Geographic Name Server

Address:
2145 Blaney Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

E-mail: libert@eecs.umich.edu

Phone: (313) 662-6520

Description

As part of a network mapping project, we have implemented a TCP-based geographic name server. In response to queries consisting of a city name and/or ZIP code and an optional state and/or country abbreviation, the server retrieves a variety of data from a database containing information on all US cities (~150,000). Queries containing UNIX ed(1)-style regular expressions are also supported.

The geographic names database contains state, county, latitude and longitude for all US cities. It also contains 1980 census population, elevation, area code, and ZIP code for a large subset of the cities, as well as a small number of international cities. The database contains information about other geographic features such as counties, states, rivers, lakes, summits, etc. in addition to populated places.

The raw data were obtained from the United States Geodetic Survey (USGS) and the US Postal Service. USGS is developing a Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) as the main repository for its ongoing National Gazetteer project.

Network access

Telnet to port 3000 on martini.eecs.umich.edu. The interface is self-explanatory, though not necessarily human-friendly (it is designed for use by programs).

Who Can Use the Service

No restrictions.

Disclaimer

Merit Computer, Inc. is not responsible for supporting or maintaining this service or its data.

For Additional Information

The author of this server is Tom Libert (libert@eecs.umich.edu).

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