

QGIS Map Composer

Map composer tool is required to print or to export a map to a document.

QGIS map file is not an image. QGIS saves the map files with data regarding layers, labels, colors etc in **.qgs** format. If QGIS program is not available, the map file will be useless. QGIS has tools to export its map file to a format that computer can read and print out the map if you have a printer connected.

Both exporting and printing is handled via the Map Composer.

QGIS allows you to create multiple maps using the same map file. It has a tool called Composer Manager.

Documentation QGIS 2.8

https://docs.qgis.org/2.8/en/docs/user_manual/print_composer/print_composer.html

With the Print Composer you can create nice maps that can be printed or saved as PDF file, an image or an SVG file. This is a powerful way to share geographical information produced with QGIS that can be included in reports or published.

The Print Composer provides growing layout and printing capabilities. It allows you to add elements such as the QGIS map canvas, text labels, images, legends, scale bars, basic shapes, arrows, inset maps, attribute tables and HTML frames. You can size, group, align, position and rotate each element and adjust the properties to create your layout. The layout can be printed or exported to image formats, PostScript, PDF or to SVG . You can save the layout as a template and load it again in another session.

Opening the Print Composer provides you with a blank canvas that represents the paper surface when using the print option. Initially you find buttons on the left beside the canvas to add map composer items; the current QGIS map canvas, text labels, images, legends, scale bars, basic shapes, arrows, attribute tables and HTML frames. In this tool bar you also find tool bar buttons to navigate, zoom in on an area and pan the view on the composer and tool bar buttons to select a map composer item and to move the contents of the map item.

