

# HANDOUT – GETTING STARTED WITH QGIS

## INTRODUCTION

This handout details the steps necessary to open QGIS, save a new project, and install the MapTiler plugin.

## OUTLINE

*To jump to a page, click the section.*

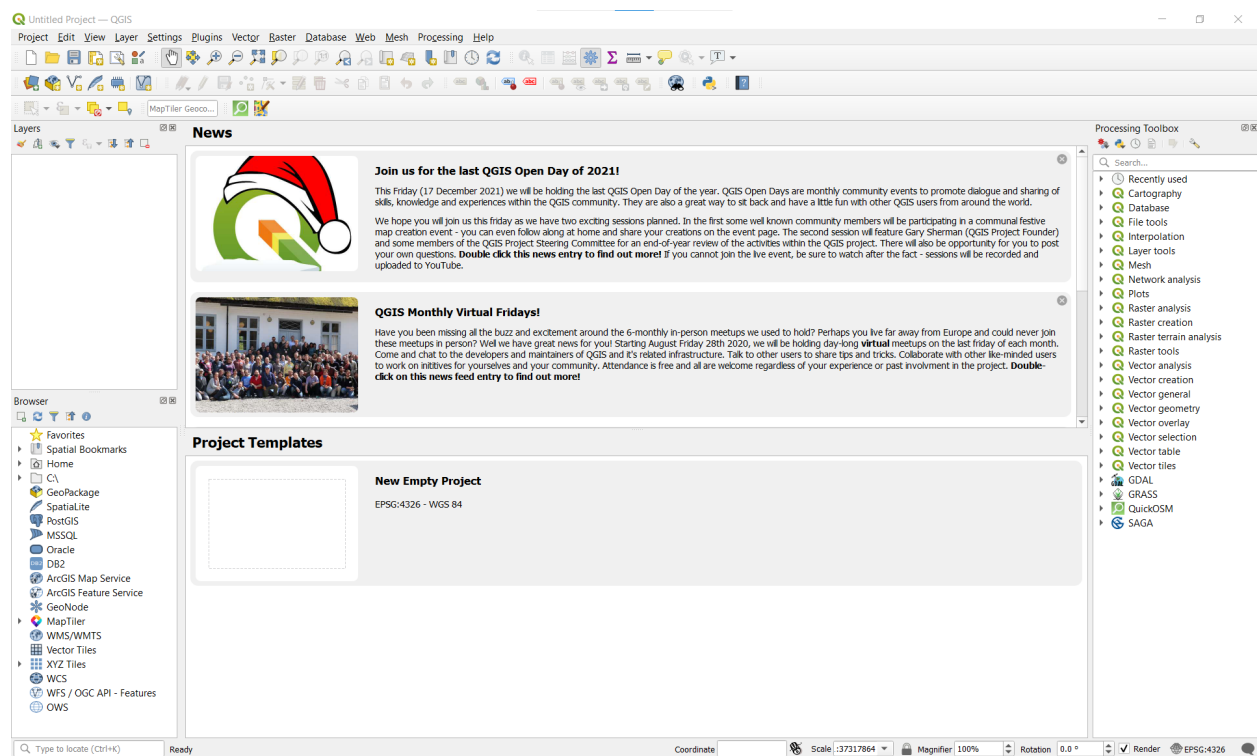
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# 1. OPENING QGIS AND SAVING A NEW PROJECT

## 1.1. Launch QGIS

- Search for “QGIS” in your applications and select “QGIS Desktop 3.16.14”
  - This interface varies slightly depending on your operating system
    - If you are using Windows: utilize the search bar on the left side of your taskbar; if you do not see this, press the **Windows** key on your keyboard and begin typing “QGIS”
    - If you are using macOS: open the finder, select applications, and locate QGIS; alternatively, press **Command** and **Space** on your keyboard and begin typing “QGIS”
- You will arrive at the QGIS landing page (*Figure 1*)
  - Landing page contents may vary (e.g., you may not see News or the Processing Toolbox)

