

## Live Webinar: LocatorHub - The Powerful Way to Pinpoint Locations

Hosted by ESRI (UK)

23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2009

---

### Webinar Questions & Answers

**Q1: About abbreviations, ST also stands for Saint, how does LocatorHub cope with this?**

The abbreviations can be configured so it is possible to use the same abbreviation for multiple meanings. LocatorHub searches with each meaning, as well as the text as originally entered. The default abbreviations provided with LocatorHub has both Saint and Street as possible meanings for 'ST'.

**Q2: Is there an audit trail on the interactive geocoding/matching by hand?**

An audit trail is not produced by the interactive geocoding/matching process. However, the LTS never changes the original data and instead creates a tree structure of the operations that have been performed against the data. It is possible to annotate this structure with comments for each operation. The geocode operation creates two tables; one with successfully geocoded records and another with records that have not matched and the reason why they have not matched.

**Q3: Also, can you add phrases/strings to the abbreviations index?**

Yes, it is possible to replace words with phrases. It is also possible to use a 'Data Enrichment' file to create very complex matching conditions (such as phrases), to create alternative source address forms.

For example, it is possible to create a Data Enrichment rule, which would convert 'Highfield Boys School', to 'Highfield School'. Another example is "Harrow and Wealdstone", this may be captured in customer data as "Harrow", "Wealdstone", etc, each of these can be added.

**Q4: Is there any way to integrate LocatorHub into the AutoCad environment?**

LocatorHub has been built around a service-oriented architecture (SOA) and exposes easy to use web service and end points.

- The web service provided by LocatorHub, can be used on any platform and in any programming language that supports SOAP based web services and it is provided with samples and documentation.
- The SDK contains integrated help, samples, helper classes and UI components for Visual Studio environment and can be easily consumed by both desktop and web applications.

**Q5: Can we use LTS to Geocode with Uni-form and retrieve x, y and UPRN?**

There are two possible approaches to geocoding or data-rectification with UNI-form.

Firstly the data can be 'Exported' from UNI-form in DTF 7.3, and imported into LocatorHub. It is then possible to use all the tools in LocatorHub. LocatorHub supports change only updates of DTF, and the import process can be run using the Dashboard or at the command line (allowing scheduling).

The second approach relies on the IDOX GMS Connector having been purchased. LocatorHub is able to connect to the IDOX GMS Connector and use it as a standard Locator. This means that the UNI-form GMS is searched directly.

**Q6: Can the transformations be saved to run on new data?**

Transformations can be saved individually and re-run, it is not currently possible to chain these together, however if there is a requirement for this we are happy to review it.

**Q7: Would LocatorHub be applicable to countries outside of the UK?**

At present all of our Locators are for UK and Republic of Ireland datasets. We will be working on a LocatorHub locator which consumes ArcGIS Locators in the coming months. This will allow access to countries outside the UK, via Navteq and Teleatlas data.

**Q8: What is "resolution" in the geocoding results?**

Location *Resolution Rank* is a qualitative attempt to provide users with a way to rank the relative positional accuracy and quality of locations. The Resolution Rank is a combination of accuracy, quality and extent of the location, based on classification of the nominal scale of use as provided in the published datasets.

This measure is useful when performing merged searching and subsequently de-duplicating the results. For example, a location may be in two different datasets that are being searched together. The first dataset has only captured the location to the nearest 100m grid square, whereas the other dataset has captured it to the nearest meter. In this situation the de-duplication logic can be configured to return the more accurate geocode.

When searches or address cleansing is carried out, the resolution rank is returned on a per location basis. The rank is a nominal value from 100 to 0, where 100 represents the finest level of data capture, e.g. sub metre, and can be configured for each locator.

**Q9: How do you access the abbreviations file, and could you use it to remove data altogether?**

The abbreviations (and data enrichments) file can be edited using the LocatorHub Dashboard.

It is possible to exempt data from searches and queries using the data enrichments file, however this does not delete specific records (the LocatorHub Editor is used for this task). The data enrichments allow prefixes (e.g. the, a), suffixes (e.g. PLC, LTD) to be dropped by the user and text to be substituted (e.g. "PUBLIC SCHOOL" to "SCHOOL", "EPISCOPAL CHURCH" to "CHURCH"). The same results will be found if the user types in the full string or the abbreviated version.

