

XSitePro2[®] – Create & Submit Google[®] Sitemaps

Search engine site maps are quite different than the Sit Map generated by XSitePro. The XSitePro site map is meant for use by your visitors so they can find their way around your site. A Search engine site map such as Google Sitemap is specifically designed for the search engine to find your site and the different web pages within.

Creating a Google Sitemap file within XSitePro is like most other features – a wizard walks you through every step needed. Why submit a sitemap to Google? In their words, *Webmaster tools is a “one-stop shop for webmaster resources that will help you with your crawling and indexing questions, introduce you to offerings that can enhance and increase traffic to your site, and connect you with your visitors.”* What site wouldn't want that – and it's free!

Create a Google Sitemap in XSitePro:

Open the **Other Tab** of your XSitePro2 site, choose **Search Engine Sitemaps**. The wizard walks you through the **General** (with Google as the default search engine), **Priority/Exclusions**, expected **Frequency of change**, and provides instructions to submit to Google. Once the site map is created, be sure and publish within XSitePro so Google can find it.

Create an Account & Submit the site with Google:

Creating and submitting a Google Site map is free and easy. Google offers **Webmaster tools** to get your site noticed and provide analysis data based on the Google crawlers. However, the first step is to set up a **Google Webmaster Tool account**.

- Choose **Business Solutions** link from the main www.google.com search site to access all the different tools and options available to you – one of which is Webmaster tools.
- Select the **WebmasterCentral** link and create a new account, if you don't already have one. Once the account is setup, **Sign into Webmaster Tools**.
- Choose **Add a site** within the Google Webmaster Tools. You'll also need to **Verify** the site and you as the legitimate “owner” of the site by either of the following methods
 - 1) place Google's **MetaTag** in the head section, before the body of your home page or
 - 2) create an **html verification file** and transfer that (empty) file to your host provider (commonly files are transferred using FTP software)

Once verified, Google automatically creates a **Dashboard** for your site (and any others you submit). Within each site's Dashboard, you also need to submit the **GoogSiteMap.xml** file you created and published within XSitePro for your site:

- Link to **Submit a Sitemap** – file name **GoogleSitemap.xml**. This filename is case sensitive and must match exactly to the filename you created and published in XSitePro.
- Check back in a day or so to gather statistics and see if Google found any broken links or errors. All the statistics and analysis data is automatically regenerated by Google based on the frequency of change defined in the site map and their bots.