

# Geocoder API

Release Notes

Version 6.2.91

**here**

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# Document Information

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# Chapter 1

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## Overview

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**Topics:**

- [D60 Highlights](#)

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.

## D60 Highlights

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- India: Tolerate variants for numbered sub-districts. For example, users can search for *Block 4* where the map data only has *4th Block*. Or users can search for *Hal II Stage* where the map data has *Hal 2nd Stage*.
- India: Matching to multiple sub-districts. Having districts and multiple levels of sub-districts are very common in India and people add this information to queries when searching for addresses.
- Support for additional disputed areas Hala'ib/Halaib Triangle, and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.
- Geocoder does not return Greek exonyms in the Turkish view for Northern Cyprus anymore. This is important for commercialization in Turkey and Northern Cyprus.
- Local time and extended time zone information is now available in location meta data.
- Weekly map updates based on Stable Baseline. The baseline is now 2015Q3 data.
- Other enhancements and bug fixes.

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# Chapter 2

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## Release Major Changes

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**Topics:**

- [API Changes](#)
- [Map Data Version](#)

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

## API Changes

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There are two API enhancements in this release:

- Location meta data now includes local time and extended time zone information.
- Results from India can now contain sub-district information.

### Local Time

#### Description

Location meta data now includes local time and extended time zone information. The data is available from Forward and Reverse Geocoder. Some of the meta data was available already with previous releases. In addition to the time zone offset for the current date (modified in case of daylight savings) the result now also contains the raw offset, which is the amount of time to add to UTC to get standard time. We moved the offset together with the other new time zone information to a `timeZone` element. We also changed the offset from UTC format to simply seconds. This makes it easier to compute and it is in the same format as the raw offset. These two changes are potentially backwards incompatible. The new format and additional meta data is therefore only available with `gen=9` or higher.

`Location.AdminInfo` and `Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone` meta data available with `gen=9`:

Element	Description	Example
<code>Location.AdminInfo.LocalTime</code>	Local wall clock date and time in UTC format (ISO 8601).	"2015-08-17T11:11:44-0400"
<code>Location.AdminInfo.Currency</code>	ISO 4217 currency code used in the country.	"USD"
<code>Location.AdminInfo.DrivingSide</code>	Driving side for road traffic used in the country.	<code>left</code> or <code>right</code>
<code>Location.AdminInfo.SystemOfMeasure</code>	System of measure used in the country.	<code>imperial</code> or <code>metric</code>
<code>Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.Id</code>	Identifier for the timezone taken from the Java 8 platform.	"America/New_York"
<code>Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.Offset</code>	Time zone offset in seconds, for current date, modified in case of daylight savings. This is the offset to add to UTC to get local time.	-14400



Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.RawOffset	The amount of time in seconds to add to UTC to get standard time in this time zone. The current UTC offset is equal to <code>rawOffset + dstSavings</code> .	-18000
Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.NameShort	A short standard time name of this time zone.	"EST"
Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.NameLong	A long standard time name of this time zone.	"Eastern Standard Time"
Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.NameDstShort	A short Daylight Saving Time name of this time zone.	"EDT"
Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.NameDstLong	A long Daylight Saving Time name of this time zone.	"Eastern Daylight Time"
Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.InDaylightTime	True, if the time zone is currently in Daylight Saving Time.	true
Location.AdminInfo.TimeZone.DstSavings	The amount of time to be added to local standard time to get local wall clock time during daylight saving time. Time in seconds saved during Daylight Saving Time.	3600

Location.AdminInfo meta data available with `gen<9`:

Element	Description	Example
Location.AdminInfo.TimeZoneOffset	UTC Timezone offset applicable for the area	"UTC+05:30"
Location.AdminInfo.LocalTime	Local wall clock date and time in UTC format (ISO 8601).	"2015-08-17T11:11:44-0400"
Location.AdminInfo.Currency	ISO 4217 currency code used in the country	"USD"
Location.AdminInfo.DrivingSide	Driving side for road traffic used in the country	left or right
Location.AdminInfo.SystemOfMeasure	System of measure used in the country	imperial or metric