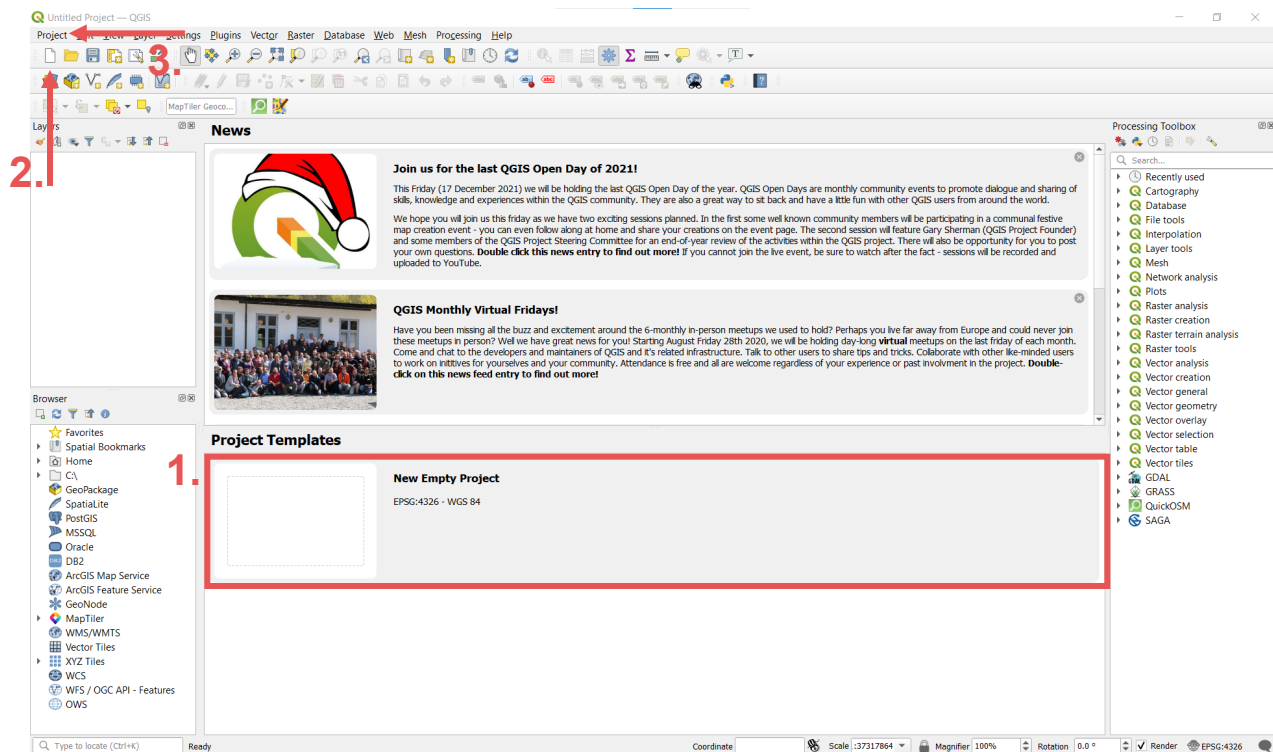
Figure 1: QGIS Landing Page



## 1.2. Open a New Project

- There are several different options for how you can open/start a new project (*Figure 2*):
  - Option 1: Double click on **New Empty Project** in the Project Templates window
  - Option 2: Select **New Project** from the Project Toolbar
  - Option 3: Select **Project > New**
  - Option 4: Press **Control** and **N** on the keyboard

