Geocoder API

Release Notes

Version 6.2.112

here

Important Information

Notices

Topics:

- *Legal Notices*
- *Document Information*

This section contains document notices.

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Chapter

1

Overview

Topics:

- *Map Data Version*
- *Highlights*

The scope of this document is to provide the release notes for the Geocoder API for a particular release version. It lists added and improved functionality as well as the issues resolved and known issues remaining in this release.

Map Data Version

The Geocoder provides weekly map updates based on Stable Baseline. The baseline for the map schema is now 2016Q1. Weekly map data updates are based on 2016Q1 data releases.

The exceptions are as follows:

• Hong Kong and Macau remain at 2015Q3. Not updated weekly.

China mainland and Macau maps in the Geocoder API

• For International users the navigable map is an entry level map with major city coverage.
• The China mainland map and the Macau map use un-shifted coordinates.

📄 **Note**

Shifted coordinates are GCJ-02-based. GCJ-02 is a coordinate system that follows Chinese regulations where coordinates based on WGS-84 standard are offset by a few hundred meters using a special shifting algorithm.

Un-shifted coordinates are GPS coordinates using the WGS-84 standard.

All maps for China mainland, Macau, and Hong Kong that are provided to International users are un-shifted in the Geocoder API.

Highlights

The following highlights give a short summary of the most important changes, added functionality and improvements:

• Updated to latest map schema 2016Q1 allowing the service to continue to consume weekly map updates.
• Improved India match quality by increasing ranking weight of postal codes.
• Other enhancements and bug fixes.

Chapter

2

Changes

Topics:

- *Functional and Behavioral Changes*
- *API Changes*
- *Resolved Issues*
- *Known Issues*
- *Limitations and Workarounds*

This section documents major changes to the release that may require the updating of affected applications and/or associated map data.

▤ **Note** For changes made in previous releases, see the related documents at *http://developer.here.com*.

Functional and Behavioral Changes

The following table contains descriptions of added or changed functionality and changes in product behavior.

#	Description
1	India: Increased ranking weight of postal codes.

In India address queries, postal codes are very common and they are reliable. There are many ambiguous cases, however, where the Geocoder has to decide between a result where the street address matches but not the postal code and a result where the postal code matches but not the street address. Previously, the Geocoder ranked the result with the good street address match higher. Now, the Geocoder gives more weight to the correct postal code. This rule change applies to India queries only.

Examples:

Query 1:

```
searchtext=balaji Villa' Flat B, 9, Rajarathinam Street, Kilpauk, Chennai –
  600010, Tamil Nadu, India
```

Previous result:

The house number and street name match but the postal code is wrong.

```
label: 9 Rajarathinam Street, Brindavan Colony, Tambaram West, Chennai
  600045, India
```

Current result:

Match in the correct postal code. In this case the street name matches as well. Only the house number is a fallback from 9 to 10.

```
label: 10 Rajarathinam Street, Kilpauk, Chennai 600010, India
```

Query 2:

```
searchtext=32, Alapakkam Main Road, Maduravoyil, Chennai – 600095, Tamil
  Nadu, India
```

Previous result:

Match to address in wrong postal code on "Main Road" with a 100% street score. The additional name "Alapakkam" is recognized as noise by the Geocoder.

There is an alternative matched candidate on "Alappakkam Main Road". But since "Alapakkam" is misspelled, the street score is < 100% and the Geocoder prefers the match on "Main Road".

```
label: 3-3 Main Road, Poombuhar Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai 600099, India
```

Current result:

#	Description
	Match to address in correct postal code. The correct postal code now outweighs the penalty in the street score.
	``` label: 3-2 Alappakkam Main Road, Pallavan Nagar, Madhuravoyal, Chennai 600095, India ```
2	Provide district names in search results even if they are the same as the city name.

Previously, the Geocoder suppressed district names from results when the name was the same as the city name. Many cities have central districts that share the name of the city. These names are now included in results in the `district` field.

The Geocoder now also uses these district names when provided in the query to disambiguate results.

Examples:

Query 1:

```
searchtext=28 Tyndall Street, Pahiatua
```

Previous result:

No district name in the result.

```
label: 28 Tyndall St, Pahiatua 4910, New Zealand
city: Pahiatua
district: empty
```

Current result:

The district name is now added to the result in the `district` field.

```
label: 28 Tyndall St, Pahiatua 4910, New Zealand
city: Pahiatua
district: Pahiatua
```

Query 2:

The name "Панчево" is specified twice in the search text to explicitly refer to the central locality of the municipality "Панчево".

```
searchtext=Вељка Влаховића 6, Панчево, Панчево, Јужно-Банатски Округ, Војводина
```

Previous result:

From multiple streets with the same name within the municipality "Панчево", the Geocoder preferred the one in locality "Качарево", which was fuzzy matched to "Панчево".