## Usage

Return all meta data including time zone information in element `adminInfo` (element of `location`) and in element `adminInfo.timeZone` if requested via

```
locationattributes=all
```

Return meta data without time zone information if requested via

```
locationattributes=(one of in, adminInfo, all)
```

Return only time zone information if requested via

```
locationattributes=(one of tz, timeZone)
```

## Example

### Query

```
searchtext=1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington
&locationattributes=all
&gen=9
```

### Result

```
location: {
  ...
  address: {
    label: "1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20500, United
States",
    ...
  },
  adminInfo: {
    localTime: "2015-08-17T11:11:44-0400",
    currency: "USD",
    drivingSide: "right",
    systemOfMeasure: "imperial"
    timeZone: {
      offset: -14400,
      rawOffset: -18000,
      nameShort: "EST",
      nameLong: "Eastern Standard Time",
      nameDstShort: "EDT",
      nameDstLong: "Eastern Daylight Time",
      inDaylightTime: true,
      dstSavings: 3600,
      id: "America/New_York"
    }
  }
}
```

## Sub-district Information for India Results

### Description

Results from India now contain sub-district information where available in the map data. The type of the sub-district is not further defined but these are typically areas below the district level. In India, the sub-district information is important to disambiguate results. One address can exist within the same district multiple times. The plan is to provide sub-district information also for other countries in future releases.

## Usage

The `subdistrict` field is part of a Geocoder and Reverse Geocoder result from India if any information is available in the map data. Suppress `subdistrict` in results via

```
addressattributes=(one of -sdi, -subdistrict)
```

## Example

### Query

```
searchtext=#495, 11th cross, 8th main, 2nd phase J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru
```

### Result

```
location: {
  ...
  address: {
    label: label: "495 11th Cross Road, J P Nagar, Bengaluru 560078,
India",
    country: "IND",
    state: "KA",
    county: "Bengaluru",
    city: "Bengaluru",
    district: "J P Nagar",
    subdistrict: "J P Nagar-2nd Phase",
    street: "11th Cross Road",
    houseNumber: "495",
    postalCode: "560078"
    ...
  },
}
```

**Note:** The name of the district is repeated in the `subdistrict` field in some cases. In the example above, only "2nd Phase" should be in the `subdistrict` field. The plan is to remove this data redundancy with one of the next releases.

## Map Data Version

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The Geocoder provides weekly map updates based on Stable Baseline. The base line for the map schema is currently Q1/2015. Weekly map data updates are based on Q3/2015 data releases.

The following exceptions exist:

- Estonia and Latvia remain at Q1/2015.
- Hong Kong remains at Q2/2014.
- China and Macau remain at Q4/2014.

Geocoder results contain map version information in the `MapReference` section if requested via `locationattributes=mapReference`.

`MapVersion`: Version of the map schema. Format: `QQ/YYYY`, e.g. `Q1/2015`

`MapId`: Map version details containing the base line for the map schema and an identifier for the weekly update. Format: `<4-letter region>YYQ<weekly update>`. Example: `NAAM15135` (region: North America (NAAM), map schema: Q1/2015 (151), weekly update 35)

# Chapter 3

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## D60 Issues

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**Topics:**

- [Resolved Issues](#)
- [Enhancements](#)
- [Known Issues](#)