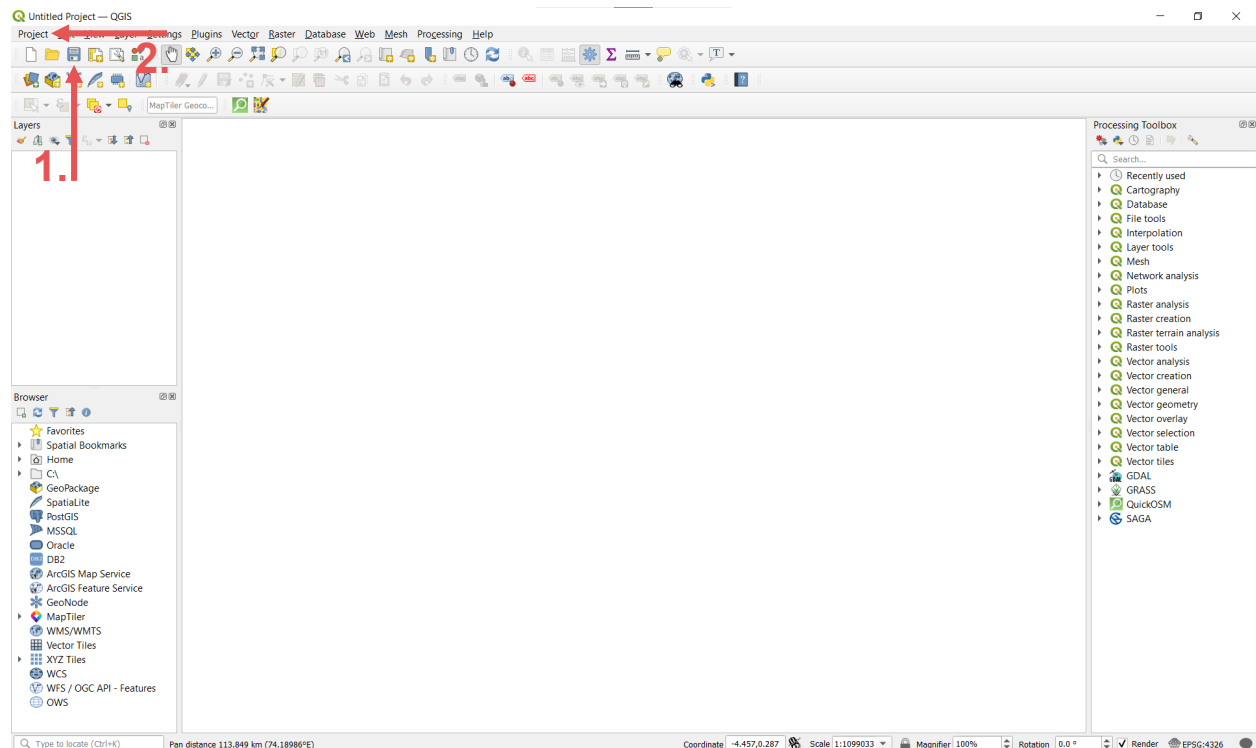
Figure 2: Opening a New Project



### 1.3. Save a Project

- There are several different options for saving a project (*Figure 3*):
  - Option 1: Select **Save Project**
  - Option 2: Select **Project > Save As**
  - Option 3: Press **Control** and **S** on the keyboard
- In the dialog box, navigate to your desired destination and select **Save**
  - Static filepaths (i.e., unchanging file locations) are critical
    - GIS do not contain data in the manner you may be used to; for example, while you can copy and paste a picture into powerpoint without worrying if that picture is event stored on your computer, in GIS you are showing the program where that data lives and it references it every time you open the project file or manipulate that data
    - When you start a new project, you should create a singular location to store both the project file and all of its associated data
      - Course materials are packaged in a manner that will facilitate this; we recommend saving your work related to each exercise within that module’s folder