```
relevance: 0.93
matchQuality.district: 0.47
label: Улица Вељка Влаховића 6, 26212 Панчево, Србија
city: Панчево
district: Качарево
```

Current result:

The Geocoder uses the name of the central locality "Панчево" to correctly disambiguate the result.

```
relevance: 1.0
matchQuality.district: 1.0
label: Улица Вељка Влаховића 6, 26101 Панчево, Србија
city: Панчево
district: Панчево
```

#	Description
	The following countries are excluded from the changes above: DNK, NOR, SWE, AUS, BEL, CAN, CYP, ESP, EST, FRA, LVA, NLD, ITA
	More complex rules would be required for these countries.
3	Major map data changes introduced with 2016Q1 map schema.
	France: Changes related to the territorial reform of French Regions in 2014. In 2014, the French parliament passed a law reducing the number of metropolitan regions from 22 to 13 with effect from 1 January 2016. The latest map data reflects this change.
	Virgin Islands: To better reflect reality, the Geocoder does no longer return the state abbreviation "VI". Address labels remain unchanged where "VI" is the reginal indicator. This is according to United States Postal Service recommendations.
	Norfolk Island: To better reflect reality, the Geocoder does no longer return the abbreviated state "OT" (Other Territories).
	Similar to Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island is now represented as a separate country. This also means that the former artificial state "OT" is no longer searchable.
	Maldives: Improved administrative representation in Maldives. The Maldives has twenty-six natural atolls and few island groups on isolated reefs, all of which have been divided into twenty-one administrative divisions (twenty administrative atolls and Malé city). Between 2008 and 2010 the Maldives had 7 provinces. These 7 provinces are obsolete and got removed from the map data.
	Serbia: Improved administrative representation in Serbia. Belgrade and Nis are now cities. Belgrade is the capital of Serbia and Nis is a city of southern Serbia and the third-largest city in Serbia. Previously, the map data contained one city for each of the municipalities that constituted Belgrade and Nis. These municipalities are now districts.
	Indonesia: Indonesia was excluded from the map schema updates in the Geocoder. The Geocoder continues to use Indonesia from map schema 2015Q1. The new 2016Q1 schema introduces naming changes for this country that require changes in the Geocoder software. These changes will be done with one of the next releases.

API Changes

Added

- None.

Removed

- None.

Modified

- None.

Resolved Issues

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

#	Description

1	Netherlands: The Geocoder matches alpha-parts of extended postal codes XV and XX as house numbers 15 and 20.
	
	 In the Netherlands, the Geocoder sometimes matched the last two letters of the extended postal code XX and XV to house numbers 20 and 15. This is fixed.
	
	 Example:
	
	 Query:
	
	 `searchtext=Burgemeester van Baaklaan 54 3648 XV Wilnis`
	
	 Previous result:
	
	 The postal code part XV was matched to house number 15.
	
	 `label: Burgemeester van Baaklaan 15, 3648 XS Wilnis, Nederland`
	
	 Current result:
	
	 `label: Burgemeester van Baaklaan 54, 3648 XV Wilnis, Nederland`

2	India: Geocoder does not filter out near-by landmark information when query contains country filter parameter. In India address queries it is very common to describe a location by adding near-by landmark information. The Geocoder currently cannot resolve these references. But since D62, the Geocoder can recognize near-by landmark information and it removes these references from the query text so that they do not lead to false matches, matches with low confidence, or empty results. This near-by landmark recognition did not previously work for queries where a country filter was provided (`country=IND`). This is now fixed so that providing a country filter for Indian queries helps the Geocoder to recognize near-by landmark information. **Examples**: **Query 1**: `searchtext=F-404, Rohan Garima, Near Shivaji Housing Society, SB Road,Pune,Maharashtra,411016&country=IND` **Previous result**: Empty response.

#	Description
	Current result:
	```label: 406 S B Road, Gokhley Nagar, Pune 411016, India```
	Query 2:
	```searchtext=Four Bhai Engineering Works, 3471 Hauz Qazi Chowk,Near Chawari Bazaar Metro Station,Delhi,Delhi,110006&country=IND```
	Previous result:
	Empty response.
	Current result:
	```label: 3477 Hauz Qazi Chowk, Gali Peepal Mahadev, Hauz Qazi, Delhi 110006, India```

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 cannot be geocoded - 2013Q3 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, 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
	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`

#	Description
	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. The navigation coordinate is correct only when the query matches a house number in addition to the building name (`MatchQuality` element `houseNumber` exists in the result). **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.

Limitations and Workarounds

There are no limitations and workarounds in this release.