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	<p>Results in mixed character sets for Saudi Arabia queries</p> <p>Street names in Saudi Arabia are not translated to Arabic for English queries. The label also shows the street name formatted from right to left instead of left to right.</p> <p>In some cases the Geocoder returns two results at the same location in different languages. In other cases the Geocoder only returns one result where the street name is not translated to Arabic language.</p> <p>Example:</p> <pre>searchtext=7013 Riyadh 13315-2414&amp;language=ar-AE</pre> <p><b>Previous Result:</b></p> <p>Duplicated result where the first result shows the English street name in inverted order.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>7013 KgnizaluzidA R, الربيع, 2414-13316 الرياض, السعودية</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>7013 طريق الملك عبدالعزيز, الربيع, 2414-13316 الرياض, السعودية</p> </div> <p><b>Current Result:</b></p> <p>Single result with the expected street name in Arabic language.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>7013 طريق الملك عبدالعزيز, الربيع, 2414-13316 الرياض, السعودية</p> </div>
2	<p>Reverse Geocoder returns country name for GBR in Hindi when Greek language is requested</p> <p>Country names for results from GBR for the languages listed below were wrong in the Geocoder results. This is fixed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• el (Greek, GRE)</li> <li>• ms (Malay, MAY)</li> <li>• sr (Serbian, SRB)</li> <li>• zh-TW (traditional Chinese, CHT)</li> <li>• zh-CN (simplified Chinese, CHI)</li> <li>• he (Hebrew, HEB)</li> <li>• kk (Kazakh, KAZ)</li> <li>• hi (Hindi, HIN)</li> <li>• ja (Japanese, JPN)</li> </ul>

#	Description
3	<p>Geocoder expects the wrong 3-letter code to set the <code>politicalview</code> for Greece</p> <p>The Geocoder expected the wrong 3-letter code to set the <code>politicalview</code> for Greece. The Geocoder expected "GRE", which is the 3-letter language code, instead of "GRC", which is the 3-letter country code.</p> <p>This is fixed. The Geocoder now accepts the 3-letter country code "GRC" to set the <code>politicalview</code> for Greece. The Geocoder also still accepts the language code "GRE" to remain backwards compatible.</p>
4	<p>AUS: Query "silverwater rd silverwater nsw" finds only one result while the expectation is to get at least two addresses</p> <p>When searching for "silverwater rd silverwater nsw" the Geocoder returns only the following address in Sydney's district "Silverwater":</p> <p>Silverwater Rd, Silverwater NSW 2128, Australia</p> <p>It is expected to also return the following result:</p> <p>Silverwater Rd, Silverwater NSW 2264, Australia</p> <p>This is fixed. The Geocoder now returns both results:</p> <pre>address: {   label: "Silverwater Rd, Silverwater NSW 2264, Australia",   country: "AUS",   state: "NSW",   city: "Silverwater",   street: "Silverwater Rd",   postalCode: "2264",   ... } address: {   label: "Silverwater Rd, Silverwater NSW 2128, Australia",   country: "AUS",   state: "NSW",   city: "Sydney",   district: "Silverwater",   street: "Silverwater Rd",   postalCode: "2128",   ... }</pre>

#	Description
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5	<p>Geocoder returns Greek exonyms in the Turkish view for Northern Cyprus</p> <p>For commercialization in Turkey and Northern Cyprus it is important that Greek exonyms are not shown in the Turkish view for Northern Cyprus. Instead, fall back to the Turkish names.</p>
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6	<p>Search for "Jammu &amp; Kashmir" returns India result</p> <p>Search for "Jammu &amp; Kashmir" in the International view (default view, no <code>politicalview</code> parameter specified) must not return anything that indicates this to be a state of India.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>Query:</p> <pre>searchtext=Jammu &amp; Kashmir</pre> <p><b>Previous Result:</b> State match within disputed area showing "Jammu &amp; Kashmir" as part of India.</p> <pre>relevance: 1,   matchLevel: "state",   matchQuality: {</pre>
---	---



#	Description
---	-------------

```

state: 1
},
...
location: {
...
  displayPosition: {
    latitude: 35.66571,
    longitude: 76.84511
  },
...
  address: {
    label: "JK, India",
    country: "IND",
    state: "JK",
    additionalData: [
      {
        value: "India",
        key: "CountryName"
      },
      {
        value: "Jammu & Kashmir",
        key: "StateName"
      }
    ]
  }
}

```

**Current Result:** District match in un-disputed area of India.

```

relevance: 0.84,
matchLevel: "district",
matchQuality: {
  county: 0.64,
  district: 1
},
...
location: {
...
  displayPosition: {
    latitude: 24.83599,
    longitude: 86.15687
  },
  address: {
    label: "Kashmir, Khaira, BR, India",
    country: "IND",
    state: "BR",
    county: "Jamui",
    city: "Khaira",
    district: "Kashmir",
    postalCode: "811317",
    additionalData: [
      {
        value: "India",
        key: "CountryName"
      },
      {
        value: "Bihar",
        key: "StateName"
      },
      {
        value: "Jamui",
        key: "CountyName"
      }
    ]
  }
}

```

## Enhancements

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The following table contains enhancements.