Figure 3: Saving a New Project

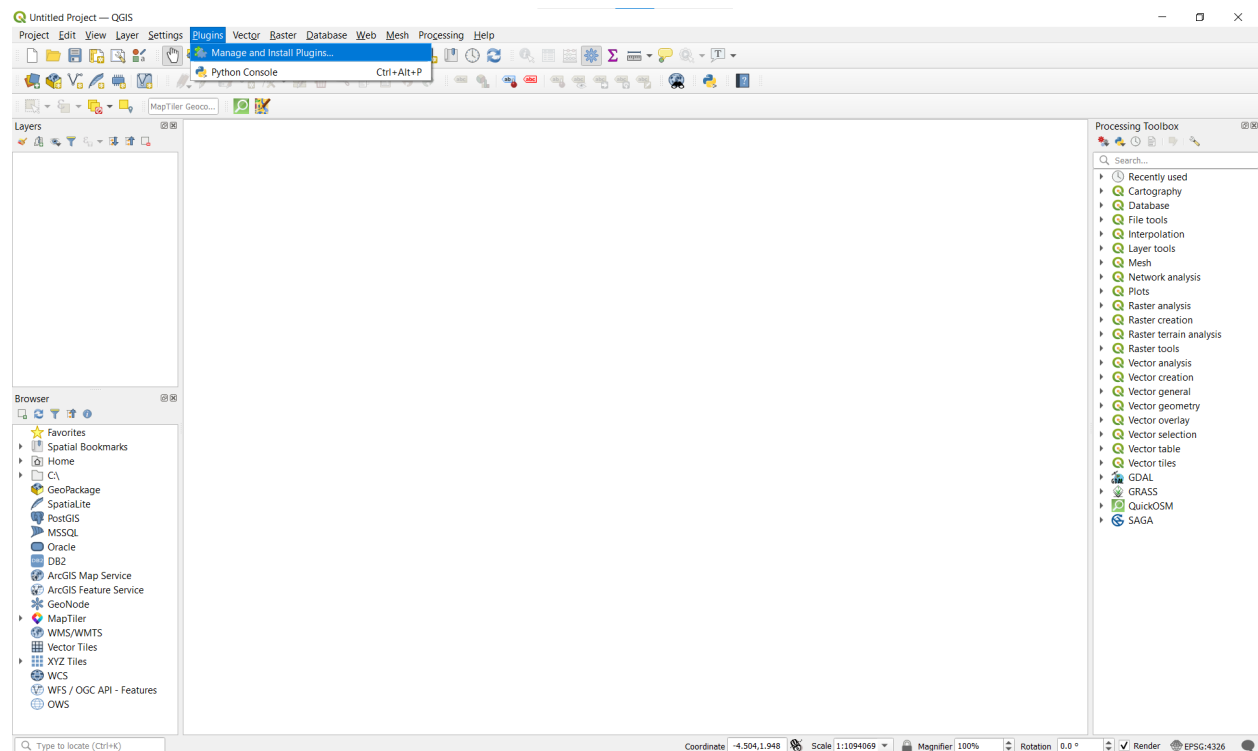


## 2. INSTALLING THE MAPTLER PLUGIN

### 2.1. Open the Plugin Manager

- Click on **Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins** (*Figure 4*)

Figure 4: Opening the Plugin Manager



### 2.2. Install MapTiler

- Search for “MapTiler”, select the plugin, and select **Install Plugin** (*Figure 5*)
  - After it finishes, close the Plugin Manager
- You will now see the plugin in your Browser Panel (*Figure 6*)
  - You may need to scroll down or enlarge the Browser Panel in order to see it at the bottom of the list.

Figure 5: Installing MapTiler

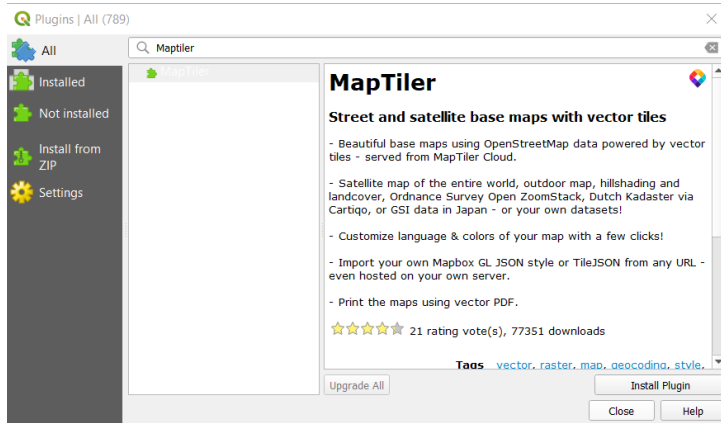
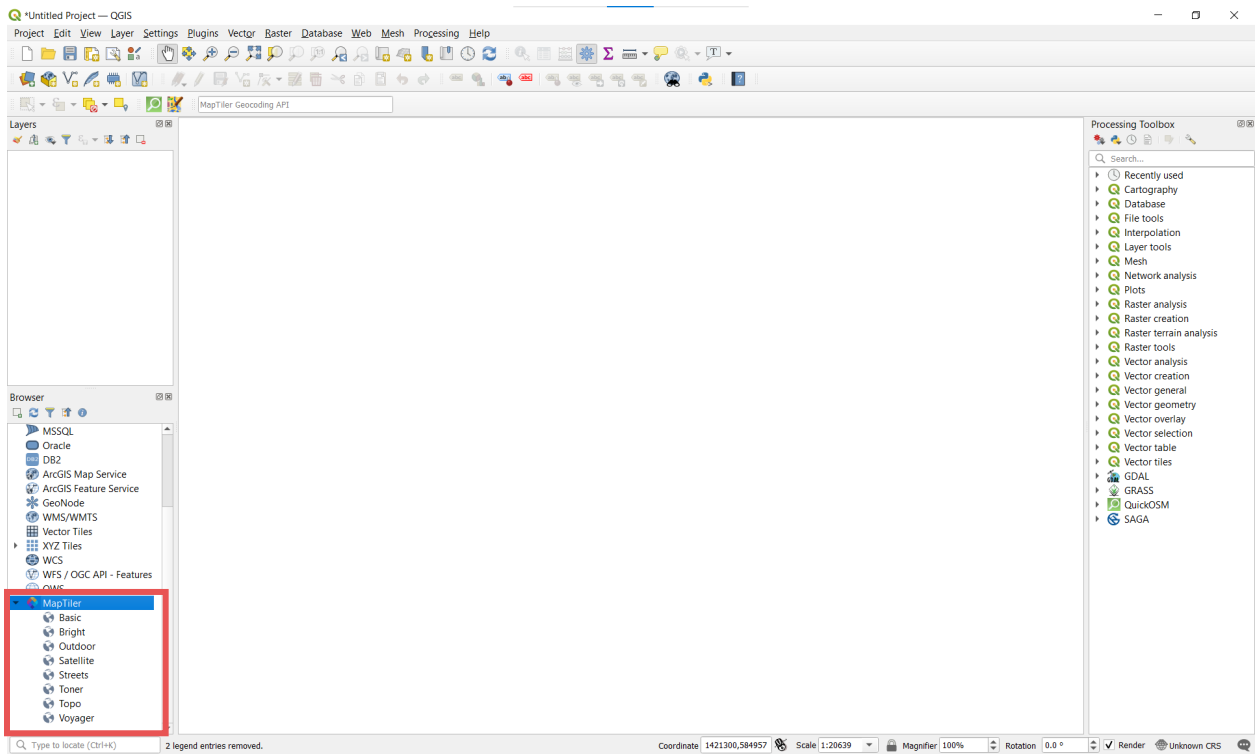


