Geocoder API

Release Notes

Version 6.2.80

Contents

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Chapter 1

Overview

Topics:

The scope of this document is to provide the release notes for the Geocoder API for a particular release version. It also includes the issues resolved and issues remaining in this release.

D56 Highlights

- Political views: The Geocoder introduces a new feature that can show available territories through the point of view of particular countries
- For the USA, the Geocoder result shows supplementary information that describes the type of the 5-Digit ZIP, as according to the USPS
- The Geocoder has extended its existing USA ZIP code coverage for PO Boxes and further added General Delivery ZIP code
- We updated the India map to 2015Q1 (other countries except Taiwan, Russia, Ukraine, Hong Kong, China, Macau) were already updated in previous releases
- Other bug fixes

Chapter 2

Release Major Changes

Topics:

This section documents major changes to the release that may require users to change their applications and/or associated map data.

API Changes

There are two API enhancements in this release:

- Client applications can choose the political view
- The Geocoder response contains the postal code type for United States postal codes

Political Views

Description

The Geocoder introduces a new feature that can show available territories through the point of view of particular countries.

A new neutral international view is made available by default, where territories may have unresolved claims.

Examples

Below is an example of the Kashmiri city of “Srinagar”. The Geocoder now represents this neutrally for the International community. India and Pakistan have their own particular views available for this locality using the parameter `&politicalview=` and their respective 3-Letter ISO country codes.

International View of “Srinagar” (default)

Query:

```
&prox=34.0922244,74.8193568,1000
```

Previous Result:

```
Label: "Ganderbal Road, Khaniyar, Srinagar 190003, India",
Country: "IND",
State: "JK",
County: "Srinagar",
City: "Srinagar",
District: "Khaniyar",
Street: "Ganderbal Road",
PostalCode: "190003",
```

Current Result:

Empty response (neutral territory)

Indian Political View of "Srinagar"

Query:

```
&prox=34.0922244,74.8193568,1000&politicalview=IND
```

Result:

```
Label: "Ganderbal Road, Khaniyar, Srinagar 190003, India",
Country: "IND",
State: "JK",
County: "Srinagar",
City: "Srinagar",
District: "Khaniyar",
Street: "Ganderbal Road",
PostalCode: "190003",
```

Pakistani Political View of "Srinagar"

Query:

```
&prox=34.0922244,74.8193568,1000&politicalview=PAK
```

Result:

```
Label: "190003, Pakistan",
Country: "PAK",
PostalCode: "190003",
```

Currently Supported Disputes

The following views are currently supported:

- ARG: Argentina
- GRE: Greece
- IND: India
- PAK: Pakistan
- VNM: Vietnam

For any political view that is unsupported the Geocoder falls back to the default view. For example, `politicalview=USA` or `politicalview=FRA` does not impact a response in any way.

Name	Example Reverse Geocoder Coordinates	Political View Support	Description
Northern Arunachal Pradesh	28.6512526, 95.2272352	default, IND	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND = Part of the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh
Falkland Islands	-51.6958016, -57.8529192	default, ARG	Default = Falklands Islands ARG = Part of Argentina's "Tierra Del Fuego"
(Indian-Chinese Border)Kaurik	32.2112327, 78.5563334	default, IND	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND = Part of the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh
(Indian-Chinese Border)Lapthal	30.7338287, 80.1058805	default, IND	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND = Part of the Indian State of Uttarakhand
(Indian-Chinese Border)Sang	31.2917262, 79.0702687	default, IND	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND = Part of the Indian State of Uttarakhand
(Kashmir)Aksai Chin	35.1355791, 79.0428155	default, IND, PAK	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND* = Part of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir PAK* = Seen as a part of China
(Kashmir)Azad Kashmir	33.9430273, 73.8271172	default, IND, PAK	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND* = Part of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir PAK* = Seen as a part of Pakistan
(Kashmir)Gilgit-Baltistan	35.8260676, 75.0474641	default, IND, PAK	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND* = Part of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir PAK* = Seen as a part of Pakistan
(Kashmir)Pa-li-chia-ssu	33.257519, 79.2483097	default, IND, PAK	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND* = Part of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir PAK* = Seen as a part of Pakistan
(Kashmir)Shaksam Valley	36.0928479, 76.3108918	default, IND, PAK	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND* = Part of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir PAK* = Seen as a part of China