#	Description
1	<p>Spain: Additional Spanish translations for Catalan, Basque, and Galician street names</p> <p>For regions with a single primary language where Spanish street names are not official, we added Spanish translations of Catalan, Basque, and Galician street names to the search index. This allows users to requests addresses by either using the official local street names or their Spanish translations.</p> <p>The result shows the official local street name. We added the Spanish translations as alternative but "hidden" names to the index. "Hidden" means these names are never exposed in results.</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <p><b>Query:</b></p> <pre>searchtext=Calle del Arrabal de los Griegos 27, Roses 17480 ES</pre> <p><b>Previous Result:</b></p> <p>empty response</p> <p><b>Current Result:</b></p> <pre>relevance: 1,   matchLevel: "houseNumber",   matchQuality: {     country: 1,     city: 1,     street: [       1     ],     houseNumber: 1,     postalCode: 1   } ... address {   label: "Carrer del Raval dels Grecs, 27, 17480 Roses (Girona), Espanya",   country: "ESP",   state: "Catalunya",   county: "Girona",   city: "Roses",   street: "Carrer del Raval dels Grecs",   houseNumber: "27",   postalCode: "17480" }</pre> <p><b>More Examples:</b></p> <p><b>Query:</b></p> <pre>searchtext=AV SAN JUAN 21, Poio, 36995</pre> <p><b>Previous Result:</b></p> <pre>label: "Poio, 21, 36995 Poio (Pontevedra), España"</pre>

#	Description
	<p><b>Current Result:</b></p> <p>label: "Avenida San Xoán, 21, 36995 Poio (Pontevedra), España"</p> <p><b>Query:</b></p> <p>searchtext=Calle de Carmelo Torre, 3, Basauri 48970, Vizcaya, España</p> <p><b>Previous Result:</b></p> <p>label: "Basauri, Euskadi, Espainia"</p> <p><b>Current Result:</b></p> <p>label: "Karmelo Torre kalea, 3, 48970 Basauri (Bizkaia), Espainia"</p>
2	<p>India: Tolerate variants for numbered sub-districts</p> <p>India has a large number of numbered sub-districts such as blocks, sectors, stages, and phases. The number portion of these names is represented in different forms: Simple numbers (1, 2, 3, ...), ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, ...), or roman numbers (I, II, III, ...). The map data has one of these variants per area, but in user queries it is common to use any of these variants.</p> <p>For example, users search for Block 4 and the map data has it as 4th Block. Users search for Hal II Stage and the map data has Hal 2nd Stage.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p><b>Query:</b></p> <p>searchtext=5th A Cross Road, Koramangala 6 Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560095, India</p> <p><b>Previous Result:</b></p> <p>The Geocoder interprets the block number 6 as house number. The result is a match to the wrong street in the wrong district and postal code.</p> <p>label: "6 5th A Cross Road, Bhoopa Sandra, Bengaluru 560094, India"</p> <p><b>Current Result:</b></p> <p>Correct street match in correct district "Koramangala 6th Block" and in correct postal code.</p> <p>label: "5th A Cross Road, Koramangala 6th Block, Bengaluru 560095, India"</p> <p><b>Query:</b></p> <p>searchtext=4th Sector Diz Area, New Delhi</p> <p><b>Previous Result:</b></p> <p>Match to correct district. But the Geocoder did not match the sub-district "4th Sector".</p> <p>label: "Diz Area, New Delhi, DL, India"</p> <p><b>Current Result:</b></p> <p>Correct match to sub-district leading to higher precision result.</p> <p>label: "Diz Area, Sector 4, New Delhi, DL, India"</p>
3	<p>Disputed Areas: Show South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands as part of Argentina in politicalview=ARG</p>

