks on your map. To get around this, you will want to right-click an image in your document and then select "In line with text" under "Wrapping style".

7. Further assistance

- Youtube videos (specifically from Klas Karlsson) are particularly helpful
- Send me an e-mail