Name	Example Reverse Geocoder Coordinates	Political View Support	Description
(Kashmir)State of Jammu & Kashmir	33.5625116, 76.9892775	default, IND, PAK	Default = Neutral territory (empty response) IND* = Part of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir PAK* = Seen as a part of Pakistan
(Golan Heights) UN Buffer Zone	33.2053155, 35.8740408	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
(Argentinian-Chilean Border)South Patagonian Ice Field	-49.4286077, -73.2129860	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
Paracel Islands	16.2438621, 111.7561099	default, VNM	Default* = Neutral territory (empty response) VNM = Vietnamese Islands
Spratly Islands	7.6808132, 111.5774475	default, VNM	Default* = Neutral territory (empty response) VNM = Vietnamese Islands
Suriname-French Guiana Triangle	2.8357961, -54.1090861	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
Suriname-Guyana Triangle	2.1528005, -57.3365359	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
Macclesfield Bank	15.8434538, 114.3056814	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
Scarborough Shoal	15.4895344, 113.8210957	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
James Shoal	3.973889, 112.348889	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
Kuril Islands (Shikotan, Iturup, Habomai, and Kunashir)	45.1279501, 147.80728 (Iturup)	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
Senkaku/Diaoyutai	25.7446986, 123.4709205	default	Default = Neutral territory (empty response)
West Bank	31.9998544, 35.2998283	default	Default = No Country
Northern Cyprus	35.2453975, 33.3968783	default, GRE	Default = Independent of Cyprus GRE = As a part of Cyprus
Cyprus UN Neutral Zone	35.1691202, 33.2394362	default	Default = UN Neutral Zone
Cyprus British Bases	34.6024439, 32.9538086	default	Default = British Sovereign BSB Areas
Kinmen Islands	24.4642701, 118.3791237	default	Default = Taiwanese Islands
Matsu Islands	26.2238182, 119.9946911	default	Default = Taiwanese Islands
Kosovo	42.6718168, 21.1624711	default	Default = No Country

***Known issues:**

- Spratley and the Paracel Islands do not support the Default View currently. The China data is excluded, but we still need to exclude the Vietnamese data.
- The Kashmir region has problems with pockets or slivers of Indian administrations which are visible in the International and Pakistani views. These issues are planned to be fixed with the next release.

US Postal Code Types

Description

For the USA, the Geocoder result shows supplementary information that describes the type of the 5-Digit ZIP, as according to the USPS. The values are as follows:

- N = Non-Unique
- M = Military
- P = PO Box
- ZipU = Unique Zip

Example

Query:

```
&searchtext=Atlanta, GA, 30314, USA
```

Previous Result:

```
address: {
   label: "30314, Atlanta, GA, United States",
   country: "USA",
   state: "GA",
   county: "Fulton",
   city: "Atlanta",
   postalCode: "30314",
   additionalData: [
   {
      value: "United States",
      key: "CountryName"
   },
   {
      value: "Georgia",
      key: "StateName"
   },
   {
      value: "Fulton",
      key: "CountyName"
```

```
    }
    ]
}
```

Current Result:

```
address: {
    label: "30314, Atlanta, GA, United States",
    …
    postalCode: "30314",
    additionalData: [
    …
    {
        value: "N",
        key: "PostalCodeType"
    }
    ]
}
```

Map Data Version

Current map data version is 2015Q1 with the following exceptions:

- Taiwan remains at 2014Q4
- Russia and Ukraine remain at 2014Q3
- Hong Kong remains at 2014Q2
- China, Macau updated to 2014Q4

Chapter 3

D56 Issues

Topics:

This section lists resolved issues and enhancements in the current release. It also lists known issues in the current release.