#	Description
	<p><b>Example:</b></p> <p><b>Query not specifying any <code>politicalview</code> (default view):</b></p> <pre>reversegeocode.json?mode=retrieveAreas&amp;prox=-54.2915196,-36.4940174</pre> <p><b>Result:</b></p> <pre>label: King Edward Point, South Georgia And The South Sandwich Islands country: SGS county: South Georgia and S. Sandwich Is. city: King Edward Point</pre> <p><b>Query specifying <code>politicalview=ARG</code>:</b></p> <pre>reversegeocode.json? mode=retrieveAreas&amp;prox=-54.2915196,-36.4940174&amp;politicalview=ARG</pre> <p><b>Result:</b></p> <pre>label: Punta Coronel Zelaya, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina country: ARG state: Tierra del Fuego county: Is Georgias y Is Sandwich Sur (Arg) city: Punta Coronel Zelaya additionalData: [   {     value: "Argentina",     key: "CountryName"   },   {     value: "Is Georgias y Is Sandwich Sur (Arg)",     key: "CountyName"   } ]</pre> <p><b>Note:</b> The response for the query above contains a second result at the same location with a city that has the same name as the county. This second result is incorrect and can be ignored. This will be fixed with one of the next releases.</p> <pre>label: Is Georgias y Is Sandwich Sur (Arg), Tierra del Fuego, Argentina country: ARG state: Tierra del Fuego county: Is Georgias y Is Sandwich Sur (Arg) city: Is Georgias y Is Sandwich Sur (Arg)</pre>

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**Disputed Areas: Hala'ib/Halaib Triangle (International View)**

The Halaib triangle involves two areas (see image below): Halaib (in the area of Egypt) and Bir Tawil. Halaib is within the Egyptian territory and Bir Tawil is across the border in the Sudanese territory.

#	Description
---	-------------



The following views are considered for the two areas:

- International View - No-man's land for the Halaib and Bir Tawil areas (where Egypt or Sudan have data)
- Egyptian View - Only the Egyptian data is available and that the Halaib is visible as a part of Egypt. Data from other countries such as Sudan (SDN) that has its own overlapping data in the territory of Egypt is removed. Bir Tawil remains no-man's land.

## 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, 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.  <b>Example:</b> 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:

#	Description
	<p>No. 19, Jie Shou N. Rd., Changhua City, Changhua County 500, Taiwan</p> <p>But if a house number fallback is not accepted (parameter: <code>additionaldata=HouseNumberMode,Streetlevel</code>), then the result is expected to be a street level match:</p> <p>Jie Shou N. Rd., Changhua City, Changhua County 500, Taiwan</p> <p>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:</p> <p>No. 1, Lane 36, Jie Shou S. Rd., Changhua City, Changhua County 500, Taiwan</p>
3	<p>China: Reverse Geocoder <code>retrieveAreas</code> response not aligned with <code>mode=retrieveAddresses</code></p> <p>The Reverse Geocoder <code>retrieveAreas</code> response is not aligned with the response from <code>retrieveAddresses</code> 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).</p>
4	<p>Labels for highway exits do not include the exit number</p> <p>The label only contains the highway name.</p> <p>Workaround: Use highway name and exit number from the <code>name</code> field.</p>
5	<p>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 (<code>MatchQuality</code> element <code>houseNumber</code> exists in the result), the navigation coordinate is correct.</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <p>The queries</p> <p>Shek Wu Shui Baptist Chapel, Hong Kong</p> <p>and</p> <p>Shek Wu Shui Baptist Chapel, 33 Fu Hing St, Hong Kong</p> <p>both match to the same address. But the navigation coordinate is correct for the latter query only.</p>

## Chapter 4

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### Disputed Borders

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Information about the support of disputed borders is now available in the appendix of the Geocoder Developer's Guide. It shows how to use political views and lists the currently supported disputes.