**Q10: Are the BS7666 formats 7.1?**

The NLPG Locator supports the loading of data in the BS7666:2006 DTF 7.3 and 7.4 formats. The loader supports, full, partial and change-only updates.

**Q11: What Database technology does LocatorHub operate on - Oracle, SQLServer2008 etc?**

LocatorHub works with either SQL Server or Oracle.

**Q12: Can you add customised fields to the existing data, similar to that just shown by Will?**

The Points of Interest editable gazetteer enables users to define a gazetteer with up to 6 unique fields and to specify the validation for them. It is not currently possible to add fields to the UK Postal Address and BS7666 editable gazetteers, although we are considering adding this capability in a future version. The TAG and Featureclass locators are able to be searched on any single field.

**Q13: Is it possible to add comments when manually geocoding rejected addresses?**

LocatorHub associates a description as to why an address was rejected, but it is not currently possible to insert your own comments against each record.

**Q14: How do you configure LocatorHub to search data held in ArcSDE feature class layers?**

LocatorHub provides a Featureclass Locator for connecting to an ArcSDE feature class. This locator can be configured to connect to your SDE repository.

**Q15: Abbreviations - can these be used to validate and change data being entered by users, should they abbreviate when entering data?**

The abbreviations and data enrichments provide the capability for users to enter addresses as they would 'normally' (i.e. Ln = Lane) and improve the user experience. They do not change the underlying data and all searches whether the user abbreviated or not return the 'full' address, as stored, without abbreviations.

It is possible to exempt data from searches and queries, using the data enrichments. The data enrichments allow prefixes (e.g. THE,A), suffixes(e.g. PLC, LTD) to be dropped by the user and text to be substituted (for example "PUBLIC SCHOOL" to "SCHOOL", "EPISCOPAL CHURCH" to "CHURCH"). The same results will be found if the user types in the full string or the abbreviated version.

Our recommendation is that users are consistent when creating location data in the Editor. Whether you recommend standardising on abbreviated formats is dependent upon your business processes and domain. For example there may be certain terms/abbreviations that are used, and for which you create custom abbreviations for. Typically you will find that users abbreviate certain things without realising it such as:

*McDonalds 3 Walton Ln* rather than typing *McDonalds PLC LTD 3 Walton Lane*.

**Q16: Can you find a site or asset when you don't have a unique ID for it?**

Yes it is possible to configure a FeatureClass, TAG or Points of Interest Locator to search, non-unique, non-ID fields, these locators can search any type of field, such as a locality, type or description.

**Q17: Are locations kept in the same order as the original raw file? Or is it possible to add a Unique Key?**

Source data is imported into LocatorHub in the same order and format as they were supplied in (i.e. they are loaded maintaining the published schema if one is available) however LocatorHub applies indexes to optimise query performance, these may affect ordering in the database.

Published datasets maintain their unique keys (e.g. TOID, UPRN) and the Editable gazetteers can be configured to generate unique keys in varying formats.

When using the LTS the file is imported in the same order as it was in the initial file (it is possible to re-order it by fields). There is currently no way to add a unique key in the LTS, however if you used the rectification task it could attach the same ID as the published dataset you were using. Additionally if you import the data after formatting it in the LTS, LocatorHub will assign each record a unique ID.

**Q18: How does LocatorHub deal with AddressLayer data split into separate tiles?**

LocatorHub supports full, partial and change-only updates for OS Address Layer II, thus each tile can be added to the repository.

**Q19: HubLocator can search into several datasets. Is it possible to know what dataset as been used to locate a specific point?**

When using Merge and Cascade locators, the name of the locator or dataset can be tagged onto the Locator\_Description, for most functions.

**Q20: Can L-Hub, create a gazetteer from NLPG in 'raw' 7.3 format, data and maintain it from change-only-updates?**

Yes, LocatorHub supports loading full, partial and change-only updates for NLPG.

**Q21: How do you load data from QAS?**

Data is not loaded in from QAS; you install and update your QAS data as usual.

A LocatorHub QAS Locator can be configured against either the QAS Pro or Pro Web API and returns the result in the standard LocatorHub format. This means your QAS data can be searched along with other data sources, and consumed directly from the LocatorHub web service and API.

**Q22: Is it compatible with ArcGIS 9.2?**

LocatorHub is compatible with ArcGIS 9.2 SP5 through to ArcGIS 9.3 SP1.