Figure 6: MapTiler Plugin Highlighted in the Browser Panel



## 2.3. Add an Access Key

- Right click on the MapTiler plugin in the Browser Panel and select **Account**
- Follow the link in the dialog (<https://maptiler.link/qgiskeys>) and create an account
- Obtain your Access Key:
  1. Select **Account**
  2. Select **API Keys**
  3. **Copy** the Access Key (*Figure 7*)
- **Paste** the Access Key into the QGIS dialog (*Figure 8*)
  - Select **OK**

Figure 7: Obtaining an Access Key

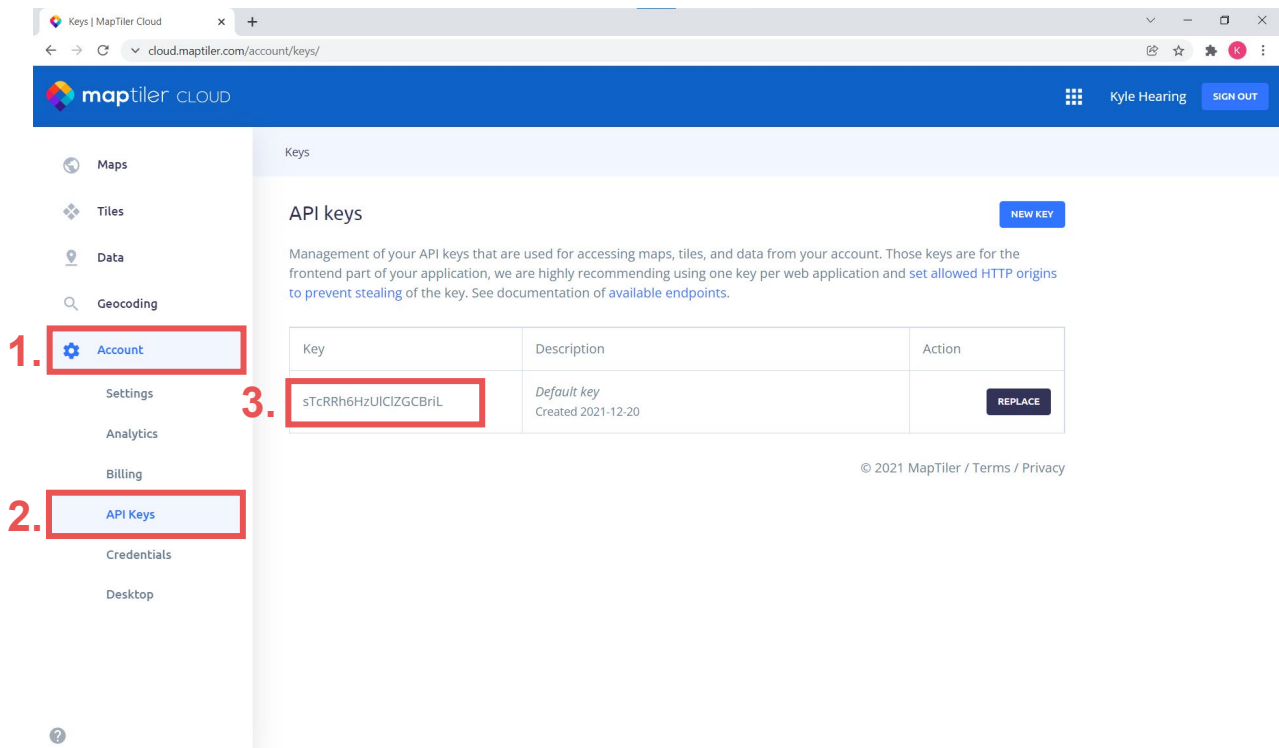


Figure 8: Adding an Access Key