Resolved Issues

The following table contains resolved issues. The list summarizes major resolved issues relevant for a broad audience.

#	Description

1	The Geocoder returns wrong matches when using "Manhattan" as the city name for a few streets in New York
	
	Example:
	`geocode.json?searchtext=420 E 79th St Manhattan NY`
	
	Result (street match):
	`...`
	`address: {`
	`label: "79th St, New York, NY 10024, United States",`
	`country: "USA",`
	`state: "NY",`
	`county: "New York",`
	`city: "New York",`
	`district: "Central Park",`
	`street: "79th St",`
	`postalCode: "10024"`
	`...`
	`}`
	`...`
	
	Expected (address match):
	`...`
	`address: {`
	`label: "420 E 79th St, New York, NY 10075, United States",`
	`country: "USA",`
	`state: "NY",`
	`county: "New York",`
	`city: "New York",`
	`district: "Upper East Side",`
	`street: "E 79th St",`
	`houseNumber: "420",`
	`postalCode: "10075"`
	`}`
	`...`
	
	The same issue existed for **qualified search**:
	`geocode.json`
	`?street=420 E 79th St`
	`&city=Manhattan`
	`&state=NY`

Enhancements

The following table contains enhancements.

#	Description
1	The Geocoder has extended its existing USA ZIP code coverage for PO Boxes and further added General Delivery ZIP code
2	The Geocoder generalizes admin shapes to reduce response times We reduced the size of admin shapes to speed up the response time when a client application requests shape information. The Geocoder (forward and reverse) applies a generalization to all shapes so that the number of vertices (coordinates) does not exceed 20,000. The Geocoder applies this generalization to shapes of all admin levels. For many country shapes this means reductions in size between 60 and 80%. There are exceptions for a small number of countries where the size is still larger than 20,000 coordinates. Chile is one example. To get shape information add `additionaldata=IncludeShapeLevel,<level>` to the request. Valid shape levels are: `country, state, county, city, district, postalCode, default`. Level `default` returns the area shape corresponding to the match level.

Known Issues

The following table lists issues known to be present in the current release of the Geocoder API.

#	Description
1	Taiwan Geocoding - Island Names are not able to be geocoded - Q2 2013 TWN Map improvements Islands to be considered as part of Taiwan.
2	Taiwan - Street Fallback - Returning the Best Candidate If an address is not in the map, then either a house number fallback or up-hierarchy street level match is expected. But in some cases, the Geocoder returns an address in the wrong street or lane. **Example**: 彰化縣彰化市介壽北路1號 House number 1 is not in the map data. The result is therefore a fallback to house number 19: No. 19, Jie Shou N. Rd., Changhua City, Changhua County 500, Taiwan But if a house number fallback is not accepted (parameter: additionaldata=HouseNumberMode,Streetlevel), then the result is expected to be a street level match: Jie Shou N. Rd., Changhua City, Changhua County 500, Taiwan

#	Description
	The current response is an address match in a different – though close - street (South instead of North) and in a lane while the request did not specify a lane: No. 1, Lane 36, Jie Shou S. Rd., Changhua City, Changhua County 500, Taiwan
3	China: Reverse Geocoder retrieveAreas response not aligned with `mode=retrieveAddresses` The Reverse Geocoder retrieveAreas response is not aligned with the response from retrieveAddresses and Forward Geocoder. City and district names are only available in Chinese, the county information is incorrect and state is empty (should be Chinese provinces).
4	Labels for highway exits do not include the exit number The label only contains the highway name. Workaround: Use highway name and exit number from the Name field.
5	The navigation coordinate in the response for Hong Kong building name matches is not always correct. It is the same as the display coordinate. Only when the query matches a house number in addition to the building name (MatchQuality element houseNumber exists in the result) the navigation coordinate is correct. **Example:** The queries Shek Wu Shui Baptist Chapel, Hong Kong and Shek Wu Shui Baptist Chapel, 33 Fu Hing St, Hong Kong both match to the same address. But the navigation coordinate is correct for the latter query only.